



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

Wednesday, April 29, 2021

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT: William James, Vice Chair
Jonathan Budwig
Carol Miraldi
Michael Wills

ABSENT: Rachel Putman, Chair
Louise Lamb

STAFF: Adam Yaron, Commission Liaison
Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner
Michelle Holmes, Operation Fix-It Program Manager
Christy Hill, Citizen Liaison
Jody Pierce, Parks and Recreation Manager
James Johnson, Marvin Andrews Fellow with the City Manager's Office

Call to Order

Adam Yaron called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as indicated above.

Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

1. Approve Draft Summary Meeting Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: March 25, 2020

COMMISSIONER MIRALDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 25, 2020 NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER WILLS SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. VICE-CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, MIRALDI, AND WILLS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Overview of Scottsdale's 2020 Citizen Survey Results

Mr. Yaron noted that no public comments were received on this item.

James Johnson, Marvin Andrews Fellow with the City Manager's Office, provided an overview of the 2020 Citizen Survey results, including citizen ratings on quality-of-life attributes and feedback received relating to city programs and services. From the 1,700 surveys that were sent out to Scottsdale residents, 332 were completed and returned. Residents ranked Scottsdale high in all areas, including community livability, as a place to visit, as a place to retire and ranked safety, the economy, and transportation as top priorities.

Mr. Johnson encouraged everyone to review the survey results, which are on the City website. He said that the City of Scottsdale remains committed to providing simply better service for a world-class community.

3. Scottsdale's Operation Fix-It Program 2019/2020 Overview

Mr. Yaron noted that no public comments were received on this item.

Michelle Holmes, Operation Fix-It Program Manager, provided overview of Scottsdale's Operation Fix-It Program during fiscal year 2019/2020. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the program operated on an annual budget of \$75,000 and averaged 850 volunteers working on approximately 200 various projects. The program has been primarily funded through the Mayor's State of the City luncheon proceeds, monetary donations, in-kind donations, and a strong partnership with the Parks and Recreation department.

At the onset of the pandemic, the city was directed to disengage all volunteers, which impacted the program. In addition, Mayor Lane's 2020 State of the City luncheon was cancelled, so no funds were raised through that event, and the parks and recreation department was unable to partner on projects. Operation Fix-It was granted \$200,000 in CARES Act funds, which was crucial for the continuation of the program. The Care Act dollars were used to hire professionals to complete projects typically done by volunteers as well as additional specialty projects that would not have been possible under usual circumstances. Ms. Holmes said that the Neighborhood Advisory Commission can help Operation Fix-It moving forward by helping to develop stronger community connections and gain additional sponsorships.

Ms. Holmes mentioned that the City operates a tool trailer where citizens can borrow equipment and Operation Fix-It volunteers have access to tools. Power tools available in the tool trailer are primarily gas powered with the exception of manual tools. She recently learned that battery powered tools are easier to operate and require almost no maintenance. She asked the Commission to consider putting aside funding to help replace some of the equipment with battery powered tools.

Vice-Chair James asked if in the past the majority of the funding went towards materials, since volunteers were doing most of the work. Ms. Holmes explained that when a project requires specialized skills, the work is contracted out. Companies are selected through a bidding process with the job going to the lowest qualified bidder. Vice-Chair James suggested that since the use of volunteers is still prohibited, those people who are interested in volunteering be hired with pay. Ms. Holmes said that she will consult with the legal department about the suggestion. She noted that she has put together a COVID protocol in anticipation of the City reopening the program to volunteers.

Commissioner Wills asked if Mayor Ortega will continue with the State of the City luncheon. Ms. Holmes said that she has not had an opportunity to meet with the Mayor, but anticipates that he will support Operation Fix-It in some way.

Commissioners expressed support for setting aside funds for new tools for the tool trailer. They commended staff for work that has been completed over the last year.

Ms. Holmes encouraged Commissioners to let her know of anyone who is interested in volunteering with the program or making a donation. She is currently working with a citizen who wants to donate a car to learn what the requirements are for accepting the donation.

4. Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program: Overview of Public Applications Received

Mr. Yaron noted that no public comments were received on this item.

Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner, presented an overview of public applications for Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program (NEGP) funding. The NEGP webpage went live on Friday, March 26, 2021. With the help of the Office of Communication and other city departments, a marketing push for the program went out on through a variety of social media outlets on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

As of the date this meeting was noticed, five applications have been received with the following outcomes:

- Request 1 - received on Tuesday March 30, 2021 – request for landscape maintenance at 6720 East Lewis Avenue. The request did not meet program requirements based on location and accessibility criteria. The applicant was notified that the project might qualify for the Operation Fix-It program.
- Request 2 – request by an adjacent property owner for improvements to a portion of property maintained by the City as a drainage and flood control easement. The request is currently being processed by staff to determine if there are any opportunities to enhance the area. If an opportunity for enhancement is found to be available, staff will bring the request to the NAC during a future meeting.
- Request 3 - received on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 – request for landscape maintenance of a leaking fountain located at 3039 North Scottsdale Road. The request did not meet program criteria based on location and accessibility.

- Request 4 - received on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 – request for landscape maintenance in the form of grass removal, hedge trimming, and xeriscaping at 8250 East Sage. The request did not meet program criteria based on accessibility. Staff suggested to the applicant that they contact Scottsdale Water about the grass removal rebate program.
- Request 5 – received on Thursday April 1, 2021 – request for generic landscape enhancements at 8700 East Mountain View Road. The request did not meet program criteria based on the general need requirement, because the overall property is within an HOA.

The NEGP website has been updated to further clarify eligibility requirements and has added an inset map to further assist potential applicants.

Mr. Yaron noted that an additional application was received after tonight's agenda was posted. That application will be presented to the Commission during the June meeting.

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

Mr. Yaron noted that no public comments were received on this item.

Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner, presented a request submitted by the Office of Citizen Service for the allocation of Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program (NEGP) funding in the amount of \$2,500 for a landscape enhancement project located at 82nd Street & Thomas Road, in public right-of-way. He recalled that the Neighborhood Advisory Commission reviewed detailed information on this request during their March 25 meeting and continued the item to allow the property owner time to resolve the outstanding disposition of the fencing in question. As of April 13, 2021 the lot has been secured with properly installed fence panels and the foliage and tree near the utility boxes have been trimmed. Staff recommended that the Commission consider possible action to approve the City Manager's request for NEGP funding for landscape enhancement at 82nd Street and Thomas Road public right-of-way in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

Commissioner Wills asked if the surrounding property owners maintain the right-of-way areas associated with their property. Mr. Yaron explained that property owners are expected to maintain property to back of curb. The location in question does not have a residence on it and the owner does not have available resources to mitigate the area.

Christy Hill, Citizen Liaison, said that SRP recently painted the utility boxes.

COMMISSIONER BUDWIG MOVED TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM (NEGP) FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 FOR A LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT 82ND STREET AND THOMAS ROAD, IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. COMMISSIONER MIRALDI SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED TWO (2) TO ONE (1) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. COMMISSIONER WILLS DISSENTED. VICE-CHAIR JAMES ABSTAINED.

6. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Yaron noted that he is working to coordinate with Human Services Director Greg Bestgen to schedule a presentation on homeless assistance programs.

Additional future agenda items include:

- General Plan update
- Camping Ordinance information
- Neighborhood enhancement grant programs
- Operation Fix-It request for funding

7. Staff Updates

Mr. Yaron said that City Council will interview Commission applicants on May 4th; appointments are scheduled for May 18, 2021.

The Neighborhood Advisory Commission's triennial sunset review was held April 19, 2021. The Audit Committee recommended that the NAC continue.

Mr. Yaron mentioned that an email was recently sent to the NAC email, regarding the aesthetics of the city's right-of-way along Shea Blvd between Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. and 96th Street. Staff provided the citizen with an analysis of how areas are maintained along roadways, depicting areas maintained by HOA's, commercial property owners, and the city. Mr. Yaron noted that streetscape design guidelines are in place east of the CAP canal, along Via Linda. He anticipates there will be additional requests for landscape mitigation in that area.

Vice-Chair James asked about the stone wall areas at the corner of Shea and 124th Street. Mr. Yaron explained that there is an existing pedestrian/equestrian underpass in that area which is currently gated off. The City is in litigation with the contractor that built the gabion walls over workmanship issues. Access will be made available once these issues have been resolved.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER MIRALDI MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR JAMES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

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