



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session November 20, 2008

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, November 20, 2008, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman (via telephone)
Vice Mayor Shana Ellis
Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell
Councilmember Joel Navarro
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember Corey D. Woods

Vice Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Call to the Audience

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Annual Report

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Community Services Manager Tom Canasi

Tom Canasi summarized that this commission was established many years ago to hear the voice of youth and involve them in the decision-making process. He introduced Allie Gorton, 2007-08 Chairperson, and Veekas Shrivastava, 2008-09 Chairperson.

Allie Gorton summarized that the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC) is in its 28th year of existence, and on behalf of the commission, she thanked the Council for their support of Tempe's youth. During the past year, the commission has been actively involved in national and local events, including attending the Youth Leadership Day at the Capitol and the Arizona League of Cities and Towns Youth Conference. She and Kimberly Trudgen, 2007-08 Vice Chairperson, also attended the 2007 National League of Cities conference in New Orleans. Over the past year, MYAC sponsored two annual events: Student Government Day and Youth Town Hall. Student Government Day was well received and participants gained insight on how city government

operates.

Veekas Shrivastava, 2008-09 Chairperson, summarized that the Youth Town Hall provides youth and adults the opportunity to meet together to address issues that impact youth and develop solutions. During the 2008 Youth Town Hall, three issues were addressed: teen depression and suicide, teen drug use, and teen sexual behavior. Many recommendations were made and he provided examples.

- Teen depression and suicide

Arizona has one of the highest teen suicide rates in the nation. Discussion centered around possible reasons, what support programs are already in place, and what programs are needed.

- One suggestion was to provide information and training to teachers, coaches and students. As teens are more likely to approach trusted friends, coaches or teachers than their parents or counselors, social workers should provide training on how to effectively respond to depressed youth. Information could be provided at school assemblies, student and teacher organizations, or specific classes.

- Teen drug use

Discussion focused on the prevalence of drugs in young society, and also why some students don't use drugs.

- Age-appropriate substance abuse education should be provided to parents and children of all ages, for example, at school fairs, curriculum nights, and other school events. The information could be provided by substance abuse prevention agencies in the community.

Ms. Gorton addressed the third issue.

- Teen sexual behavior

Several issues were identified with current sexual education. Sex education in schools was one of the most opportune variables in decreasing teen sexual behavior. Youth, however, felt the information they were receiving and the manner in which it was being presented could be improved. Revitalizing the material, the delivery of the material and the presenters could have a very positive impact on teens.

- Initiate partnerships with outside agencies to provide relevant sex education in schools and improve training for teachers.

Councilmember Woods thanked the students for what they have done and for being so involved. It's wonderful to see youth who are interested in bettering our community.

Councilmember Arredondo added that Ms. Gorton and Mr. Shrivastava should be very proud of the schools

they represent. They have done an excellent job of not only articulating, but following through, and they are a credit to their parents. This Council will work hard toward those goals and recommendations.

Councilmember Shekerjian added her thanks and stated that this gives her hope for the future. In the past, Council has taken some of the recommendations and applied them toward the education portion of the Council committee. Councilmember Arredondo is Chair of the Education Partnerships Committee and she would suggest that Ms. Gorton and Mr. Shrivastava provide input to him regarding the recommendations.

Councilmember Arredondo added that Mr. Canasi is staff liaison for his committee, and they have waited to bring the final committee work plan to Council in order to have time to integrate these recommendations where possible.

Councilmember Navarro added his congratulations as well. As a firefighter, he understands first-hand the problems and dilemmas and with good education and proactive involvement such as this, much can be accomplished.

Councilmember Mitchell added his congratulations as well. He asked what Ms. Gorton and Mr. Shrivastava are doing to encourage their classmates to be involved in MYAC.

Mr. Canasi responded that the challenge is having them go back to their schools and involve their campuses. If the committee gets too large, however, it is difficult to have substantive discussions, so they try to bring them together in some of the events and they can go back as subcommittees. They try to balance the membership among all of the schools.

Mr. Shrivastava added that they talk to their friends and speak to the service clubs. They actually have a full commission this year.

Vice Mayor Ellis stated that she participated as an adult in years past and to hear all of the ideas coming forward was amazing. In 1987, one of the recommendations was for childcare for parenting teens in the Tempe Union High School District. Two years later, the Open Horizons Childcare Center opened and thanks to that recommendation, over 500 teenagers have been able to graduate over the last 20 years. Council takes all of these ideas seriously.

Mayor Hallman added that MYAC tries to represent all of the students within the community by recruiting students from the high schools, and Mr. Canasi and his staff should be commended for a great effort to keep reaching out to young people in the community. The prior representatives of the commission have done an excellent job recruiting top-notch representatives. There are wonderful people coming behind us as future leaders of the community. In terms of this report, the three concepts discussed this year are extraordinarily difficult challenges. This is just a start. Dealing with teen sexual behavior, drug use, and depression and suicide are ongoing community struggles. He recommended that Council go ahead and recommend that the Education Partnerships Committee add to its work plan the things that are appropriate from the City level. In addition, he suggested forwarding the report from the entire Council to the Tempe Union High School District Board and requesting that they seriously consider the issues that were discussed and seek to have their

administrators begin examining and adopting approaches that will address these issues. He also suggested Council's consensus for a letter from the Mayor and Council to the School Board forwarding the report, along with a request that they seriously consider the recommendations made and the means by which they could adopt the recommendations.

Vice Mayor Ellis also thanked Kim Baumann for her efforts with MYAC.

CONSENSUS

- Referred to the Education Partnerships Committee.
- Mayor and Council to draft a letter to the Tempe Union High School Board, forwarding the report, and urging the board to seriously consider the issues and to examine how to address these issues.

Follow-up Responsibility: Tom Canasi

Destination Tempe

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Community Relations Manager Shelley Hearn; Deputy Public Works Manager Jyme Sue McLaren

Shelley Hearn summarized that the grand opening of light rail is 37 days away and she provided an update. Numerous events are planned, with thanks to the generous support of the sponsors who are covering the cost of the events and the incredible team of employees and staff that have worked to put this together. A public service announcement was viewed.

Jyme Sue McLaren announced that after four years of construction, the 20-mile light rail system will be opening on Saturday, December 27th.

- Trains will be operating from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, the 27th, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, the 28th. Trains will operate at 10 – 15 minute intervals.
- On Monday, December 29th, regular service will begin from 5 a.m. to midnight, seven days per week, at 10 to 20 minute intervals.
- Free rides will be offered from Saturday, December 27th, through New Year's Eve.
- On January 1st, the fare will be \$1.25.
- For the grand opening weekend, staff is encouraging the public to park at any of the light rail station parking facilities along the 20-mile system.
- Within downtown Tempe, there are over 10,000 parking spaces to use to participate in the grand opening weekend.
- Large crowds are expected for the event and shuttle bus operation will be provided during the weekend due to the large crowds on opening day.
- Many of the stations will have celebration parties
- Motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists are encouraged to be safety-conscious around the light rail.

Ms. Hearn summarized the grand opening event.

- On December 27th, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at the Operations and Maintenance Facility, and at the conclusion of the ceremony, Mayor and Council will board the train and ride into downtown Tempe where the opening celebration will kick off.
- The opening celebration will be at the main station at College and Veterans Way. The celebration will include food, entertainment and events throughout the day. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. when the train arrives with a dedication of the light rail line and the Transportation Center.
- At 10 a.m., the trains will begin running, and the public may board.
- The Tempe party will include day-long entertainment with fireworks at 5:45 p.m.
- Other areas of activity will include:
 - **Transportation Zone** – featuring all modes of transportation from Segways and Zip Cars to bicycles.
 - **The Green Scene** – featuring environmentally friendly products, as well as a farmers market.
 - **Train to Tempe** – featuring all of the downtown Tempe events, along with entertainment and the arts.
 - **Light Rail...How It Was Built** – featuring all the participating contractors of light rail.
 - **Dig Through Time** – featuring the archeology that occurred during the excavation for light rail.
 - **The Urban Experience** – including developers showcasing projects downtown and along the rail line.
 - **Kids on the Go** – including transportation-related kids' activities and a Wii trailer.
- Other station parties include:
 - Priest and Washington - SRP hosts interactive exhibits on water and electric safety.
 - Mill and Third – Presented by SunCor, showcasing light rail's connection to the Mill Avenue District, Tempe Town Lake and Hayden Ferry Lakeside.
 - Dorsey and Apache – City public safety personnel will be highlighted at this party with activities for children and displays of a fire truck and Police Department Command Van.
 - Price and Apache - Tardeada Advisory Board will sponsor the party as a celebration of the City's rich Hispanic culture.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that there will be arrangements for the operation hours to be extended for special events, such as the Block Party.

Ms. Hearn responded that people can use the light rail free to get to and from the Block Party. For all big events, staff will work with METRO to extend the hours of operation. For the Block Party, the hours will be extended to 2 a.m.

Ms. McLaren added that staff has been working with the Insight Bowl to alter the fencing for that special event so that it doesn't restrict train service in and out of downtown Tempe.

Councilmember Navarro asked what alternatives will be available after 2 a.m.

Ms. McLaren responded that the bus system will be operating as it has for any previous event.

Councilmember Navarro asked if there were still ways for neighborhoods to get involved with some of the smaller parties.

Ms. Hearn responded that staff has reached out to all of the neighborhoods in that area and they have been notified.

Councilmember Navarro thanked the Police and Fire Departments for coordinating plans with staff in the planning process. The magnitude of joint relations with Tempe, Phoenix and Mesa, and making sure this goes off without a flaw is outstanding.

Mayor Hallman asked for clarification of the sponsors' contributions.

Ms. Hearn responded that the three title sponsors are included in the logo and each has contributed much to the celebration, and together with the presenting sponsors, the total is approximately \$250K to \$270K in contributions.

The Mayor Hallman clarified that the entire budget for this event, including the cost of City services, is about \$280K. The City is actually receiving contributions from the private sector and partners to pay for the cost of the City's services. In addition, the cooperation among the three cities is outstanding. This is not something that is owned by the City of Tempe, so the Mayor and Council do not get to dictate the hours and solutions. Staff has worked through a regional agency, Valley Metro Rail, to negotiate for these solutions. They are still in process on additional solutions because life in downtown Tempe continues after midnight and the goal is to make sure that the services supplied cost effectively provide an opportunity to benefit the whole community. They are still working out operation hours for Friday and Saturday nights specifically to continue to a time that would be useful for the community. He congratulated Shelley Hearn and Kris Baxter who have worked diligently to raise the money, and Jyme Sue McLaren for her incredible ability to steer through the federal government and other agencies.

INFORMATION ONLY – NO CONSENSUS

Economic Stimulus Update

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenter: Public Works Manager Glenn Kephart; Government Relations Director Amber Wakeman

Amber Wakeman summarized the economic stimulus package that Congress may be considering. Staff has been working with Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the City's federal lobbyists on a list of projects for Congress to consider for an economic stimulus package. Staff has learned that most likely President-Elect Obama will take the lead on an economic stimulus package when he takes office on January 20th.

Glenn Kephart added that at some point, it will be necessary to prioritize the list and staff desires to be proactive to discuss the process to do that. He suggested assigning this to a specific committee so that staff could work with that committee proactively to begin the prioritization. It would be premature to prioritize it prior to getting further details on how the stimulus package would work.

Mayor Hallman suggested that this be referred to the Mill & Lake District Committee. The Council should have an opportunity to brainstorm and set priorities given the size of the package being put forth. MAG got all of these rolled up together and the advancement by the MAG cities make up more than one-fifth of the package coming from this side of the country, and more than one-twentieth of the entire stimulus package proposed to Congress. As of yesterday afternoon, it has died in the House and did not proceed, and the next time this may be considered is only after the new Congress and new President are seated.

CONSENSUS

- Referred to Mill & Lake District Committee.
- Staff was directed to add this issue to the committee's next meeting agenda.

Follow-up Responsibility: Amber Wakeman, Glenn Kephart

Formal Council Agenda Items

None.

Future Agenda Items

None.

Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements

City Manager Charlie Meyer announced that on December 1st, at 8 a.m., a Budget Workshop will be held in the Community Room of the new Transportation Center. This is a public meeting and information will be available to employees and the public tomorrow. The City's budget staff has been working to develop a 5-year forecast for the December 1st meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Jan Hort
City Clerk