

DRAFT Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
April 5, 2023



Draft minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option and a virtual component using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Stacy Novis, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Duane Washkowiak

(MEMBERS) Absent: Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

City Staff and Guest Speaker: Brenda Clark, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Julian Dresang, Deputy Engineering and Transportation/City Engineer; Jasmine Little, Culdesac Tempe, Experience Designer

Guests: no public participants

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chair Stern (quorum was achieved on time but slight delay in meeting start due to an in room camera issue)

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 3 – Review and approval of meeting minutes: March 1, 2023 NAC Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Carraway made a motion to approve the March 1 minutes as presented.

Second: Vice Chair Hagen seconded the motion

Result: Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of 13 - 0

Commission Member Ayes: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Stacy Novis, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Duane Washkowiak

Absent: Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

Agenda Item 4 – Downtown Tempe – Refresh Tempe overview

Julian Dresang, Deputy Engineering and Transportation/City Engineer shared the Refresh Tempe presentation which was included in member meeting packets. He noted the Downtown Tempe - Refresh Tempe visible graphics in windows of businesses to build awareness of the project phases and elements, the Refresh Tempe website, Kiosk information and Downtown Tempe - Refresh Tempe question on the Tempe Forum at www.tempe.gov/tempeforum through April 30 encouraging members to participate by providing their feedback. There has also been media attention from ABC 15 and others.

There are a number of related projects being worked on including current, near-term and longer-term initiatives. Initial projects are:

- visible public outreach (with addition of pop-up outreach over summer)
- Mill Avenue landscaping (medians, sidewalks, parks improvements including new electrical and irrigation throughout - new planting are being hand watered for now) with 30/60 and 90 day plans

- testing of an exclusive pedestrian interval at Mill Ave. and 5th St. (Pilot began on March 8)
- Adaptive Streets concepts in collaboration with Downtown Tempe Authority (DTA) as well. The You Are Amazing mural located at 7th St. and College Ave. is one example along with a 6th St. Traffic Circle going in during the Spring Mill Ave. Festival with public adults encouraged to help artist paint. Some creative painted crosswalk treatments are also being considered (may include a Pride one), along with a street banner across Mill Avenue (digital options being explored) and respite areas providing seating, opportunities to connect with others and enjoy shade.

Near-Term Projects

- Downtown Festoon Lighting (design completed with preliminary construction anticipated in May)
- Mill Avenue Bridge Light replacement (May installation expected; electrical testing is underway)
- 5th Street Streetscape (design update at 5th St. and Maple Ave., West City Hall parking lot, exploration of public restroom options, anticipating a June award of contract for construction)

Mill Avenue Streetscape

Julian provided an overview of the community input process underway with different elements expected through August 2023 and the stakeholders being included. The ambitious schedule features a conceptual plan by August 2022 with construction underway in early 2024 and future construction continuing from July 2025 thru July 2027. Preliminary budget estimate is \$21.8 Million funded by a combination of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding, CIP requests, 2024 Bond Election and future CIP requests.

Commissioner member comments and questions included:

?: Is DTA contributing financially to the project?

A: More of a collaborative effort in partnership with the City of Tempe. All funding is through city channels at this time.

?: Will there be a revenue stream from any advertising in the kiosks?

A: projected revenues unknown nor financial agreements

?: Has a decision been made about the bricks?

A: No. Feedback from users is thus far mixed. Could end up being a variety of surfaces. Different concrete examples may be on display at Flower Power Park (7th Street and Mill Ave. with pop up outreach planned over summer)

?: When is construction anticipated to start?

A: Hoped for by January 2024. Will need to consider holidays, etc.

?: Any movement to close down Mill Ave. more regularly as happens during Mill Ave. Festivals and 2nd Sundays on Mill? Pearl Street in Denver was also noted as an example.

A: This idea has been floated in the past...it has not gained significant traction. Local businesses prefer public access and open roads, Streetcar is also now a consideration.

Agenda Item 5 – Culdesac Tempe

Jasmine Little, Culdesac Tempe, Experience Designer described the concept of this innovative, 17-acre, 700+ unit, multi-family, mixed use development with human-scale design and ample shade from buildings and trees - highlighting the end to end experience, the unique built environment with mobility options at the forefront and numerous elements designed to welcome residents and encourage community building opportunities. Over half of the available land area (55%) is dedicated to landscaped spaces and open space. Located along the Smith/Martin light rail station, Culdesac

Tempe is currently under construction and community residents are beginning to move into some of the finished buildings within the next couple weeks.

Culdesac is building neighborhoods and cities for people, not cars, prioritizing local community and sustainability. Designed with a European village feel complete with meandering pathways and ample shade, onsite retail includes an urban market with fresh and prepared foods, restaurants (Cocina Chiwas, owned is now open!), a coffee shop, a bike shop and more providing residents access to the needs of daily life without a private car which they agree to forego as part of the lease agreements. All residents will also receive a free platinum light rail + transit pass.

The default mode of transportation is walking, biking and shared or public transportation. The central promenade with plaza is being used to welcome residents and the public currently hosting Little Cholla - a Thursday evening pop up market featuring food trucks, music and small, local business offerings. Individual and group tours are available by appointment and some NAC members indicated their interest in signing up for one, possibly a group tour, prior to an upcoming Thursday Little Cholla event.

