

# Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission April 6, 2022



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, first hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option and a virtual component using Microsoft Teams platform

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Nancy Puffer, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Linda Knutson and Mark Rude

**City Staff:** Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director; Molly Enright, Chief's Office of Community Policing, 480.858.6148, molly\_enrightt@tempe.gov; Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director; Kyle Stevens, Stantec Consulting; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

**Guests:** David Sokolowski, virtual guest and Ephraim McLoughlin, in-person/85282 resident

## **Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Hannah Moulton Belec

## **Agenda Item 2 - Attendance Roll Call**

**Present:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky (arrived shortly after roll call),

## **Agenda Item 3 - Public Comment**

Guest Ephraim McLoughlin read the following statement into the meeting record - homelessness and poverty have a huge impact on our community and many people are unable to find affordable housing. When people have to "drive to qualify" it creates super commuters and the result is more traffic and more pollution. Some may not realize that "drive until you qualify" applies to renters as much as it does to buyers but I heard 64,000 people commute into Tempe each day.

It's undeniable that exclusionary zoning has had an impact on our neighborhoods because we have economically and racially segregated neighborhoods. Dense and affordable housing is concentrated in the Apache Character Area, while other neighborhoods like south Tempe have vacant lots with out any affordable housing.

The city has the ability to change zoning to allow for more housing and it also has the resources to invest in housing. The character of an area is important but we want to create equitable neighborhoods and that means our neighborhoods need to change. Rental prices are increasing at 20-30% per year and projects that include affordable housing shouldn't be required to provide solar ready, green infrastructure, car chargers

and other requirements. Low income people can't afford electric vehicles and what we really need is affordable rent. We're regulating affordable housing out of the market entirely because it's impossible for a developer to meet every requirement and keep things affordable.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Review and approval of meeting minutes: February 23, 2022**

**Motion:** Commissioner Weller made a motion to approve the February 23 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Commissioner Abrahams

**Commission Member Ayes:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Nancy Puffer, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Linda Knutson and Mark Rude

**Result:** Approved by a unanimous vote of those present 10-0.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission Vacancy in 85282 Zip Code**

Chair Moulton Belec expressed thanks and gratitude to Commission Member Christopher McCabe for his NAC service. His departure to allocate more time on work and family leaves a NAC vacancy in 85282 zip code.

A number of 82 apps were already on file and two new ones were submitted last week. A new appointment is anticipated at the Thursday, April 28 City Council meeting, timing and agenda permitting.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Crime Prevention Updates**

Molly Enright, Chief's Office of Community Policing provided Office and Block Watch program status updates. Detective Kevin Stanley provided a vehicle catalytic converter theft overview summary.

The Chief's Office of Community Policing was created approximately four months ago with existing officers and staff members to build relationships and encourage neighborhoods to do so with a focus on crime prevention. Molly described Chief Glover's three C's and the importance of considering them and making them part of all efforts and plans:

- ❖ Community Policing
- ❖ Community Engagement
- ❖ Collaborative Leadership

#### **Commissioner comments and questions included:**

? How are the significant projects determined?

A – Varies a bit but typically driven by complaints in neighborhood. Provided examples and actions taken like (increased outreach to those experiencing homelessness around Clark Park or Motel 6 Security Plans) are fairly recent ones over the last 3-4 months.

? Can we expect more black and white vehicles? More visibility?

A – More about creating a feeling of safety and engagement in our parks and our communities. Proactive patrols. Want to revamp Block Watch program and expand it

to caring for and connecting with neighbors. Officers are encouraged to step out of vehicle, however briefly, for non-enforcement related interaction like a quick conversation or shooting hoops with a child. These opportunities are being captured and charted now, not just our calls for service.

? Is short term rental about Airbnb related properties?

A - We are looking at loud parties and determining how many are related to same. Single family neighborhoods are seeking protection from exploitation.

The following Crime Prevention tips were provided:

- Connection with your neighbors is prevention
- Start G.A.I.N. planning - Saturday, October 22 is the 2023 date
- 65% of thefts and burglaries are non-forced year to year
- Consider ring (or similar) cameras and motion sensor lighting
- Trim vegetation to under 3' near entrances
- Call to report suspicious activity
- Engage in your parks
- Fall 2022 - anticipated rejuvenation of Neighborhood Watch program

### **Agenda Item 7 - Discussion with Human Services Department on Housing Affordability, Homelessness and Hotel Conversions**

Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director, described the Human Services Department, formed in 2015, which offers a wide range of inclusive programs and services to assist individuals and families with improving their quality of life. Divisions include: Social Services, Housing Services and Community Partnerships & Resources. Education/family and community supports are offered throughout life ranging from Kid Zone to Age Friendly Initiatives.

Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director, shared that the ultimate goal is to achieve an end to homelessness in Tempe as measured by Tempe's annual count. This means to reduce homelessness every year making it rare, brief and one time. The Homelessness Point in Time count is on one day per year with volunteers and staff participating from early morning to noon. The information gathered about numbers, issues and demographics as a result of this counting effort helps to inform decision making about solutions and resources for individuals and families to achieve and maintain safe, home environments.

Homeless Solutions supports these five programs/services -

1. HOPE Team
2. Tempe Works
3. Transitional Housing
4. Non-Congregate Shelter
5. Mental Health Court

Homeless Solutions Strategies are made up of these key elements -

- ❖ Homeless Outreach
- ❖ Mental and Substance Abuse Response
- ❖ Park Maintenance
- ❖ Communications & Neighborhood Engagement
- ❖ Park Security
- ❖ Shelter and Housing

The purpose of Housing Services is to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing in Tempe. Approximately \$26 million in subsidy assistance, the majority of which is federally funded, is provided through a number of programs and services such as Public Housing Authority voucher programs and entitlement programs. Additionally, Hometown for All, a program designed to expand affordable and workforce housing in Tempe was approved by Mayor/Council in 2021 creating a new funding stream to accelerate the growth of affordable housing.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – 2022 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Study**

Kyle Stevens, Stantec Consulting, emphasized that active stakeholder participation is being sought in the study process plans taking place now through the end of April. Participants will be asked to consider revenue requirements, cost allocation, rate design and communication of impacts. A rate increase is overdue and anticipated (% to be determined). Stormwater being a new element of the rate study was also noted.

Commissioner Rude had previously emailed inquiring if any restrictions are planned in light of water shortages in the southwest? Mr. Stevens offered that as of now, no short-term restrictions are planned nor any planned restrictions adding that Tempe is in a unique situation due to our water being delivered through our canal system.

Rate study working sessions between now and July 2022 will be open to the public. NAC members will be provided the schedule via email. The rate study recommendations will be shared with public outreach anticipated to take place in August/September and the potential for adoption in October or November followed by implementation of new rates in January 2023 or later – if adopted.

NAC members seemed satisfied with the rate study process plans and no formal action was taken at this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – 2022 Neighborhood Celebration, Event Wrap-up and Feedback**

Meeting time constraints prevented lengthy discussion. The reimagined event was received very favorably overall with a number of participants from various commission members to award winners, vendors, and varied folks tabling, expressing enthusiasm and support for the location, abbreviated program, variety of offerings and opportunity to connect in-person and outdoors. NAC members will be provided the link to the post-event survey via email. Elizabeth provided a hard copy document with comments to date with in-person meeting attendees Chair Moulton Belec, Vice Chair Joel Stern and Commissioner Weller.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Proposed Future Agenda Items**

Members were asked to reference the document in their packets.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas