



Minutes

City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee

October 9, 2007

Minutes of the City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, 3:30 p.m., at the Tempe City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Member Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair

Committee Member Absent:

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

City Staff Present:

Angel Carbajal, Asst. Police Chief
Travis Dray, Deputy Mgr, Recreation
Jim Gaintner, Asst. Fire Chief
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations Mgr
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Cliff Jones, Fire Chief
Glenn Kephart, Public Wrks Mgr
Jayson Matthews, TCC Mgmt Asst
John Osgood, Dep Pub Works Mgr
Tom Ryff, Police Chief
Marc Scott, Fire Marshal
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Prgm Spec
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs Dir

Guests Present:

Joe Pospicil, NAC member
Stephanie Salazar, ASU

Councilmember Ben Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Committee Scope of Work

Councilmember Arredondo distributed a draft of the Committee Work Plan. He had previously asked staff for concerns and suggestions, and the work plan will be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Shauna Warner added that the draft contains everything that was submitted, although she has not heard from everyone yet. This work plan is based on the Mayor's suggested work plan, and also includes general on-going items from last year such as rental housing, loud party ordinance, etc.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that if anyone would like something added, please contact Shauna Warner.

Agenda Item 2 – Changes of Insurance Requirements of Skilled Boating

Travis Dray stated that staff has worked with Risk Management and this proposal has been presented to the Rio Salado Advisory Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board. Both have approved it. The change of insurance would only apply to skilled boating defined as non-motorized, rowing, paddling, or sailing. The change would allow the City to host or develop competitive rowing and paddling events, including pursuit of national events. The current \$5M policy is very expensive and is above the standard for the industry making it very difficult to host any events that are produced or hosted by the City. By partnering with the organized associations, such as USA Rowing, the City would be able to execute the events safely with \$2M insurance policies.

DIRECTION: Staff was directed to take this to Council at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Police Department Update on Neighborhood Policing Efforts

Assistant Police Chief Angel Carbajal summarized items that have a direct impact on quality of life issues in the neighborhoods.

- The **Crime Suppression Team** started in June and involves all bureau managers and commanders who discuss issues on a regular basis and focus resources on serious concerns. It has been very successful. To date, the City has a 19.9% reduction in violent Part 1 crimes compared to last year, as well as a 25% reduction in auto theft, and an overall reduction in property crimes of 9.4%.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested that staff do a comparison to cities with colleges to see how Tempe ranks.

Asst. Chief Carbajal added that the Crime Suppression Team will be contacting other Valley agencies to determine if there are other auto theft deterrents that the City could incorporate.

Councilmember Arredondo noted that if Arizona Mills Mall is taken out of the mix for the neighborhood west of Priest, their crime rate drops considerably. Neighborhoods near a mall get blamed for a lot of things that might not directly impact their neighborhood.

Chief Ryff added that while it is good to compare auto theft rates to other cities, it might also be misleading. Since Arizona has a disproportionately high number of auto thefts because of its location to Mexico, it might not be an accurate method to use.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that he was suggesting looking at where Tempe ranks, but the comparison needs to be from a geographical location.

DIRECTION: Staff was directed to schedule this for the Issue Review Session on October 25th.

Assistant Chief Carbajal continued:

- The **Party Patrol** was kicked off on August 17th and 262 public service notices and 8 criminal complaints have been issued, with 283 staff hours provided. At the direction of the Crime Suppression Team, 100% staffing has been committed for every Friday and Saturday night. This opportunity is offered to ASU police department every weekend, as

well. There has been a 6.2% reduction in party complaints for January through September compared to the same time period in 2006.

- There are two **ACTION** teams addressing crime trends in the neighborhoods. From July 17th through September 29th, the two teams made over 305 arrests for a variety of criminal offenses.
- For the first nine months of the year, the Special Enforcement Motorcycle Squad (**SEMS**) has responded to 267 complaints, issued 923 citations, and provided over 554 staff hours.
- The Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (**GAIN**) event will be on Saturday, October 20th, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Assistant Chief Carbajal further outlined several recent exceptional incidents in neighborhoods:

- 10/4/07 – drug transaction in the 600 block of West Baseline.
- 10/7/07 – burglary in the 1200 block of West Myrna and 1100 block of West Jeanine.
- 10/2/07 – citizen complaint of illegal drug activity at a residence in the 600 block of South Wilson; drug paraphernalia was found, along with chemicals for meth production.
- Molestation of a young girl on a bus – the bus driver was instrumental in catching the perpetrator.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Assistant Chief Carbajal to provide the bus driver's name to him so that he could write a letter of thanks.

Chief Ryff added that the driver will be included in their annual awards banquet and will receive a departmental award. He further noted that even though a lot of acronyms are used, each one is a structured police unit in place to impact crime and public safety in the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Chief Ryff to let Council know exactly what that means during their presentation at the Issue Review Session.

Agenda Item 4 – Fire Station #7 Status Report

Fire Chief Cliff Jones summarized that the fire station was approved for land purchase and design in the 2007/2008 Capital Improvement Program. Construction is scheduled for the 2008/2009 fiscal year capital improvement budget. Currently there is no bonding authorization for construction, and bond authorization will be sought in the next bond election. Staff will return with one more update and get a sense of when financial authorization can be achieved to move forward for construction bids. He added that the station is planned for the southeast quadrant of the City and will require an additional fire company.

Agenda Item 5 – Staffing New Fire Company/Heavy Rescue

Fire Chief Jones summarized that the last time a fire company was added was in 1994. The department answered 56% more calls in 2006 than in 1994 with the same amount of resources, so their ability to manage the response load is reaching a critical state as reflected in their budget request last year and in the department's five-year plan. They were not successful in that budget request and will be bringing it forward again.

Chief Jones explained that the new company will provide a dual function. The crew will have a standard fire rescue pumper and the heavy rescue truck, which has now arrived. The plan is to staff this company with six people, which is half the normal strength of a fire company. That is standard for heavy rescue throughout the State and will provide the ability to make a push into a burning building or a collapse situation with the necessary power. It is a very important company for both citizens and for firefighters.

Chief Jones added that the unit requires 21 people to have 24-hour coverage. The truck would be located in the central part of the City and would help to address response time and call load issues in the intervening time between budget approval and the opening of the new station. When the station is built, another company would move to the station and the heavy rescue unit would remain in the central part of the City. The companion pumper truck will need to be purchased at an expense of \$515K, and he reminded everyone that the heavy rescue truck itself and all the equipment is about \$1M. It was acquired through a federal grant in cooperation with the Police Department.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the truck shouldn't be sitting there when the neighborhoods could benefit from it. He would propose voting six months ahead of time to get this fully staffed by drawing from the contingency fund for six months. He suggested putting this on the Council agenda and he would ask Chief Jones to repeat his presentation for Council.

DIRECTION: Staff was directed to move forward to Council before December.

Agenda Item 6 – Recommendations of the Commission on Fire Accreditation

Fire Chief Jones summarized that the Fire Department has completed ten years as an accredited fire department with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Over the last eight months, staff completed a comprehensive assessment of the department. A site visit occurred in July with four outside experts who evaluated the department and its operation. A report was submitted to the Commission and the Commission held a hearing in August in Atlanta and recommended the department for re-accreditation. The assessment, site visit, and final report cover all facets of a modern fire department's operation. The process is founded on the concept of continuous improvement and a set of both strategic and specific recommendations for further improvement was given.

Some of the strategic recommendations were:

- Establish deadlines and benchmarks within the Fire Department's Five-Year Plan and Operational Guide and incorporate components of the report into the Five-Year Plan.
- Expand analysis of response time to include arrival of subsequent fire companies. This is an effort to evaluate overall response capability as opposed to setting the benchmark on the arrival of the first company. The Department is programming the computer system now so they will be able to evaluate this response time.
- Place the planned additional fire company in service before opening of the station.
- Conduct more comprehensive analysis of emergency medical service incidents. A new information management system is being used to allow firefighters and paramedics to use handheld computers in emergency incidents for reports rather than waiting to return to the station. This will result in more accurate and timely reports and will provide the ability to send those reports electronically to the receiving hospital.

Agenda Item 7 – Off-Campus Housing Guide

Councilmember Arredondo congratulated Stephanie Salazar on a successful open house at her new location.

Stephanie Salazar distributed the Off-Campus ASU Housing Guide. This guide is published every May and goes to each student ready to transition to off-campus housing. It outlines crime prevention and personal safety tips, ASU and Tempe police information, fire safety, and information about being a good neighbor. Any additional information can be submitted to her for the next edition.

She also distributed the brochure entitled, “Being a Good Neighbor.” This also goes to all students getting ready to transition to off-campus housing. It includes information on being a good neighbor, the Tempe Loud Party Ordinance, parking information, crime prevention tips, noise, and property appearance. Again, any additional information can be submitted for the next edition.

Councilmember Arredondo asked the group to send a letter to Dr. Crow expressing thanks for their partnership, and note how pleased we are that this office is finally off campus.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items – Next meeting December 11, 2007

Councilmember Arredondo reminded the group that any changes or additions for the draft work plan should be received by Shauna Warner by Thursday, October 11th, at noon. She will provide the information that will be forwarded to Council for recommendation.

Jayson Matthews asked if the TCC will remain under this committee.

Councilmember Arredondo responded that the neighborhood parks and the TCC will stay on this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

Jan Hort
City Clerk