

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission January 7, 2009

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on January 7, 2009 5:35 p.m. – 6:55 p.m. at the Apache Boulevard Police Substation Community Room, 1855 East Apache Boulevard, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Erik Anthony Aldrete, Greg Ellison, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Joochul Kim, Ira King, Susan Knudson, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Jeffrey Sheppard, Jason Short, William Wagner, Michael Wasko, Woody Wilson.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Tom Catlaw, Don Calender, Pete De Mott.

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Jan Koehn, Code Enforcement Administrator, 480/350-8076, jan_koehn@tempe.gov;

Guests Present: Isabel Ruiz

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: December 3, 2008

Commissioner Knudson moved that the December 3, 2008 minutes be approved. Commissioner King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Election of Officers

Commissioner Roach made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented, Chair Kaesberg as Chair and Vice Chair Wasko as Vice Chair. Commissioner Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Update on Code Compliance Enforcement

Jan Koehn, Code Compliance Administrator, gave a summary of residential code compliance activity for 2008. Total complaints processed were 8,400 with an average of 11 inspectors. The proactive rate for citing violations was 57% and the rate for voluntary compliance was 92%. Jan also distributed a map of the City showing Commissioners the breakdown of complaints by sections.

Last year the City enacted a habitual offenders section of the code to address repeat violators. The fines go into a hardship assistance fund to assist residents who can't fix violations due to economic or physical hardship. Foreclosures have the added difficulty of tracking down owners for violations at abandoned or vacant homes.

The City's proposed reorganization plan would eliminate part time code inspectors and reduce the number of full time inspectors. Commissioners expressed concerns with the ability of Code Compliance to proactively cite violators with a reduction in staffing.

Agenda Item 6 – Committee Reports and Consideration of Minutes

A. Codes Committee

The Codes Committee did not meet.

B. Green/Sustainability Committee

The Green Sustainability Committee did not meet. Their next meeting will be January 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Connections Café.

C. Affordable Housing Committee

Commissioner Roach reviewed the Affordable Housing Committee meeting minutes from December 11, 2008 (see Attachment A). Dr. Ed Valenzuela, Director Arizona Fair Housing Center, spoke to the committee about Fair Housing. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to accept the Affordable Housing Committee meeting minutes into the Commission's official record. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the committee will be January 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Connections Café.

D. Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee did not meet in December. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Connections Café.

Agenda Item 7 – Council Committee Updates

The Quality of Life Council Committee will meet January 22 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall in the 3rd floor conference room. Commissioner Roach attended the Affordable Housing Council Committee.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Agenda Items for February 4, 2009

Stardust video on affordable housing; Committee Reports; Council Committees; Neighbor of the Year Awards and Workshop Update; Jay Butler, ASU real estate; Homeless Update; PD foreclosures; Loud Party Update; Charlie Meyer to discuss proposed budget cuts.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Prepared by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director

ATTACHMENT A



Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission Neighborhood Affordable Housing Committee Meeting December 11, 2008

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission Affordable Housing Committee meeting, December 11, 2008, 6 pm, Tempe Library Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Road.

Members present: Lisa Roach, Andy Hall

Members absent: Pete DeMott, Greg Ellison, Tom Catlaw

City Staff present: None

Guests present: Dr Ed Valenzuela, Director Arizona Fair Housing Center

Agenda item 1 – Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:17 PM

Agenda item 2 – Public Comment

A call for any public comment was made without any responses

Agenda Item 3 - Discussion with Dr. Ed Valenzuela, Executive Director, Arizona Fair Housing Center

Topics discussed;

- What is Fair housing? The right of individuals to obtain the housing of their choice free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin. The right is assured by the Federal Fair housing act of 1968, as amended and the Arizona Fair housing act of 1990.
- After 1991 new buildings of more than 4 units must provide reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities (ground level units)
- Funded with HUD funds and donations
- Education and outreach are needed to educate landlords and tenants of their rights
- Violations have been reported in Tempe.
- Not enough enforcement with landlord –Tenant disputes. Need help at a state level as well as local.
- Municipalities can and do have testing done, Tempe not at this time.
- Changes could be coming to Fair housing to strengthen the law, help with the foreclosure crisis, housing initiative programs, and education programs.
- Look at having a Fair Housing Training at NAC.

Agenda Item 4 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Prepared by Lisa Roach