

## **Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission May 4, 2011**

**Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on May 4, 2011, 5:50–7:05 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Pete DeMott, Britney Scott Kaufmann, Ira King, Angela Lopez, Robert Miller, Leonard Montenegro, John Sanborn, Scott Smas, Michael Wasko

**(MEMBERS) Excused Absences:** Maureen Decindis, Joochul Kim, Josephine McNamara, Lisa Roach

**(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences:** Michael Pickett, Joe Pospicil, Bill Wagner

**Guests Present:**

None.

**City Staff Present:** Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Wasko called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: April 6, 2011**

Commissioner King moved that the April 6, 2011 minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4 – Community Garden Zoning Ordinance Amendment**

Shauna provided an overview of the preliminary draft regulations applicable only to community gardens on private property. These provisions were drafted in response to the growing interest in developing community gardens and at the direction of the Technology, Economic and Community Development Council Committee. Community gardens are already permitted in any areas zoned for agriculture.

The Escalante Community Garden is different in that the city is leasing the land to Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA), a non-profit, who is then assuming the liability and raising the funds needed to get the garden going. This garden will be evaluated by city staff for at least a year, in effect serving as a pilot learning project to allow for a process to be created in the future for community gardens on public property. There are many variables involved in community gardens

situated on city or park property that will need to be identified and addressed before a process can be established.

The following comments or areas of concern were noted:

- Regarding the buildings or structures bullet, the first bullet under the Operation Requirements section, the language was deemed not specific enough. There was concern that a shed of that size could be used for other purposes including living quarters. The question was also posed – what causes a shed item to kick up to a larger review process versus staff approval only?
- Is there any way to know if land being offered up for a community garden is viable? What if there are toxic wastes on the home or industrial site?
- Any limits to be imposed on the garden size? If sizes over an acre are offered, doesn't it then become a farm?
- Please clarify what is defined as hand operated equipment. For example you don't ride a rototiller, they can be pushed by hand or you can ride a tractor with one attached.
- Who is actually getting the special use permit and paying the fees? Is that the property owner exclusively? The documents aren't clear.
- Regarding signage, is there any way to devise an equation based on size of site or size of garden? Maximums are large for a residential area.
- Is any special consideration being given to the noise factor? Hours people can be out working on the garden (i.e. time restrictions?)
- Farmer's markets noted as causing yard sale like concerns in terms of neighborhood traffic, and parking issues. How frequently can they be held?
- What about out of state owners, who will maintain property if someone goes bankrupt or abandons the property? Abatement can take a long time should it become necessary.

The next step will be for the Community Garden Zoning Ordinance Amendment to go before the Development Review Commission at their study session on May 10. Commissioner Miller made a motion to support the draft regulations recognizing that they support the Zoning Code as a whole, Commissioner Scott Kaufman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. NAC members asked to be kept updated on the issue.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – 2011 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Event Review**

Approximately 75 attendees participated in this year's awards event. Many stayed for the workshops, all of which were very well received. Handouts were distributed with workshop survey results from those who completed them. The light rail mobile workshop and the Community Gardens session at the Tempe Urban Garden site were both much appreciated new offerings.

Kudos were provided to Chair Wasko for his day of event assistance including set up and take down activities, to Commissioner McNamara for ensuring both golden shovel residential beautification award winners indeed received golden shovels and for Commissioner Scott Kaufman whose event sponsorship efforts secured \$800 worth of gift cards from Mellow Mushroom, Centerpoint on Mill and DMB Associates.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Selection of Annual Retreat Date and Topics**

Saturday, June 11 was chosen as the Commission retreat date that worked for the majority of those present. The Tempe History Museum room was selected as the retreat location. Likely hours will be from 8:30-Noon with breakfast refreshments provided. There will be no regular meeting of the commission in June or July.

Agreed upon Retreat agenda topics will include: Neighbor of the Year application and process revisions, identification and prioritization of commission goals, Standing Committees review and

discussion and Zip Teams. Chair Wasko will work with Neighborhood Service staff to finalize the agenda and note any documents needed for the retreat.

Solid Waste Code revision and graffiti were discussed as possible retreat items but were not chosen. Instead, both will be noted as August Commission meeting agenda items. Inviting City Manager Charlie Meyer to the September meeting to provide a budget overview and update was also suggested. Commission members were reminded of the ability to watch budget hearings live or use video on demand online to watch only those portions of the budget meetings or the City Council meetings of interest to them.

**Agenda Item 7 – The Center for the Future of Arizona – 5 Communities Project**

Commissioner Scott Kaufman wanted to ensure Commission members were aware of this initiative and the current grant opportunities. The city is considering applying for a grant building on an existing program or process rather than trying to create a new one that there is neither staff nor resources for. Staff will keep commission members updated as there may be opportunities to enhance civic engagement.

**Agenda Item 8 – Zip Teams discussion**

A color coded handout was distributed grouping each commission member by zip code and providing all contact information for the purpose of identifying zip code teams. There was a master copy circulated for commission members to note information changes on. Staff will update the databases and provide updated hand-outs at the retreat.

**Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports and Committee Membership**

- A. **Budget/Finance Committee** – No meeting was held.
- B. **Outreach Committee** – No meeting was held.
- C. **Quality of Life/Neighborhood Enhancement/Codes Committee** – No meeting was held.

Staff reminded commission members of the need to provide some time when requesting a committee meeting to allow for agenda preparation, posting and advance notice for all commission members. It was agreed that no committee meetings will be held until after the retreat when all standing committees will be reviewed.

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist  
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager