



Minutes Joint Dinner Meeting Tempe City Council and Tempe Chamber of Commerce October 30, 2007

Minutes of the Joint Dinner Meeting of the Tempe City Council and Tempe Chamber of Commerce held on October 30, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., Tempe Center for the Arts, 201 Lounge, Tempe, Arizona.

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Vice Mayor Hut Hutson
Councilmember P Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Barbara J. Carter
Councilmember Shana Ellis
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Councilmembers Absent:

Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell

Tempe Chamber of Commerce Board Members Present:

Mary Lou Bessette	Bob Normile
Tom Beswick	Stephanie Nowack
Sandy Catour	Jody Robertson
Mike Gardner	Jim A. Rund
Marcie A. Greenberg	N. Laine Schoeneberger
Joan Jakel	Jim Scussel
Marilyn Joyce	Carl Streiff
Vicki J. Kringen	Heidi Vail
John Miller	Shauna Warner
	Kim Webb

Guests Present:

Mary Ann Miller, President/CEO, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Catherine Mayorga, Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Reception convened at 6:00 p.m., and dinner convened at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome

Mary Lou Bessette, Board Chair Woman, stated that the City and the Chamber have a great relationship. It is important to remember Tempe while building a great community and to

preserve its history and environment. The business community cares about Tempe and wants to preserve it. It will take time, energy and commitment to look toward a better community.

Mayor Hallman stated that he has an admiration for his colleagues. With the Open Meeting Law, public business is conducted in public and this Council works better together than any other Council he has seen. He expressed how proud he is of this Council.

Agenda Item #2 – City/Chamber General Discussion

Chair Bessette distributed the Chamber's 2007 Local Position Statements.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that neighborhoods need to be included in the position statements. It is important to tie in small businesses, neighborhoods and big businesses.

Mayor Hallman added that Council relies on the Chamber to make improvements for the City. The entire rehabilitation code led this effort and Council approved changes in the redevelopment code that will help build a stronger community.

Councilmember Arredondo added that neighbors fought for a grocery store, and the Chamber could help.

Heidi Vail stated that some properties are not owned by residents of Tempe.

Mayor Hallman urged the City and the Chamber to partner on these deteriorated properties.

Shauna Warner stated that Tempe has 114 Homeowners Associations (HOAs) and 72 volunteer groups.

Laine Schoeneberger suggested communicating via the water bill.

Councilmember Carter added that the sign code is more business-friendly. The Chamber of Commerce has a great board. The City cares about neighborhoods and parts of the neighborhoods have become strip malls. The City needs the Chamber's help to make these properties better.

Vice Mayor Hutson added that with the present economy, not everything will be built right away. The plans on the books will take Tempe to the next level with the Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau (TCVB) and the Chamber.

Councilmember Ellis referred to the light rail construction mitigation item on the Local Position Statements and suggested including loans to businesses on the light rail route. She looked forward to hearing Chamber's position on streetcars. She suggested bringing the positions back to her Transportation, Housing & Environment Committee.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that she chairs the Council's Education, Technology and Economic Development Committee. The Committee has some exciting things happening. In

the Fall of 2008, there will be a Career Expo. It is important to engage our education providers with our neighborhoods. That isn't typical, but that is Tempe and Tempe is unique.

Mayor Hallman added that the City's efforts need to tie into education. This is a community centered on education. The City has focused on life-long educational opportunities. High tech companies are struggling to find employees. In order to bring these businesses to Tempe, we need to provide an opportunity to hook them up with the Chamber to work together.

Bob Normile, SunCor, stated that SunCor has a great relationship with Tempe.

Jim Scussell, Four Peaks Brewing Company, added that his company also enjoys a great relationship with Tempe.

Jody Robertson, Wells Fargo Bank of Arizona, commended the Police on their great response during the recent bank robbery.

Councilmember Arredondo urged the Chamber to attend the Council Committee meetings.

Mayor Hallman added that this could be part of the State of the City as well.

Vicki Kringen, Tempe Center for Habilitation (TCH), stated that the City has done an excellent job supporting the non-profits. TCH is moving forward with a small business venture.

Marilyn Joyce, First Horizon Home Loans, added getting builders through the construction process has gotten better and this needs to continue. The Chamber has committees, too, and City staff needs to be part of their committees, as well.

Marci Greenberg, Salt River Project (SRP), stated that Tempe is a great environment for businesses. SRP is backlogged for construction permits because of the growth.

Laine Schoeneberger, Campbell, Schoeneberger & Assoc. Ltd., suggested offering incentives to HOAs to join the Chamber. Could the City help in bringing the HOAs to the Chamber?

Mayor Hallman responded that the Chamber can help with connections. Every homeowner goes to a business or works from home. Home-based people need to get out to the Chamber meetings.

John Miller, US Airways, added that US Airways is working well with SunCor on building plans and Tempe residents on the Arts Center. This is encouraging and he hoped the spirit of working together continues.

Carl Streiff, Freescale Semiconductor, added that the vision of the City Council is important. This is what is bringing businesses to Tempe.

Stephanie Nowack, TCVB, added that the Council understands that tourism is economic development, and the TCVB needs to remind the City that the TCVB is a resource.

Joan Jakel, Law Office of Joan L. Jakel, P.C., stated that they have a great relationship with the Chamber and with the City. Accessibility has grown. People enjoy working in Tempe and businesses are getting through the City process better. She thanked the Council for their efforts.

Heidi Vail urged the Chamber to get more involved with the City.

Mary Ann Miller, President/CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Career Expo is really exciting. City staff is welcome to attend Chamber meetings. Tempe is growing and this is a great problem to have.

Agenda Item #3 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell

Reviewed by: Amber Wakeman

Jan Hort
City Clerk