



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021

MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY

PRESENT: Rachel Putman, Chair
William James, Vice Chair
Jonathan Budwig, Commissioner
Louise Lamb, Commissioner
Carol Miraldi, Commissioner
Amanda Nash, Commissioner
Michael Wills, Commissioner

STAFF: Adam Yaron, Commission Liaison
Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner
Christy Hill, Citizen Liaison
Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreation Manager
Amanda Willis, Video Production Supervisor

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. A formal roll call was conducted, confirming members present as stated above.

Public Comment

No comments were submitted.

1. Approve Draft Summary Meeting Minutes February 24, 2021

Chair Putman called for comments/corrections.

VICE CHAIR JAMES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2001, MEETING AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MIRALDI SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) WITH CHAIR PUTMAN, VICE CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, LAMB,

NASH, MIRALDI AND WILLS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program Update

Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner, stated that the program offers City Council approved funding allocated to the NAC as a resource available for neighborhoods to assist in maintaining and/or revitalizing areas.

Program criteria includes:

- General Need: Prioritizing non-HOA neighborhoods where existing funding mechanisms are not available
- Existing conditions
- How visually accessible the project is: Prioritizing projects that have frontage to public streets that are classified as a minor collector or greater or adjacent to canal/park/public school
- How the project will be maintained over time

To date, the NEGP has provided funding to the following projects:

- Rotary Park – Neighborhood Park Improvements and development of a new Butterfly Garden (September 2018)
- Agua Linda Neighborhood Park Improvements (March 2019)
- 70th Street Salt River Project Neighborhood Irrigation System Maintenance (May 2019)
- Via Linda Senior Center Butterfly and Community Garden (September 2019)
- Census Community Trailer (January 2020)

Staff has developed a Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program (NEGP) webpage to receive application requests from the community. The page also contains overall submission information, submittal and timeline, approved program criteria and requirements. Upon approval from NAC to publish the program webpage, staff has developed preliminary marketing material. They will coordinate with the City's Office of Communication to reestablish an outreach plan utilizing web, social and print media to notify residents about the program.

Vice Chair James asked for confirmation that the application requires photographs of the area from the ground and aerial. Mr. McMahon confirmed the requirement, if the applicant is able to take such photos or if they have access to Google Earth images. Adam Yaron, Commission Liaison, added that if any items are missing, staff will work with the applicant to provide NAC sufficient information to consider the application.

Commissioners commended staff on putting together the application and materials.

COMMISSIONER NASH MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND THE UPDATED WEBSITE AS

PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MIRALDI SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) WITH CHAIR PUTMAN, VICE CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, LAMB, NASH, MIRALDI AND WILLS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Proposal: 82nd Street & Thomas Road Landscape Enhancement

Mr. McMahon stated that in early 2021, a neighborhood leader contacted Scottsdale City Manager's Office about a property (APN:130-35-144) located northwest of the intersection of 82nd Street and East Thomas Road (Enclosure 2). The neighborhood leader explained that many residents expressed frustration with the condition of an existing fence. The screening was not anchored to the fence panels and a panel of chain link was damaged. The fence currently secures a private vacant lot. There is a lack of hardscape material onsite to suitably mitigate dust along the property's frontage to East Thomas Road.

City of Scottsdale Code Enforcement was dispatched, and contact was made with the owner regarding the condition of the property. The property owner explained that they are currently working with Salt River Project (SRP) to relocate and underground the lateral ditch farther east on the property to create a more developable site. The property owner had considered removing the unsightly fence entirely but felt that the site would then be vulnerable to dumping. The owner committed to repair and/or replace the damaged fence, however did not have resources for landscape improvements.

The City Manager's Office, through the Office of Citizen Services, is requesting that the Commission consider assisting via NEGP funding to help resolve the issue. It is a one-time request to not exceed \$2,500 to provide 25 tons of granite for the 2,200 square feet of City right-of-way along 95 feet of East Thomas Road (minor arterial). The granite will provide a better aesthetic to the site as well as providing dust control measures not currently in place. The funding will assist the property owner in avoiding future code violations, prevent illegal dumping and complaints on the aesthetics and dust on the property. Implementation will take place through City right-of-way staff or assigned to existing City contracts. Ongoing maintenance will be the responsibility of the property owner. Staff has engaged Salt River Project to paint the electrical boxes on the west side of the property.

Commissioner Wills asked about the owner of the right-of-way. Mr. Yaron stated that this currently within the City's right-of-way, however City code requires that property owners maintain the adjacent right-of-way to back of curb. Accordingly, the adjacent property owner will still be responsible for maintenance. However, the property owner does not have resources available to address the area in front of the fence line. Commissioner Wills asked whether other property owners in the area maintain the right-of-way on their property. Mr. Yaron stated that adjacent property along arterial streets throughout the City are commonly landscaped by adjacent property owners. However, this specific property is yet to be developed. It is currently vacant, and this has been a longstanding issue in terms of

presentation. The City has received a series of complaints regarding maintenance and upkeep.

Commissioner Nash commented that she lives five or six parcels away from the property and is quite familiar it, however, she was unaware of the neighborhood uproar. She asked whether the original complaint was about fencing not being properly maintained or about dust control. Christy Hill, Citizen Liaison, stated that the property has been in this condition for nearly 16 years. Residents are concerned about the overall appearance. Staff met onsite in conjunction with Community Services, Parks & Reaction, Transportation and Code Enforcement to enhance the area. They worked with the owner to develop a plan to improve the fencing condition, secure the tarps, install granite and paint the boxes.

Vice Chair James asked for clarification that this property has been in similar condition, undeveloped for 16 years with no code enforcement actions. Mr. Yaron said this is an out parcel for a surrounding subdivision that was never developed. The property has an irrigation ditch running north/south beyond the fence pop-out. The property owner is exploring opportunities with SRP to relocate or clay-in the ditch in order to potentially bring development to the site. However, the City has no formal records of these plans. The existing issues present for many years have happened over the course of several owners. The present owner has installed a fence to avoid illegal dumping.

Commissioner Wills asked whether the request is from neighbors or the property owner. Mr. Yaron stated that the request originates through the Office of Citizen Services to support the neighbors' concerns and mitigate the current conditions. Code Enforcement has connected with the property owner to determine whether there were immediate plans to address the fence and surrounding area. The property owner has limited resources available and can only address the fence line at this time. This funding would take care of the issue of dust control.

Commissioner Nash asked whether there is a current code violation. Ms. Hill stated her understanding that the property owner was contacted and noticed to repair and replace screens and fencing. She is unaware as to what completion date was required. Commissioner Nash said she is not comfortable supporting the funding while current violations exist. Mr. Yaron stated that the Commission is free to make an alternative motion to support the proposal subject to the property not having any outstanding violations.

Vice Chair James asked for clarification that it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the City right-of-way to the curb and whether this constitutes a code violation. Mr. Yaron said that with respect to dust control, this measure is maintained by the County, not the City. With respect to staff's onsite evaluation and what has been communicated to the City in terms of the aesthetic value, this was felt to be an avenue to respond to the community's concerns. Vice Chair James said he assumes that the County is not willing to take responsibility for dust control on the property. Mr. Yaron stated that there has been no expectation for a violation inspection or citation from the County at this time.

Commissioner Nash noted the parcel is nearly 2 acres and asked for clarification that the dust violation is in regards to the just the frontage area or as to the entire

lot. Mr. Yaron said the concern has been specifically south of or in front of the fence line between the curb and the fence, not the overall property.

COMMISSIONER MIRALDI MOVED TO TABLE A VOTE UNTIL THE OWNER MAKES THE NECESSARY REPAIRS TO THE FENCE. CHAIR PUTMAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Putman noted that in the past, funds have been provided for community purposes, such as parks as opposed to specific landowners.

Commissioner Wills stated that regardless of the owner's violations, this is simply an owner that is not being a good neighbor and that allocating funds should not fall to the NAC.

Vice Chair James said there are two separate issues. One relates to whether or not the owner is fulfilling its responsibilities. The second is the experience of the neighbors. If the owner is conveying to the City that he lacks the resources to address the issue, the neighbors are left without resolution, unless someone else can address it. Failure to address the problems leaves neighbors in a lurch.

THE MOTION CARRIED SIX (6) TO ONE (1) WITH CHAIR PUTMAN, VICE CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, LAMB, NASH AND MIRALDI VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH COMMISSIONER WILLS DISSENTING.

4. Neighborhood Grant Proposal: Neighborhood Park Landscape Enhancement

Mr. McMahon stated that the City's Parks Department has been recently inundated with tree maintenance and removal requests from numerous residents regarding neighborhood parks. As a result, the Parks Department has requested Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Programming to provide landscape enhancement and the replacement of approximately 75 to 80 trees to 21 designated City neighborhood parks. The enhancements will benefit approximately 76,500 households. Most trees will be 24-inch box trees with a cost of \$150 each. The total project request is \$15,000, an amount not currently budgeted for by the Parks Department.

Chair Putman asked whether the Department has simply surpassed its budget for the year or whether the budget includes funding for tree replacement. Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreations Manager, stated that there is budget for trees throughout the parks system. Several trees have been lost during monsoons. These have been replaced through the budget process, however, this request will add to the tree inventory by supplementing the budget.

Commissioner Wills commented that this an awesome use of resources. He asked for clarification on whether this will apply to parks throughout the entire City. Mr. Pierce confirmed that it will enhance neighborhood parks throughout the City,

however the southern areas are most in need. Mr. Yaron stated that neighborhood parks are the smallest parks in classification, largely surrounded by residences and neighborhoods. Assisting them falls within the purpose and powers of the NAC, which is to enhance neighborhoods.

Chair Putman asked about the species of trees to be planted. Mr. Pierce said this varies based on park location. The northern portion of the City will have more native species, such as Palo Verde and mesquite. In the south, they will plant ten pistache trees, similar to those along Indian School Corridor, from Pima to Hayden as well as evergreen elms and acacia.

COMMISSIONER WILLS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FUNDING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT. VICE CHAIR JAMES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) WITH CHAIR PUTMAN, VICE CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, LAMB, NASH, MIRALDI AND WILLS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

5. Identification of Future Agenda Items

No future items were identified.

With regard to past items requested by NAC, Commissioner Miraldi asked staff to address homeless assistance from Human Services as well as activities of Operation Fix-It. The April, 2021 agenda will include the 2020 community survey results and Operation Fix-It. Staff is currently evaluating whether enough time has passed between the last Human Services update to be able to provide an update.

6. Staff Updates

Mr. Yaron reported that the Spirit Awards were awarded in late February, including the First Christian Church receiving the community group 2019 award for Spirit of Scottsdale. An email was received from Marilyn Perkins acknowledging the Commission's recognition.

The next NAC meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 28th. There is a potential staffing conflict, as staff is scheduled to present to the Planning Commission on the General Plan update. Staff will be reaching out to the Commission on alternative meeting dates.

In-person meetings with social distancing guidelines will return. This does not obligate Commissioners to attend in person, if they have concerns meeting in-person. The public will continue to be allowed access via Zoom or YouTube.

The NAC sunset review will take place on April 19th. Communication has commenced with Chair Putman on this item, which will be a Zoom meeting.

Mr. Yaron invited Commissioner Nash to provide an update regarding her membership on NAC. Chair Nash stated that she submitted her resignation, as

she will be moving outside of City limits. She thanked staff and the Commissioners for their service.

7. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Wills and seconded by Commissioner Budwig, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

AYES: Chair Putman, Vice Chair James, Commissioners Budwig, Lamb, Miraldi, Nash and Wills.

NAYS: None

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