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## **Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission Neighborhood Outreach Committee Meeting August 24, 2009**

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**Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission Outreach Committee held on August 24, 2009, 6 p.m. at the Tempe Public Library, Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Road**

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Woody Wilson, Don Calender, Ira King, Susan Knudson

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Mike Wasko, Jeffrey Sheppard

**City Staff Present:** None

**Guests:** Jayson Matthews and Emma Bordner, Tempe Community Council, Tempe Karma

### **Agenda Item 1 – Discussion regarding SHARP (Senior Home Assistance Repair) program**

**Background** -- Commissioner Wilson had researched a senior assistance program in place in Troy, Michigan. The Michigan program, SHARP (Senior Home Assistance Repair Program), was brought to the attention of the Outreach Committee by Commissioner King. Essentially, SHARP operates to help older people stay in their homes by providing home repairs either free, or at cost. The only criteria is that the homeowner receiving services be over 60 years of age and that the home is owner-occupied. Materials are provided by local hardware merchants (sponsors) and the work is done by volunteers. In many cases, the volunteers are retired tradesmen looking for community involvement.

In Troy, a city of just over 60,000 residents, the referral orders are taken via phone by people who work for the parks & recreation department. They have approximately 300-400 calls for service a year. The program costs taxpayers nothing, as the workers are all volunteer. Materials for the repairs are sold to the program at cost by local hardware stores. When SHARP pays the invoices for materials, they deduct 10 percent, which is considered a donation from the supplier. The funds accumulated by the deduction pay for program expenses. Services provided are plumbing repairs, electrical work, painting, carpentry, landscaping, etc. Since the city already has liability insurance for its volunteer workers, the SHARP volunteers are covered under its umbrella.

In Troy, the SHARP process began with the help of the Troy Community Foundation, which gave \$2500 seed money to launch the program. That money was never spent because the program immediately attracted enough sponsors to cover the startup expenses. The seed money was eventually returned to the Community Foundation. Since Tempe now has the Tempe Community Foundation (Tempe Community Council) and Tempe Karma for fundraising and outreach into the community, TCC's Assistant Director, Jayson Matthews and TCC's Resource Director, Emma Bordner were invited to this meeting to share ideas on how the NAC and TCC (Tempe Karma) could work together to create a program similar to the SHARP project in Troy.

Since Tempe has no coordinated program to help seniors stay in their homes, Mr. Matthews supported the concept of creating such a program. He explained how the program might work with Tempe Karma reaching out to prospective volunteers and the City using its volunteer office to take the referrals. The process, business plan and operational options must be in place before we can move to approach prospective sponsors for the program. Commissioner Knudson suggests, as a start, that we begin with just a landscaping service to help seniors with codes violation problems. The interior repair program could begin after the program is in place.

There is much discussion on how the program might work within the City. Who will take the work orders? How will the volunteers be vetted? Commissioner Wilson had received an update from COT Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Anna Bastin regarding programs in place that provide limited service in this area. Those programs are small in scale and not coordinated. Mary Anna Bastin suggested we speak to Maryan Leyvas at COT's Housing Services about grants that might be available.

Mr. Matthews agreed that a service modeled after the SHARP concept is definitely needed in Tempe, and that we should find a way to make it work. After much discussion on how the program could/might work, it was suggested a preliminary business plan should be developed and presented at the next Outreach Committee meeting prior to the October NAC meeting. Commissioner Wilson agreed to write the program draft for that meeting. If we can move quick enough, this new program can be launched at the Neighborhood Leadership Workshop and Awards in April. Thanks to Jayson Matthews and Emma Bordner for attending the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2 - Planning discussion regarding 2010 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards theme, potential workshop topics and speakers**

It is agreed that the Neighborhood Leadership Workshop and Awards be held the first (April 4) or second (April 11) Saturday in April.

After much discussion, it is agreed the 2010 Neighborhood Leadership Workshop and Awards should have a community building focus. The suggested topics are:

1. Social Networking for Neighborhoods – *"I Heard It Through the Grapevine,"* a workshop that will teach neighborhood leaders how to build community through social media networks and e-mail.
2. Rebuilding Your Neighborhood Watch Program – *"Re-Energizing Your Community to Fight Crime"*
3. Top Ten Community Building Ideas – *"Bringing Your Neighborhood Together – What Works"*
4. Friends of Tempe – *"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"* (launching this program)

**Speakers** – Discussion on speakers centered on someone with a proven record of community leadership and group motivation. It was suggested Tempe Fire Chief, Cliff Jones be asked to serve as our keynote. Chief Jones has been one of Tempe's most visible role models for both community involvement and leadership. Since Tempe Leadership is 25 years old in 2010, and Chief Jones has been an important figure in that program, it was suggested he would make an ideal speaker for this event. Commissioner Wilson motioned to ask Chief Jones to be our speaker, Commissioner Calender seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Adjourn – 7:15 p.m.  
Prepared by Woody Wilson, Chair