

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission October 12, 2022



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option and a virtual component using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, Diane Harden, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

(MEMBERS) Absent: Maureen Eastty, Barb Harris, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern

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

Guests: None.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chair Moulton Belec

Agenda Item 2 - Attendance Roll Call

Present: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

Absent: Maureen Eastty, Barb Harris, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern

Agenda Item 3 - Public Comment

Agenda Item 4 - Review and approval of meeting minutes: September 7, 2022 NAC Retreat Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Weller made a motion to approve the September 7 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Schugurensky

Result: Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Agenda Item 5 - 2023 Neighborhood Celebration Event Ideas and Awards Category Discussion

Staff reminded members that the 2023 Neighborhood Celebration event date of Saturday, April 1 was announced in the meeting packet memo. Members will also receive a Save the Date calendar message.

Chair Moulton Belec complimented the look and feel of the inaugural 2022 Neighborhood Celebration event (formerly the State of the Neighborhoods event) held at Kiwanis Park in the Fiesta Ramada area. NAC's role in determining the Neighbor and Neighborhood Awards categories and assisting staff with event planning, promotion and hosting was briefly discussed. Chair Moulton Belec asked NAC members about their desired role for the 2023 event.

Months in advance of the 2022 Neighborhood Celebration event, NAC members implemented some refinements to long-time Neighbor of the Year and Chuck Malpede category criteria. The former beautification award category was expanded and renamed as the Beautiful Neighborhood Space and a Neighborhood Event category and Neighborhood-Friendly Business category were added. The resulting six Neighborhood Awards categories as determined by NAC were:

Neighbor of the Year
Chuck Malpede
Neighborhood of the Year
Neighborhood Event of the Year
Neighborhood-Friendly Business
Beautiful Neighborhood Space

Members discussed the last awards cycle sharing comments and suggestions:

- Don't have to give an award in every category
- Commissioners can elevate a nominee for consideration (i.e. from Neighborhood Event to Neighborhood of the Year or from Neighbor of the Year to Chuck Malpede/honors length of service)
- Last year, nine neighborhood related nominations were received - all were good quality
- Quality of nominations was not consistent in prior years
- Seeking quality or quantity?
- Consider a more general application with universal criteria? (Arts & Culture staff/a committee of the commission determines categories and winners after submission)
- Process and number of application options was confusing
- How do you define community impact of Beautiful Neighborhood Space if it is in a back yard?
- Neighborhood of the Year - are you trying to celebrate really active NAs and HOAs - consider changing title?
- # of nominations - is that important?
- Opportunity to combine some of these NAC created categories
- Explore opportunity to create a combined award with Transportation Commission - Bike Friendly Community, Connected Communities or maybe recognize a safety element
- Expand Beautiful Space Award Category to include non-profits (like Keep Tempe Beautiful Preserve Papago)

After additional group discussion, members agreed to keep the existing categories for at least one more year and to increase their promotion of them. Staff observed that the Beautiful Neighborhood Space can "compete" with Water Conservation/Water Wise Landscape and Sustainability Categories (selected by the Sustainability & Resilience Commission). The website will be updated to alert nominators not to nominate the same nominee in multiple categories. Chair Moulton Belec agreed to work with staff to review all NAC's Awards categories, refining the existing criteria as needed.

For the 2022 Neighborhood Celebration, a few NAC members participated extensively in the virtual event planning meetings with staff every couple weeks. Commissioner Hagen indicated a willingness to participate.

NAC member event ideas:

- Organize a raffle with a trivia component (raffles/local prize baskets at 2022 Neighborhood Celebration were a hit)
- Provide a map of neighborhoods at entry with stick pins or dots to identify which neighborhood attendees reside in
- Identify/provide a way to capture name and contact info. for those attendees not living in a registered hoa or voluntary neighborhood association area

Agenda Item 6 - Continuation of Commission Goal Setting and Working Groups Discussion

Shauna provided a demonstration of some of the Neighborhoods GIS Map layers currently available. It was noted that not all layers can be applied to the map at the same time due to map density increase causing visibility or band width issues.

NAC members were asked to think about (and identify) which map layers are their priorities. Commissioner Granillo requested equity related elements and Commissioner Schugurensky inquired if there is any association between the poverty rate of a neighborhood and the activity level.

Members were encouraged to consider:

- ✓ Importance of understanding nuances of the map. Some areas without associations may not be eligible - due to being industrial zones or non-residential such as Discovery and ASU Research Park
- ✓ Some neighborhoods have started the process to form an association and elected to delay due to covid considerations or occasionally due to negative response from neighbors
- ✓ Neighborhoods are unique and levels of engagement and activity of voluntary neighborhood associations vary widely
- ✓ Neighborhood activity levels often change when leadership changes or neighborhood goes through transitions (more or less families, retirees, vacant properties, etc.)
- ✓ HOAs are legal entities regulated at the State Level with requirement for an annual meeting (notification of all owners) and typically a monthly or sometimes quarterly Board Meeting

Chair Moulton Belec expressed pride in the work of both working groups and the comprehensiveness of the 2021 Annual Report, highlighting the success of the Neighborhood Celebration event. Members contributed directly to the Report through writing about the press mentions received as well as detailing progress made towards goals and accomplishments.

Throughout much of 2021, the Communications and Grants Working Groups met monthly outside the regular NAC meetings. Chair Moulton Belec emphasized if NAC members wish to continue the working groups, members will need to take the lead to schedule meetings, take the minutes and handle follow up. For the 2022 Annual Report with goals for 2023 noted, Commissioner Harden suggested that the measure of increasing number of Neighborhood Associations/Registered HOAs and the measure of increasing number of grant applications be recorded noting that both measures would help to document and track outreach results. Progress could be shared at NAC regular meetings. Members agreed not to formalize 2023 goals or priorities until more members are present at the November meeting.

Other ideas shared by members:

- Leverage tools NAC has built (Hannah will provide link to the Hub) and tools city has available to use
- Reach out to schools? (Note: Peach Jar digital fliers have a fee attached)
- Get information on areas lacking shade and areas that have never received a grant
- Reconsider grant mentorship program

Agenda Item 7 - First DRAFT 2022 Annual Report

Version in the packet was intended as an example only, much of the information contained was from last year's report. Staff will provide the second DRAFT of the Annual Report in word format so that NAC members can provide desired edits.

Agenda Item 8 - Parks and Streets Committee Update

The September 30 meeting provided context on historical figures and background information. Parks are Hudson, Harelson and Redden. Streets are Hudson Lane, Laird Street and Hudson. Tempe's research was conducted by Tempe History Museum staff using records from the Arizona Historical Society and Phoenix Public Library. The next meeting of the group, which Chair Moulton Belec serves on, is later this month.

Agenda Item 9 - General Plan 2050 Update

Public outreach, meetings and activities are underway. Commissioner Abrahams provided a brief update.

Agenda Item 10 - Proposed Future Agenda Items

- ⇒ Adaptive Recreation - City Accessibility
- ⇒ December meeting - long term members Harris and Schugurensky are terming off along with Commissioner Eastty - Holiday treats at meeting and possibility of offsite gathering after (Postino?)

Agenda Item 11 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas