Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee

Tuesday, April 26, 2011
3:00 PM

Harry E. Mitchell Government Center
Third Floor Conference Room
31 East Fifth Street
Tempe, AZ 85281

AGENDA

Chair: Vice Mayor Joel Navarro

Call to Order

1. Public Appearances – The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.

2. Review of Minutes: March 22, 2011 Neighborhood Quality of Life & Revitalization Committee


4. Homelessness in Neighborhood Parks Update - Dave Humble, Police Department & Theresa James, Community Development

5. Coordination of Adopt Programs – John Osgood, Public Works

6. Adopt-A-Park Program – Edith Ross, Public Works and Denise Rentschler, Community Relations

7. Arterial Walls Update – Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services and Jeff Tamulevich, Community Development


9. Community Gardens Update – Lisa Collins, Community Development
10. Future Agenda Items

11. Future Meeting Date – May 24, 2011 (Fourth Tuesday of the month) at 3:00 p.m.

12. Announcements

The City of Tempe endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. With 72 hours advance notice, special assistance can also be provided for sight and/or hearing impaired persons at public meetings. Please call 350-2905 (voice) or 350-2750 (TDD) to request an accommodation to participate in this meeting.
Minutes of the meeting of the Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 3:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:
Vice Mayor Joel Navarro, Chair

City Staff Present:
Brigitta Kuiper, City Clerk
Travis Dray, Deputy Community Services Dir. – Recreation
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Director
Lisa Collins, Deputy Community Development Dir. - Planning
Bob Pohlit, Senior Recreation Coordinator
Dave Humble, Police Commander
John Osgood, Deputy Public Works Director – Field Operations
Amanda Nelson, Community Outreach Marketing Supervisor
Isaac Chavira, Transportation Maintenance Manager
Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Administrator
Amber Wakeman, Assistant to the City Council
Ric Garza, Housing
Jeff Tamulevich, Code Enforcement Administrator
Robert Hubbard, Deputy City Attorney
Theresa James, Homeless Coordinator
Kathy Berzins, Community Services Director
Grace Kelly, Energy & Grants Project Manager
David Park, Assistant City Attorney

Guests Present:
Adam Jones, Downtown Tempe Community, Inc., (DTC)
John Chester, Tempe Leadership
Kurt Keernel, Global Green
Keith Stone, Global Green Lighting

Vice Mayor Navarro called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances
None.

Agenda Item 2 – Review of Minutes
The February 22, 2011 Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization meeting minutes were accepted.

Vice Mayor Navarro asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 3 – Mill Avenue Holiday Lighting
John Osgood, Deputy Public Works Director – Field Operations, briefed the Committee on Mill Avenue holiday lighting, as outlined in the agenda packet. Discussion highlights include:
- There was no City funding for holiday lights this past season; DTC coordinated the lighting and funding.
- DTC contributed $25,000 to this lighting project in addition to $15,000 in funds donated by the community; last year’s lighting costs totaled $40,000
- Last year, tree canopies and tree trucks were wrapped with lights
- Lights wrapped on tree trucks caused maintenance/vandalism issues; this practice will be discontinued
• DTC is looking at a more permanent, year round solution for lighting
• A possible solution is lighting that crosses the street diagonally, connecting to buildings; lighting would not interfere with traffic lighting. Approval from building landlords would be required.
• The more permanent lighting would bring a festive atmosphere to the area year round.
• LED colored lighting could be used for different events. For example, the lights could shine green for St. Patrick’s Day and maroon and gold for an ASU event.
• Lighting in the tree canopies will continue
• Staff is looking for Committee direction concerning holiday lighting
• Vice Mayor Navarro expressed interest with exploring the festive, colored lighting
• Another type of lighting is one that projects up into the tree canopy.
• DTC and City staff will look at the cost of lighting and solicit input from downtown businesses, including funding raising ideas
• If a permanent year round solution for lighting is ultimately proposed, this issue should be briefed to the Mill and Lake District Council Committee.

Agenda Item 4 – Homelessness in Neighborhood Parks Update
Theresa James, Homeless Coordinator, briefed the Committee on homelessness issues in neighborhood parks. She noted that the City Attorney’s Office is reviewing the City’s ordinances concerning parks and enforcement issues. Robert Hubbard, Deputy City Attorney, provided the following information:
• Ordinance prohibits activities that can be prohibited based on constitutional rights
• Ordinance can be modified to change the civil violations to criminal violations, which would assist with enforcement activity.
• Under a criminal violation, an individual can be placed on a “probation period” and not allowed in a specific park for a specific time period. Downside to this penalty is that individuals can move from park to park. 90% of individuals adhere to their probation rules.
• Certain behaviors cannot be prohibited – such as remaining in a park for a long period of time during park hours
• Police Department responds to complaints; violations have been upheld in court

Discussion continued with the following highlights:
• Certain faith-based groups and organizations provide social services in the park; there are no City social service programs provided in parks.
• Staff met with several faith-based groups and asked them to provide services and meals to homeless individuals in locations other than neighborhood parks. Some cities have ordinances that prohibit this activity or require a permit to conduct this activity.
• When the Park Ranger program was established, the penalties in the ordinance were changed from criminal to civil penalties
• It does not make sense to issue warrants and fine homeless individuals for locating in parks
• Curfew for lighted parks is midnight; curfew for non-lighted parks is 10:00 p.m.
• Increased police patrol in parks is a proactive step; it reduces homelessness issues in parks
• Transportation such as light rail and Orbit affects homelessness issues in Tempe
• Perhaps the ramada rental program in several parks will reduce homelessness issues
• Currently Clark Park and Daly Park have ramada reservation systems; Parks Division staff patrols the parks/ramada areas
• Interdepartmental work group meets routinely and noted that active parks such as Kiwanis Park and Tempe Beach Park do not have these types of issues
• Consider activating parks by reaching out to residents to educate them about available resources
• Perhaps Police Department volunteers could be utilized to patrol parks, a “Citizen on Patrol” program. Staff will investigate a program and report back at the next Committee meeting.
• 10 years ago the City had a Parks Patrol program for neighborhood parks, the program disbanded.
• The issue with using civilians in the parks is that they must be willing to testify as a witness if a dispute occurs
Agenda Item 5 – Escalante Clean up
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Director, briefed the Committee on the Escalante Clean Up Program, as outlined in the agenda packet. Discussion highlights include:
- Clean up is scheduled for Saturday, March 26; it is a proactive approach working with residents
- Survey given to area residents and received a 20% return rate – majority of responses were about maintenance issues
- An ASU group, “Devils in Disguise”, are using this opportunity for a community service project
- Trees will be planted in the area
- One of the arterial walls will be repaired; the Homeowners Association (HOA) is supplying the paint to ensure it matches; volunteers will do the painting
- Dumpsters will be available in several locations for alley and neighborhood debris
- Bilingual neighborhood clean up information in English and Spanish was distributed via door hangers
- Fire Department representatives will be providing free smoke detectors
- Police Department representatives will have crime prevention materials available in the park
- Clean-up really makes a difference in the neighborhoods

Agenda Item 6 – Energy Efficient Lighting in Mill Avenue District
John Osgood, Deputy Public Works Director – Field Operations, updated the Committee on the energy efficient lighting project for the Mill Avenue District, as follows:
- Project focuses on Mill Avenue lighting
- Staff evaluated and tested lighting options over a 2-year period
- Testing revealed individual preferences between soft amber light vs. crisp white light
- Project is eligible for Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding; criteria is reducing energy and creating jobs
- Request for Proposal (RFP) developed for lighting specified performance, not technology
- Based on vendor responses and industry research, staff determined induction lighting best meets Tempe’s needs
- 25% of the lights have been installed; next group of lights are ready for installation
- Existing lighting system is reaching the end of its useful life
- DTC and the Police Department also evaluated lights; lights meet their needs and enhances visibility

Isaac Chavira, Transportation Maintenance Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation, as follows:
- Existing Inventory Condition: 1,000 high pressure sodium decorative acorn fixtures
  - 15-20 years old; lenses - yellowing and fading; ballasts – beyond end of life; lamps – 3 year life
- Energy Efficient Replacement Lights: capital costs grant funded; durable, 20-year lamp life span; 50% less energy costs
- Visual Comparison: existing high pressure sodium acorn lamp vs. replacement induction acorn lamp
- Nighttime comparison: depicted difference between high pressure sodium lighting vs. induction lighting
- Energy and Replacement Cost Comparison; high pressure sodium annual costs $70,513 vs. induction annual costs $26,781
- Environmental Impacts: greenhouse gas emission reduction for induction fixture replacement (annually)
  - 480 metric tons of carbon dioxide; equivalent to 1,056 barrels of oil; equivalent to electricity used by 58 homes

