

Minutes City Council and Downtown Tempe Community, Inc. Joint Meeting January 28, 2013

Minutes of the Tempe City Council and Downtown Tempe Community, Inc. Joint Meeting held on Monday, January 28, 2013, 5:30 p.m., at the Hackett House, 95 W. Fourth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Mark W. Mitchell	Vice Mayor Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember Robin Arredondo-Savage	Councilmember Shana Ellis
Councilmember Kolby Granville	Councilmember Joel Navarro
Councilmember Corey D. Woods	

DOWNTOWN TEMPE COMMUNITY, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Mike Burke	Grady Gammage
Charles Goffnett	Nancy Hormann
Cheryl Hornyman	Charles Huellmantel
Mike Jennings	Jeff Kulaga
Spike Lawrence	Ken McKenzie
Jane Mittness	Matt Mooney
Virgil Renzulli	

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Kulaga, Acting City Manager	Andrew Ching, City Attorney
Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Director	Steven Methvin, Mayor and Council Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Higgins, Mayoral Aide	Parrish Spisz, Council Aide
Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk	

Meeting participants gathered for dinner at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Spike Lawrence, Chair of the Downtown Tempe Community, Inc. (DTC) Board of Directors, welcomed participants to the Joint Dinner Meeting between the Tempe City Council and DTC. Mayor Mitchell opened the business meeting at 6:12 p.m., noting the long-standing partnership between the City and DTC. He asked participants to introduce themselves.

Panhandling Ordinance

Mr. Lawrence thanked the City Council for taking action on the panhandling issue by proposing an ordinance for City Council consideration. Nancy Hormann, DTC President and Executive Director, expressed concern that the ordinance was vague and may not be defensible. She suggested that the ordinance language be strengthened by adding language that limits panhandling to one individual, no groups. Andrew Ching, City Attorney, explained the ordinance provisions, first amendment rights, potential legal challenges, and enforcement efforts by the Police Department. The Mill Avenue Ambassadors and security personnel may also be able to assist with the issue. Mr. Ching stated that as a start, the first public hearing for the proposed panhandling ordinance will occur at the February 7, 2013 Formal Council Meeting agenda.

Long Term Parking Strategy

Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Hormann noted that parking issues due to additional development is a good problem to have. Current surface parking lots are seen as opportunity sites for development; when development occurs, parking spaces are reduced. A long-term parking strategy is needed. Ms. Hormann asked the City to join the DTC in developing a long-term strategy before parking becomes a bigger problem in the future. Participants discussed parking needs and opportunities, signage, parking

space sensors, public versus private parking lots and business concerns. In response to questions, DTC suggested that a projection of future development projects and a current inventory of parking spaces would be helpful to determine if another parking lot or garage is needed. Other suggestions included: variable parking meter costs based on time of day and day of the week, an analysis to determine the impact of changes previously made to parking hours, a review of prior parking studies, encouraging the use of public transportation, and requiring adequate parking for new development. Based on the discussion, staff will collaborate with DTC on a study regarding parking; facts and data are needed in order to make an informed determination and/or decision.

Panhandling Ordinance, continued.

Discussion returned to the proposed panhandling ordinance. Panhandling is a problem for downtown merchants; it negatively impacts the economy. Participants discussed "aggressive" panhandling, the use of crime prevention through environmental design CPTED guidelines, the possibility of an overlay district, redesign of public areas to discourage use as a park and freedom of speech. Police Department representatives need to be part of the discussion to seek solutions. Tempe's Police Chief has been invited to attend the next DTC Board meeting on February 13, 2013; DTC requested that Andrew Ching also attend the meeting.

Block Party Recap

Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Director, provided a recap of the 2012 New Year's Eve Block Party, as follows:

- At 8:00 p.m., attendance was approximately 10,000; at midnight, attendance was approximately 30,000.
- There were 40 arrests and six medical/fire department incidents.
- This year City costs were estimated at \$86,500; in past years, the City has spent \$250,000 - \$260,000.
- There were a lot of families and children in attendance; overall the event went well.
- The City's Special Events team is preparing an evaluation of the block party.

Participants discussed the block party and costs, the fact that the City will incur certain costs whether or not there is a planned event, revenue generated by businesses, the stage area, event branding, extra security required, crowd control and the need to generate demand for the event. DTC representatives stated that merchants like to have some type of organized event; they want more activity on the streets and activities for attendees. Discussion continued regarding the purpose and goal of the block party, budget and sponsorships, use of a professional planner, and the pros and cons of closing Mill Avenue. Mayor Mitchell stated that Council has discussed forming a committee to plan the next block party; planning needs to start now. It will take a collaborative effort between the City, DTC and downtown merchants to plan and deliver a successful event.

Downtown Vision Moving Forward

Mayor Mitchell stated that with the economy improving, good things are happening in Tempe. It will take all stakeholders to develop a vision for downtown with respect to residential development, parking, panhandling, and business opportunities. Participants discussed the role of the City's Development Review Commission with respect to development in the downtown and lake areas; planning needs to occur for the types of development, quality of development, and streetscape of Mill Avenue. The building height guidelines adopted in 2006 will be re-reviewed; the General Plan 2040 update is currently underway. It was suggested that the City determine what types of industries would fit well in the downtown area and incentivize those types of developments and businesses.

Mayor Mitchell and Mr. Lawrence thanked participants for attending the Joint Meeting. Both the City and DTC look forward to the continued partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

I, Brigitta M. Kuiper, the duly-appointed City Clerk of the City of Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby certify the above to be the minutes of the Special City Council Joint Meeting of January 28, 2013, by the Tempe City Council, Tempe, Arizona.

Mark W. Mitchell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk