

## Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission Neighborhood Outreach Committee Meeting September 22, 2009

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission Outreach Committee held on Sept., 22, 2009, 6 p.m. at the Tempe Public Library, Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Road

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Woody Wilson, Mike Wasko

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Susan Knudson, Jeffrey Sheppard, Ira King, Don Calender

**NAC Members:** Lisa Roach

**City Staff Present:** Elizabeth Thomas

### **Agenda Item 1 – Review topics for Neighborhood Leadership Workshop**

The date for the Neighborhood Leadership Workshop has been tentatively set for Saturday, April 10, 2010.

#### **Neighborhood Leadership Workshop Topics for consideration are:**

- **“Online Neighborhood Networking”** -- Social Networking for Neighborhoods -- A primer on how community leaders may stay in touch with neighbors on matters that impact residents and the community; crime, the elderly, code violations, etc.
- **“Block Watch Revisited”** – A workshop for strengthening the first line of defense to prevent neighborhood crime – The Neighborhood Watch. Police Department experts will show you how to help keep your community safer.
- **“What’s New With Tempe In Motion?”** – An update on changes and enhancements to Tempe’s transportation system; neighborhood circulators; Light Rail, bus routes, shuttles and fee schedules.
- **“Show Me the Money”** – An update on what Tempe is doing with government Stimulus Package grants and loans. What will this money mean to Tempe and its citizens?
- **“Buy Tempe – It All Comes Back to You”** – A workshop on the impact of how spending your money in Tempe could impact the tax base, and help mitigate our budget shortfall.
- **“Friends of Tempe Neighborhoods”** – A workshop to launch a new community-wide program that will help eligible seniors keep up their property and stay in their homes longer. It works in other cities...it can work in Tempe.

There was discussion that some of the potential workshop topics might work best as informational tables covered by volunteers or appropriate staff. For example, a Transportation table or a Friends of Neighborhoods table could be utilized in lieu of workshops on these items. There was agreement that the various work area tables were a nice addition last year.

There was general discussion on the Neighbor of the Year Award application. The consensus is that we should move to having the applications filed directly on-line to create uniformity in the process and save paper and time. However, we need to be mindful that some people may not

have access to computers. We will monitor this process for 2010 and see if it's possible to move in the direction of a complete on-line application.

**Agenda Item 2 – Friends of Tempe Neighborhoods**

Commissioner Wilson has been researching Senior Housing Assistance and Repair Programs (SHARP) in other cities; Troy, Michigan and Philadelphia. PA. As a result of our August Outreach Committee meeting with Tempe Community Council's Jayson Matthews and Emma Border, a program to help seniors remain in their homes as long as possible is needed in Tempe. Commissioner Roach has taken the lead to form a separate non-profit organization to fill this community need and has already started creating a board of directors. The legal papers are in the process of being drafted. It is determined that Friends of Tempe Neighborhoods should be handled at the grassroots level and the NAC should only be a support group and promote the program whenever possible. Work will begin on finding sponsors and organizations to handle the work orders and administration, as well as researching the liabilities. A dialogue with the COT Volunteer Office will continue. Commissioners Roach and Wilson will work independently to have this program ready to launch at the 2010 Neighborhood Leadership Workshop.

Adjourn – 6:55 p.m.

Prepared by Woody Wilson, Chair