Discussion continued, as follows:
- Lighting uses less wattage, has more life, more light and requires less maintenance
- Vice Mayor Navarro thanked staff for the pictures of what the lighting actually looks like
- Concerning feedback regarding lighting in residential areas: there were no comments about the lights in the neighborhood. However, staff received comments from individuals that had a street light located close to their driveways. Due to the brightness, staff installed a light shield to reduce the amount of light at that location.
Concerning feedback regarding lighting in the downtown area: staff did not receive many comments, either positive or negative.

- Lighting is energy efficient, good for public safety and saves money
- Staff will continue to solicit neighborhood feedback
- Staff will utilize door hangers to distribute information prior to replacing lighting in residential areas.
- An open public meeting was held – only two individuals attended

**Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items**

- Cell towers
- Homelessness in parks update
- Adopt a Park Program
- Arterial walls update
- Western canal pathway update

**Agenda Item 8 – Future Meeting Date and Time**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item 9 – Announcements**

Vice Mayor Navarro noted that the recently held Tempe Cares event was successful.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Reviewed by Amber Wakeman, Assistant to City Council

Brigitta M. Kuiper
City Clerk
Memorandum
City of Tempe

Public Works/Parks Department

Date: April 16, 2011

To: City Council Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee

From: Edith Ross, City of Tempe Park Volunteer Coordinator
Denise Rentschler, Community Relations

Cc: Don Bessler; Public Works Manager
John Osgood; Deputy Public Works Director of Field Operations
Oliver Ncube, Interim Park Maintenance Manager

Subject: Adopt-a-Park Program Update

Staff would like to take this opportunity to update the City Council Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee on the status of the new City of Tempe Adopt-a-Park program. The Adopt-a-Park program was put into effect on September 1, 2010 and was organized in conjunction with the City of Tempe Park Volunteer program. To date, we are very pleased to announce that we have 20+ organizations that have started or are in the process of completing the registration process. A partial list of organizations adopting parks is as follows:

Rotary Club of Tempe (Rotary Park); Faithful City Church (Hudson Park); Emmanuel Lutheran School (Dwight Park); Phoenix Business Professionals (Selleh Park); Parsons Brinckerhoff (Marina); First Baptist Church of Tempe (Cole Park); Creamery Neighborhood Association (Creamery Park); ASU Kappa Sigma Fraternity – Undergraduate Student Government (Daley Park); Grace Community Church (Hollis Park); Kiwanis Group of Tempe (Kiwanis Park (in progress); City of Tempe Neighborhood Advisory Commission (6th St Park – in progress); North Tempe Neighborhood Association (Evelyn Hallman Park); Phoenix Coalition of Reason (Tempe Beach Park); Phoenix Botanical Gardens Youth Volunteer Group (Indian Bend Wash); American Traffic Solutions (Peterson Park).

Many of these organizations that have adopted a park were as a direct result of their previous volunteer experience that either has volunteered on a one-time basis or annually for the City of Tempe Parks Department in the past. These organizations vary from Church groups to ASU special interest groups to corporations to neighborhood associations.

We are also proud to share with you that we are reaching out to the entire City of Tempe for project ideas. Neighborhood projects with Tempe Cares and the Neighborhood Services Department have resulted in working with Esquer and Escalante/Alegre.
neighborhood; South Tempe neighborhoods along Guadalupe and Rural; most recently Benedict and Creamery Parks. We have also created valuable partnerships with not only other City of Tempe departments but also with groups such as the Phoenix Botanical Gardens; Maricopa County Superior Court Probation Department; Tempe Cares, and various college interest groups.

In 2010 we are happy to report over 8,600 volunteer hours with an additional 7,600 hours performed by the Maricopa County Probation Office. To date in 2011 we have 3,900+ hours with another 16 volunteer projects still scheduled through the end of May. We have completed twenty-eight projects to date with eleven of these being part of the Adopt-a-Park program and five Eagle Scout projects. The amount of volunteer hours accomplished since 2010 has more than tripled from the previous years. The majority of the volunteers are from groups that have chosen to come back annually providing many valuable volunteer hours.

Staff has developed a very pro-active marketing approach to provide information to the general public by creating a website; advertising in the Tempe Today newsletter; creating partnerships with other City departments such as Neighborhood Services; Code Enforcement; Transportation; and the Cultural Services’ City Volunteer program. In the past several months presentations have been made to corporations; churches and Tempe Neighborhood Groups and Homeowner Associations to provide them with information on how to get involved. We are also on the City of Tempe Facebook page. Community Relations Department developed a brochure as well as a Tempe 11’s video which showcases Hudson Park as a prime example of the Adopt-A-Park program helping to bring volunteers and neighbors together. The video can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmCe09WvB6Y.

We have created our own City of Tempe internal webpage that is connected to the “Phoenix Hands On” volunteer organization which for the past two years has provided volunteers to assist during the spring baseball games at Diablo Stadium. We have also received great response for additional marketing assistance from Valley Forward Association that will provide information about our program reaching corporate members valley wide.

Staff is appreciative of the support from the City Council Neighborhood Parks Rehabilitation & Maintenance Committee. For the past two years the Park Volunteer Program and most recently the Adopt-a-Park program has been operating without a budget as well as only one staff person dedicated to manage the entire volunteer program. It is the goal of staff to provide assistance to groups and organizations to give them every opportunity to participate in our Adopt-a-Park program. The success of the Adopt-a-Park program depends on our thinking out of the box and coming up with new and better ideas in creating a very successful Adopt-a-Park program.

Staff is very excited and enthusiastic about the Adopt-a-Park program and has set very high goals for its future success.
Memorandum
City of Tempe

Date: April 19, 2011
To: Neighborhood Quality of Life and Revitalization Council Committee
   Vice Mayor Joel Navarro, Chair
From: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager
       Jeff Tamulevich, Code Enforcement Manager
Subject: Arterial Walls Update

Staff from Community Development, Neighborhood Services and Public Works have worked together to survey arterial walls (which are the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain) and identify methods to address the blighted areas in the City of Tempe. For identification and prioritization purposes, the walls have been grouped into four levels of blight.

Level 1 - repaint:
- Coordinate a community volunteer effort to paint walls
- Work through established associations where applicable
- Notify property owners of project, obtain permission for painting walls
- Paint donated by Household Hazardous Waste Center
- Use TOOL Trailer supplies
- Notify surrounding area of volunteer effort

Level 2 - minor patch and repair
- Coordinate a community volunteer effort to paint walls
- Create a list of contractors willing to donate time and skills
- Work through established associations where applicable
- Notify property owners of project, obtain permission for painting and repairing of walls
- Paint donated by Household Hazardous Waste Center
- Use TOOL Trailer supplies
- Notify surrounding area of volunteer effort

Level 3 - repair and replace material
- Create standard wall detail for residents to use to obtain building permits (when wall exceeds 6 feet in height, under 6 feet does not require permits)
- Create a list of contractors willing to donate time and skills
- Notify property owners of development review process to replace walls

Level 4 - complete demo and reconstruction
- Create standard wall detail for residents to use to obtain building permits (when wall exceeds 6 feet in height, under 6 feet does not require permits)
- Create a list of contractors willing to donate time and skills
- Notify property owners of development review process to replace walls
- Submit a CIP request for arterial wall replacement
Based on the survey of arterial walls, staff has worked on organizing volunteer efforts to help address Level 1 and 2 wall improvements. On March 5, 2011, the Tempe Cares project painted 5,000 square feet of walls along Rural Road and Kyrene roads.

On March 26, 2011, the walls adjacent to the Escalante Community Center were painted. Staff is also organizing additional volunteer efforts for the fall when the weather is cooler.

Staff is continuing to work on the Level 3 and 4 bullets - creating a standard wall detail for residents to use to obtain building permits, creating a list of contractors willing to donate time and skills and notifying property owners of development review process to replace walls. An updated overview of the progress on creating this process can be provided at a future meeting.