Commissioner member comments and questions included:

?: What are unit sizes and pricing?

A: They range from studios to 3-bedrooms. All are market rates.

?: Who is the expected target audience?

A: All folks, all ages are encouraged to apply. The first building is already completely leased with only a few reservations still open for the second.

?: Will you be a crime free multi-housing community and therefore eligible for Maryanne Corder Neighborhood grants?

A: Yes, working on that application and process.

?: Are you working with City of Tempe to make bike infrastructure improvements?

A: Yes, love bike improvements and want to ensure the safety of our residents and improve conditions for the community. We have been actively involved in the Smith Road corridor project which will add bike lanes, amenities and protected infrastructure making a better route for our residents and area residents to Tempe Marketplace and elsewhere. We're chatting with Escalante residents, where bicycling riding is at highest levels in Tempe, about their needs too!

?: What are your plans for when multiple move ins happen at once?

A: Our team and leasing office has plans in place including use of our onsite parking lot and staggered move in schedule. This parking lot can also be used for storage of ride share vehicles, visitors and delivery of packages. Traffic pattern allows for moving vans around perimeter areas.

?: Will you have secure bike parking?

A: We will have both indoor and outdoor storage options with access gates.

?: Do apartment units have a front and back door?

A: They all have front entry, some second floor units feature balconies.

Agenda Item 6 – 2023 Neighborhood Celebration – Initial Event Feedback

Staff shared a brief by the numbers report: 19 of 20 honorees and their guests were present to receive their awards, 12 of 15 NAC members participated in set up/Welcome Station and take down, over 232 guests attended and varied, free food offerings included 10 dozen donuts from Donut Parlor, 9 dozen Einsteins bagels, 150 burritos from Rusty Taco, hundreds of cups of decaf and regular coffee from Brick Road Coffee and dozens of granola bars, mini oranges and bananas. Guests enjoyed live music from Bohemian Insurgence, 5 small business vendors, several nonprofits including Threadz

who filled a cart with shampoo/conditioner and body wash for the initial onsite drive and sponsor Salt River Project was also a tabler this year. Shout out to NAC Vice Chair Hagen for this generous donation and delivery of coffee and Rusty Taco lead, kudos to Chair Stern for his planning involvement and to Commissioner Belec for her role and time in reimagining the event last year. All members days of support and enthusiasm was also noted. NAC's welcome station was a success.

Staff also commented on the range of ages present including the large number of children who were delighted by the Playmobile and crew. Event videos and photos will be available by end of week at www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodcelebration and the NAC May 3 meeting will include a robust wrap up of all event promotion including social media and neighborhoods email list serve postings from nomination cycle onwards.

Member's initial event feedback included:

- ⇒ Proud and pleased with this event
- ⇒ Liked allowing time to hang out
- ⇒ Liked that there was plenty of food and variety of food
- ⇒ Loved the donuts, get even more for next event!
- ⇒ Some announcements were still hard to hear in the southern most ramada areas (Staff noted larger speakers and sound system used by the band and Mayor and staff this time, outdoor setting is challenging in this regard)
- ⇒ Sign up genius list was very helpful and it auto-generated reminder of sign up timeframe and role
- ⇒ 2- minute shifts at the Welcome Station allowed for mingling and enjoyment of the event
- ⇒ Really happy "our vision" came to life
- ⇒ Very family friendly
- ⇒ Kudos to Mayor Corey Woods for his awards announcements
- ⇒ Awards announcements were still a bit lengthy, cut it further
- ⇒ Maybe we put more info. on award signage about honorees and less in script? (staff noted that other options could be explored, perhaps a booklet? time permitting from when selections are made and event date for compiling)
- ⇒ Disappointed that more Councilmembers were not present (numerous conferences, events and scheduling challenges in Spring noted as well as illness)
- ⇒ Can we try to avoid Mill Avenue Festival next year? (the number of competing events in Spring was noted - getting Fiesta Ramadas site access is also a date determining factor)
- ⇒ How do we spread the word better and get more to attend?
- ⇒ Loved this event, my first one. We all came together and it was fun to enjoy it after my shift at the Welcome Center. Happy to do it again. Met new people.
- ⇒ Very, very nice
- ⇒ We built a city!
- ⇒ Hard to put up/hang decorations from ramadas for vertically challenged folks
- ⇒ Maybe take pictures of honorees when they arrive at Welcome Station?
- ⇒ Kudos to Playmobile and staff! A great job and a great addition to the event!
- ⇒ Let's do something with dogs! This would provide an additional and good way to connect with others. Maybe a new awards category in 2024?! Fav neighborhood dog?
- ⇒ Should we start awards sooner? (No matter what we do or offer, folks tend to leave after they get theirs.)
- ⇒ Super nice, social get together
- ⇒ Explore evening event? (evenings are equally as booked as Saturdays for many families)

Chair Stern thanked staff for their hard work and effort to make the second Neighborhood Celebration such a success.

Agenda Item 7 Proposed Future Agenda Items

GP2050 - DRAFT PLAN OVERVIEW - May 2023

Summary of 2023 Neighborhood Celebration outreach and promotion efforts and event follow up - May 2023

Podcast Presentation or overview (requested by PIO Kris Baxter) - May 2023 schedule permitting

Possible group tour of Culdesac/Little Cholla evening for NAC members - staff will follow up

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner