

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission Meeting May 7, 2008

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on May 7, 2008, 5:30 p.m. at Apache Boulevard Police Substation Community Room, 1855 East Apache Boulevard, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Erik Anthony Aldrete, Kevin Kaesberg, Ira King, Susan Knudson, Alex Podressoff, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, Jeffrey Sheppard, William Wagner, Michael Wasko, Bill Weigele, Woody Wilson.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Don Calender, Tom Catlaw, Greg Ellison, Faye Farmer.

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences: Pete De Mott, Andy Hall, John Sanborn, Jason Short.

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director, Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist.

Guests Present: Pam Goronkin, Executive Director, Downtown Tempe Community, Inc.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: April 2, 2008 Meeting

The April 2, 2008 minutes were considered for approval. Commissioner Knudson moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Downtown Tempe – Pam Goronkin, Executive Director, Downtown Tempe Community, Inc.

For information only. Pam Goronkin, Executive Director, Downtown Tempe Community, Inc. (DTC) thanked the Commission for inviting her to speak at the meeting. Ms. Goronkin reviewed the role of the DTC in the downtown and the importance of downtown Tempe to the greater community.

Through her participation as a speaker at the May 5th Neighborhood Workshop Upward and Onward – A Look at Tempe's Future, Pam discovered that many residents perceive DTC to be related to downtown parking only. This experience further revealed the need to educate more residents and resident groups about DTC's role, mission and goals. To reach out to residents and share the downtown and DTC story, a "road show" is being prepared. The road show will focus on getting the word out to local residents about what is available and happening downtown and why it matters to them.

Pam also distributed copies of the Mill Avenue District Directory with a map of the area and a list of the various businesses, services and area attractions. The Directory is distributed in all area hotels and is a marketing tool largely aimed at tourists and visitors. Pam noted that the Tempe

Town Lake and downtown area receives over 2.7 Million visitors annually who spend money thereby reducing the tax burden on residents.

Some Commission members provided their views on downtown related issues including the desire for Orbit buses to travel to the Tempe Center for the Arts and expanded bus service hours as well as the current tenant mix. Pam commented that the bus service issues are policy decision issues. She added that the first ever downtown Land Owner's Summit was held on April 16th, all 44 different land owners were invited and many attended. The group hopes to convene annually with each other and DTC to discuss issues such as what type of tenants are most desirable downtown, most likely to succeed in this urban environment and the importance of working together towards creating a collective energy, vision and partnership.

Agenda Item 5 - Neighborhood Workshop Recap

Commissioner Wilson commended Neighborhood Services staff for the job they did on the Neighborhood Workshop. The rest of the Commission concurred. The Commission will thoroughly review the Workshop and Awards at the retreat.

Agenda Item 6– Selection of June 7, 2008 Retreat Topics

The following topics were identified by the Commission for the retreat:

- Neighborhood Workshop and Awards
- Committee Structure
- Recap of Past Year
- Goals for Next Year
- Zoning Code Amendments
- TIP Update

The following topics were identified by the Commission for future meetings:

- Volunteer Group to Assist Residents
- Impact of Home Based Businesses.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Council Committee Update

For information only. The April 8, 2008 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Council Committee agenda was distributed. Commissioners asked that they be e-mailed the May 13, 2008 agenda.

Agenda Item 8 – Committee Reports

There were no committee meetings.

Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment

Commissioner Wilson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Knudson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Prepared by:

Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist