



**Minutes
City Council's Quality of Life
Committee
May 28, 2009**

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Quality of Life Committee held on Thursday, May 28, 2009, 4:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Councilmember Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Mark Mitchell
Councilmember Joel Navarro

City Staff Present:

Jennifer Adams, Public Works
Charlotte Benson, Sr. Asst. City Attorney
Angel Carbajal, Asst. Police Chief
Lisa Collins, Dep Dev Svcs Mgr
Allison Consolo, City Atty's Office
Zeshan Dhanani, City Atty's Office
Nora Dillon, City Atty's Office
Andy Goh, Dep Pub Wrks Mgr
Don Hawkes, Water Utilities Mgr
Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Mgr
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Eric Iwersen, Sr. Planner
Glenn Kephart, Pub Wrks Mgr
Judi Morgan, Asst. City Atty
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr
Jeff Tamulevich, CCE Admin
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Pgm Spec

Guests Present:

Kevin Kaesberg, Neighborhood Advisory Commission
Bob and Julie LoGuidice, Residents
Stephanie Salazar, ASU
Doug Stites, resident

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances/Call to the Public

Doug Stites, Tempe, stated that he rides his bicycle along the canal often and there are no reference points along the canal to show location. If the pathway will begin to draw riders from other cities, he suggested that there could be potential problems with identification of location in an emergency. He suggested stamping into the concrete the name of the cross street and possibly a small map that would show what is ahead and what is behind.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2009

Councilmember Navarro made a motion for approval of the minutes from April 23, 2009. Second by Councilmember Mitchell. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Bicycle Facilities Update and Future Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Eric Iwersen provided an update of bicycle/pedestrian projects that are under design and construction. Some of the issues regarding way-finding addressed by Mr. Stites have begun to be addressed. He has been talking with Mark Richwine about a sign package that would link parks and pathways. He didn't know if it would be a concrete stamp, but staff is looking at a signage solution that could involve maps as well as information about cultural destinations.

Mayor Hallman asked about the success of the skate-boarding deterrents. Mr. Iwersen responded that they appear to be successful.

- Rio Salado South Bank Path was recently completed. The path extends from Priest Drive to the Arts Center. This was almost entirely federally funded. It includes public art and rest areas.
- Tempe Canal Path is now about 95% complete. This connects to Victory Park on the Mesa/Tempe border and extends from the railroad tracks on the south to University Drive on the north. Forty-seven palm trees that were removed for the light rail project along Apache Boulevard were salvaged and re-planted along the path. Victory Park was also enhanced for a connection to the path.
- Western Canal Multi-Use Path – about 25% complete.
 - This is the largest pathway project with six miles. It extends from city limit to city limit from Arizona Mills Mall to the 101 Freeway, including several signalized and unsignalized street crossings.
 - There has been significant federal funding.
 - Public art includes light columns at all intersections as guides.
 - The connection to Kiwanis Park is on the south side of Baseline and includes a larger plaza area with enhanced lighting and trees. The pathway ties into the existing park pathway system at several locations.
 - The Ken McDonald Golf Course connection includes a raised tee box at Hole #11.
 - Construction has not yet begun for the linkage to Stroud Park.
- Additional funding was received for design of an extension for the Rio Salado pathway system from McClintock into Mesa under the 202 and on to Dobson Road.
- The State's first bike station will be opened at the Transportation Center. This was done through federal funding.
- Crosscut Canal Path II is under design. Staff has been working closely with the North Tempe Neighborhood Association and anticipates 90% plans by July. It extends from Evelyn Hallman Park on the north through Papago Park to Moeur Park at the intersection of Mill/Curry/Washington. It connects to an existing pathway that extends from the northern city limits down to Evelyn Hallman Park. This will complete Tempe's portion of the Crosscut Canal. Staff is working to install solar lighting and Sonoran landscape.
- Three bridges cross the canal and staff is working with a local firm and the project artist to create some interesting structures. The Arts Commission is supportive of the project.

Councilmember Navarro added that the signage concern was addressed at the Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation and Maintenance Committee last week. It is important to make a smooth flow with the paths. He asked if the bridges would be adequate for fire apparatus to cross.

Mr. Iwersen responded that two of the three are full capacity structures to accommodate fire trucks. One is in such a remote area and is adjacent to an SRP vehicle bridge, so that vehicle bridge would be for fire trucks and the other bridge would be for non-motorized use.

Councilmember Arredondo asked if there would be any emergency call boxes.

Mr. Iwersen responded that the plans do not currently feature call boxes. Occasionally at public meetings citizens will ask for call boxes. It hasn't emerged as a major concern, but it can be explored.

Councilmember Arredondo asked that it be explored and brought back to the Committee with the cost factor.

Mayor Hallman added that if we are encouraging use of the area, especially in the Crosscut Canal area, then we should consider access to emergency service.

Councilmember Navarro added that at the Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation and Maintenance committee meeting, he voiced the suggestion of having call boxes along the new paths.

Mayor Hallman suggested looking at the Crosscut Canal segment at this point. Neighborhood parks are much more visible, so the probability of an emergency is significantly less than in one of the remote areas. Concerning signage, there will be obvious areas where people will enter these pathways and it will be important for way-finding to encourage use.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Water Development Fees and Residential Sprinkler Systems

Councilmember Arredondo asked that staff be sure to provide back-up and not to put things on the agenda if back-up is not supplied ahead of time. It should be added to a future meeting when information is available to go forward.

Don Hawkes summarized that this issue started at the Committee last month. This issue came to the forefront when a case came forward to Development Services. The City's current policy is to give credit for development fees for water and sewer because the meter needed to be upsized and then charge the difference. In this case, it would have been a total of about \$3K. In researching the ordinances and practices of other Valley cities, as well as looking at our practice on commercial fire taps, staff proposes the following recommendations:

- City would allow residential fire taps of ¾" minimum diameter to the main. The current cost is \$570.
- Requirement of a back-flow device according to Tempe Detail T-210 to be installed on that to protect the water quality from backflow of the system.
- Requirement of an annual inspection of the backflow device, which could cost from \$35 to \$105 depending upon the size and condition.
- Requirement for the customer to submit the annual inspection report compiled by the certified tester to the City's backflow prevention work group.
- Requirement of a small monthly fire service line fee based on the City's perpetual maintenance to the tap and the service line to the property. For a ¾" line, the fee would be \$3.85.
- The customer owns and agrees to maintain the entire infrastructure from the property line to the building, including all of the fire sprinkler systems.
- Customer will be prohibited from using the fire sprinkler tap to access water for any other purpose.

Mr. Hawkes summarized that instead of \$3,000, this alternative would be a one-time cost of approximately \$650, as well as an annual cost of \$70. That would provide a dedicated fire line of ¾" to the residence.

Mr. Stites asked how much interaction staff has had with the other cities.

Mr. Hawkes responded that staff looked at their ordinances and came to the conclusion, based on the State statutes for development fees, which are very rigid, that this is a much lower cost to the resident and it gives the City the protection it needs for water quality and also eliminates the conflict with the State statute on development.

Councilmember Arredondo added that for someone trying to upgrade their home for fire protection which might save some firefighters' lives, the City will charge them a fee. He was glad the fee was reduced, but he didn't know about the \$70 per year.

Mayor Hallman stated that we have burglar alarms on buildings, both commercial and residential, and we charge a registration fee and false alarm fee and he hoped that we would do this not only for the homeowner to save his property, but also to reduce insurance costs. While there would be an annual cost, we have to deal with the fact that we are not allowed to use the Water Department's resources for anything other than the Water Department's services. The other side of that is that we can't charge more or less than the cost of this service because it is unfair to the other water users. We can't cross-subsidize in the water, sewer or irrigation.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the water will simply sit in the pipes and he asked what does the \$70 annual fee would do.

Mayor Hallman responded that the backflow issue is one requirement so that water that sits in the pipes doesn't get drawn back into the system. That needs to be inspected annually and that could cost \$35. The backflow device itself costs \$80.

Mr. Hawkes added that the monthly fee is calculated by their consultant in their rate study and is the cost for the City to maintain that tap and line in perpetuity.

Councilmember Arredondo added that staff has addressed the major concern with the fee decreasing from \$3,000 to \$650.

Mr. Hawkes added that Mr. Stites will be the test case. This will be a separate tap on the main which will provide a ¾" dedicated fire service line to the property line without a meter.

Mayor Hallman suggested adding a fairly severe fine if someone taps that in order to supply themselves water service.

DIRECTION: Refer to Council for consideration.

Agenda Item 5 – Status Update on El Paso Gas Easement

Andy Goh summarized that this easement runs in an east/west direction, south of Baseline between Baseline and Guadalupe. This segment is between Rural and Kiwanis Park.

- In November of 2006, El Paso Gas Company gave the City the easement because they no longer had the need for it.
- Public Works submitted a CIP request to improve that easement and that project has remained on the unfunded list.
- The scope of the project was to design and construct a multi-use path that would include lighting and landscaping along the easement between Rural and Kiwanis Park.

Mayor Hallman asked, given the work that Mr. Iwersen and Public Works have done to get federal funding for paths, whether this is something that we should try to push for federal funding. He suggested that Mr. Iwersen return to the next meeting to look at how this fits into the picture.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested that Mr. Iwersen show what work has been done and what hasn't been done.

Mayor Hallman suggested looking at the bigger picture of how this is all starting to come together, how Tempe paths are connecting, and maybe that will help identify the priorities.

Mr. Goh added that the City has improved about two miles of the easement from Price to McClintock, but the segment from McClintock to Rural goes through commercial property.

Mr. Kephart added that staff has seen an improvement in the amount of illegal dumping.

Agenda Item 6 – Update on Customer Relations Call Center

Shelley Hearn summarized that Jennifer Adams is on loan to do the research and development, along with a team of other individuals from almost every department.

Jennifer Adams summarized that Community Relations is working on developing a Customer Relations Center. In 1996, the Federal Communications Commission developed the use of 311. We will use a different number for a one-stop shop concept. A citywide task force was developed to examine the issue and a mission statement was developed to state that the City of Tempe Customer Relations Center's would provide the Tempe community with centralized access to City services and assist City departments in delivering responsive and consistent services. Staff is partnering with IT to make sure the computer system is advanced, and best practices are being researched from other cities. Currently about 14% of the cities in the country have these centers. Four positions have been identified and staff will continue to gather information for frequently asked questions and choose a computer system.

Mayor Hallman added that part of the umbrella focus was also to make sure we end up with consistent messaging going back out to the residents, not just in telephone calls, but in every other opportunity. He suggested making that part of the mission, as well.

Ms. Hearn added that one thing the software does is that once a call goes in, anyone in the City will be able to look to see if another call came in on the same issue, and staff is looking for a system where the resident will also be able to track it as it goes through the system. The software will take some time, but it is the critical component. The call-taker will be able to send a work order to the right person and that will be part of the tracking process. Also, as City staff is out in the community, if they see something, they can call that number and report things themselves.

Agenda Item 7 – Arizona State University On and Off Campus Housing Update

Stephanie Salazar summarized that Off-Campus & Commuter Student Services (OCCSS) was created in August of 2007 to connect and engage students residing off-campus through programs and services. Their mission is to provide those students with services and educate them about City codes and ordinances and on being a good neighbor. That is done through various means.

- Housing Guide is provided to all incoming freshmen and it includes information about City codes and ordinances.
- Partner with the Tempe Police Department and Crime Prevention Office to host safety forums for students who reside off-campus within apartment communities.

- Housing fairs are held two times per year. They are a one-stop shop for students who are looking to transition to off-campus housing. City department are invited to come and educate students about things they should know to be successful while living off-campus.
- Orientations for all incoming students serve to educate students May through August about what her office does and how to live off-campus.
- "Moving Up and Moving Out" presentations are given to students who are transitioning from on-campus living to off-campus. May through about August staff goes to residence halls to provide the presentations.
- "Lunch and Learns" are an opportunity for City offices to talk to students about things they should know.
- Community liaisons live in some off-campus apartment communities to provide students with educational resources and help students be successful when they are living off-campus.
- Thanksgiving dinner is hosted for students who cannot get home to their families.
- Earth Hour events serve to educate students to be sustainable.
- Neighborhood Clean-ups are organized whereby students, staff and faculty join to clean up a park.
- OCCSS works with Tempe Police Department to mediate issues.
- They oversee some on-campus housing. Currently there are 11,418 bed spaces. That includes Vista del Sol, as well as Barrett Honors College which will be running in August. That will have 1,721 total bed spaces.
- For future housing, they are discussing with American Campus Communities, who was responsible for building Vista Del Sol, as well Barrett Honors College, a third phase on the north side beside Vista Del Sol on Rural Road for another 1,000 bed spaces. That will be strictly upper classmen housing. There is another possibility for another 1,000 bed spaces right on Rural and University where the Greek housing is. Those will be for the Greek fraternities. Those are tentative plans.

Mayor Hallman asked Ms. Salazar for a listing of all housing units now and when they come on line (what has happened in the last ten years). That would help explain to the community the progress that ASU has made in student housing. He added that the materials she provided are great, but he suggested adding under the Loud Party item about the potential fines for violating the code. It could serve as the warning notice that this is serious.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

- Pathway Signage - Mark Richwine
- Status of Parks Rehabilitation Program (timeframe and funding streams)

Agenda Item 9 - Announcements

The next meeting will be on August 20th at 4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

Jan Hort, City Clerk