

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission August 6, 2008

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on August 6, 2008, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Apache Boulevard Police Substation Community Room, 1855 East Apache Boulevard, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Tom Catlaw, Pete De Mott, Greg Ellison, Faye Farmer, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Ira King, Susan Knudson, Alex Podressoff, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Jeffrey Sheppard, Jason Short, William Wagner, Michael Wasko, Woody Wilson.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Erik Anthony Aldrete, Don Calender, Bill Weigele.

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director, Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Dawn Coomer, Senior Transportation Planner, 480/350-8550, dawn_coomer@tempe.gov, Shelly Seyler, Traffic Engineer, 480/350-8854, shelly_seyler@tempe.gov.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: June 7, 2008 Retreat meeting

The June 7, 2008 minutes were considered for approval. Vice Chair Wasko moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Residential Permit Parking Program

Shelly Seyler noted that the neighborhoods most impacted by “out of area” resident parking are those in and around ASU and downtown as well as some in proximity to the local high schools. As ASU’s parking fees continue to rise and meter fees increase, Transportation Engineering staff has already seen additional requests for residential permit parking. They anticipate this trend will continue.

Shelly presented an overview of the current residential permit parking program and proposed changes to policy and practices. Shelly described the challenges of trying to attain a delicate balance between the needs of area residents, existing conditions, new conditions including the potential impacts of light rail, the streets as public right-of-way and striving to create a proactive rather than a reactive program. Commissioner Ellison suggested additional changes particularly to the number of residential parking permits issued. The Codes Committee will take a look at the program and bring suggested changes to the full Commission for consideration.

None of the proposals necessitate ordinance changes. Next steps involve going before the Transportation Commission at the Tuesday, August 12th meeting followed by a visit to the Council Committee when the new Council Committees have been established.

Agenda Item 5 – Tempe South Corridor Study Update

Dawn Coomer introduced Marc Sorensen and Wulf Grote from Valley Metro to give an update on the Tempe South Corridor Study. This is a 24-month long study both Tempe and Chandler are working with Metro on. The project study area is bounded by the Tempe Branch of the Union Pacific railroad on the west, Loop 101 on the east, Route 202 (Red Mountain Freeway) on the north and Route 202 (Santan Freeway) on the south.

The study is analyzing potential high capacity transit improvements and alternatives for north-south alignments and has now entered the Tier 2 Analysis Phase. This Phase will focus on developing ridership and cost estimates and looking at impacts and issues with each of the proposed routes. Public input is being sought on the six alternatives recommended for additional analysis. These alternatives include: Union Pacific Railroad Commuter Rail, Union Pacific Railroad Bus Rapid Transit, Mill Avenue Bus Rapid Transit, Mill Avenue Modern Streetcar, Rural Road Light Rail Transit/Streetcar and Rural Road Bus Rapid Transit.

The selected project will connect to the 20-mile light rail starter line scheduled to open in December 2008. Implementation would not occur until 2015 but critical analysis and decision making is necessary now. Marc and Wolfe offered to come back to NAC later this year after the Tier 2 phase of the study has concluded to share the results.

Agenda Item 6– Tempe Involving the Public (TIP) Manual Update

The TIP Manual was completed in June 2007 and the City Council approved it by resolution at the August 16, 2007 City Council meeting. The Table of Contents and Executive Summary were provided to NAC members. The TIP Manual was distributed to staff that regularly work with the public as well as an Executive Summary to all neighborhood and homeowners' association contacts. The TIP Manual is also posted on the website. Neighborhood staff is currently working with the Tempe Learning Center, an internal division of Human Resources, who provides City staff with training, on a training module for the TIP Manual.

Agenda Item 7 – Overview of Neighborhood Grant Funding Recommendations

The City Council sets aside \$250,000 in Capital Improvement Program funds for neighborhood initiated projects. Neighborhood and Homeowners' Associations registered with the Neighborhood Services Office and Crime Free Multi-Housing Communities are all eligible to submit neighborhood initiated grant projects for consideration. All projects must be one-time-only expenditures and become the responsibility of the associations to maintain. The packet enclosure details where the funding requests are coming from and what types of projects are being funded.

This year a \$50,000 grant was made available and awarded for the first time and twenty-nine applicants (17 neighborhood associations and 12 homeowners' associations) were recommended for full or partial funding. Neighborhood Service Team recommendations will go before City Council for approval on Thursday, August 14, 2008.

Agenda Item 8 – Citizen Satisfaction Survey

For information only as requested by the Commission. The full survey is online if any commissioners are interested and the information may be helpful when determining subcommittee missions and goals.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports

There were no committee meetings. The following Commissioners expressed interest in serving on a committee: Codes Committee – Greg Ellison, Alex Podressoff, Lisa Roach, Bill Wagner and Woody Wilson (alternate, Don Calender); Green/Sustainability Committee – Kevin Kaesberg, Sue Knudson, Jeffrey Sheppard, Jason Short and Mike Wasko (alternate, Ira King);

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Housing Committee – Tom Catlaw, Pete DeMott, Greg Ellison and Andy Hall; Outreach Committee – Tom Catlaw, Faye Farmer, Mike Wasko and Woody Wilson.

Agenda Item 10 – Proposed Agenda Items for September 3, 2008

Committee Reports, Explore Volunteer Group to Assist Residents, Neighborhood Council Committees, Residential Parking Permit Program.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment

Commissioner Catlaw moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Prepared by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist