



Approved October 25, 2023

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**

**COMMUNITY DESIGN STUDIO - NAVE  
7506 EAST INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251**

**PRESENT:** Jonathan Budwig, Chair  
Larry Hewitt, Vice Chair  
Nancy Doty Brady, Commissioner  
Louise Lamb, Commissioner  
Bridget Schwartz-Manock, Commissioner  
Richard Siegel, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** William James, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Taylor Reynolds, Principal Planner  
Nick Carroll, Planner, Long Range Planning Services  
Kevin McKee, Parks & Recreation Manager  
Karen Churchard, Tourism & Events Director  
Ross Heyl, Citizen Advisor

**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 June 28, 2023**

Chair Budwig called for comments/corrections. There were no changes.

COMMISSIONER LAMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 2023 MEETING AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER DOTY BRADY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) WITH VICE CHAIR BUDWIG, VICE CHAIR HEWITT, AND COMMISSIONERS DOTY BRADY, LAMB, SCHWARTZ-MANOCK, AND SIEGEL VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **2. Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

Kevin McKee, Parks & Recreation Manager, presented the plan. The guiding project goals were reviewed. The master planning process involves a deep dive into the entire Parks & Recreation system and utilizes staff and community input to shape planning for the next ten years.

Project goals include:

- Create a comprehensive and compelling vision and direction for the Parks & Recreation Department
- Propose various approaches for accommodating growth while maintaining fiscal balance
- Strategically identify gaps and prioritize future improvements and programming
- Gain understanding of current and desired level of service in facilities, in order to demonstrate more equitable distribution of service and opportunity
- Understand potential partnership opportunities and funding options
- Evaluate operations and maintenance practices, with a goal for long-term sustainability and resilient benefits

A timeline of the master planning process was reviewed. Much of the first phase has involved encouraging public input via the master plan website, followed by a public workshop phase. These workshops will be held both virtually and in person. Organized focus groups are comprised of user groups, elected officials, Parks & Recreation Commissioners, and City Council members. An overview of the website, which will be available through Spring 2024, was provided.

## **3. Scottsdale Civic Center Renovation Completion & Future Programming**

Taylor Reynolds, Commission Liaison, noted that this item was requested by Commissioners Schwartz-Manock and Lamb. No public comments have been received.

The Civic Center was designed and constructed in the 1960s. Expansion occurred during the 1970s, west of Drinkwater Boulevard and out to Brown Avenue. Major construction during the late 1980s and early 1990s included the Drinkwater Boulevard underpass, allowing construction of a deck park to expand event space and facilitate additional pedestrian activity. Since that time, minimal updates have occurred.

On November 5, 2019, Scottsdale voters approved two bond questions, which contained funding to replace aging infrastructure and create public and event spaces in the Civic Center. Significant construction has occurred as a result.

Goals include:

- Improved connectivity
- Improved fire access and event loading spaces
- Overall event space improvements
- Enhanced landscape areas with reduced water use

Karen Churchard, Tourism & Events Director, provided additional details via aerial and other photographs.

A review of current and upcoming events was provided.

In response to a question from Commissioner Lamb, Ms. Churchard stated that neither of the two arts festivals will be returning; however, Scottsdale Arts is working on developing a series of events to be held next April.

Commissioner Lamb inquired about food festivals. Ms. Churchard stated that the Scottsdale Culinary Festival, which has been held for 50 years, is not returning. The Scottsdale Arts' planned events feature both food and arts components.

Commissioner Schwartz-Manock asked about the Center's relationship with adjacent businesses. She also inquired about the Human Services building, which looks to need some updating. Ms. Churchard stated there was extensive outreach to surrounding businesses throughout the construction process, and business is back up now that construction is complete. Mr. Reynolds addressed the Pepperwood building, which was sold by the City to a private owner several years ago. There is an active rezoning case on the building currently.

Commissioner Doty Brady asked whether businesses must have a permit to hold events in the facility and whether there are costs involved. Ms. Churchard stated that Scottsdale Arts holds an agreement with the City to rent out Civic Center space for private events. If the City holds its own events, the fees are waived.

#### **4. G.A.I.N. 2023 Program Overview**

Ross Heyl, Citizen Advisor, provided a brief review of the program. G.A.I.N., or Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods, is an annual event designed to unite residents and help create safer neighborhoods. G.A.I.N. encourages neighbors to get together in their respective communities to promote safety and neighborhood communication, and to celebrate the successes of crime prevention through community involvement.

Since 2017, the Neighborhood Advisory Commission has been an active participant in G.A.I.N. activities for neighborhoods that have requested their attendance. Approximately one month prior to the G.A.I.N. event, an appreciation event is held to thank the neighborhood captains. The City's G.A.I.N. website offers a number of resources, including block party checklists, governing rules, requests for supplies, and requests for department attendance. Several City departments dispatch representatives to attend the events each year.

Previous event photos were reviewed. NAC members were invited to attend this year's program events.

Commissioner Siegel asked whether the individual neighborhood organizers are typically HOAs. Mr. Heyl stated, while a couple of HOAs act as organizers, most neighborhood watch groups are separate entities.

Commissioner Schwartz-Manock commented that G.A.I.N. events, captain get-togethers, and other neighborhood presentations would be a great opportunity to pitch information and encourage entries for Spirit of Scottsdale Awards.

COMMISSIONER SIEGEL MOVED TO APPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSIONER PARTICIPATION IN ATTENDING G.A.I.N BLOCK PARTY EVENTS. VICE CHAIR HEWITT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) WITH VICE CHAIR BUDWIG, VICE CHAIR HEWITT, AND COMMISSIONERS DOTY BRADY, LAMB, SCHWARTZ-MANOCK, AND SIEGEL VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **5. Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program**

Mr. Reynolds noted that this item was requested by Commissioner Siegel at the Commission's June 28th meeting.

The Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program provides City funding to neighborhoods, to assist in maintaining and/or revitalization to prevent the decline of mature neighborhoods. The objective is to address individual neighborhood needs before they become community challenges. In 2018, an ordinance update addressed funds provided via City Council budgeting. The update states that the NAC shall establish criteria for determining how the NAC allocates the funds. In May of that year, the NAC approved program criteria, including landscape maintenance and/or enhancements; perimeter wall maintenance; limited alleyway improvements; and neighborhood signage. The criteria established at that time is utilized for comparing applications seeking program funding. This includes both primary (location-based) and secondary (needs-based) criteria.

Primary criteria:

- Located within the City's public right-of-way
- Visually accessible to the public realm
- Adjacent to non-homeowners-association single-family neighborhoods
- Along visually significant roadways, as designated within the General Plan or by visibility from primary arterials in other areas of the City
- Along a minor or greater collector, based on the City's Transportation Action Plan
- Adjacent to canal/park/public school

Secondary criteria:

- General need
- Code enforcement history
- Existing conditions
- Scope of work and linear feet of planned improvements
- Length of time in residence (deed date) and average residency in home
- Traffic count of adjacent public right of way
- Presence of established neighborhood organization (i.e. Neighborhood Watch, G.A.I.N, Nextdoor presence)

- Qualification for Operation Fix It
- Sustainability of proposal

The application process was discussed. Staff recommends continuation and review of applications for funding with the existing criteria for the remainder of the fiscal year. Amendments to criteria could be considered in the spring, followed by review by June 2024, with implementation of amendments in the next fiscal year. Alternatively, the NAC could consider amendments to the criteria this fall, with potential review and modification in the spring, and implementation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Schwartz-Manock, Mr. Reynolds stated that three to four requests will come to the NAC for review in October, all of which are private applicants. Commissioner Schwartz-Manock commented that the current criteria is very limiting, and she would like to see a GIS map of areas of the City that would qualify to participate. Mr. Reynolds stated that staff would look into providing the requested mapping.

COMMISSIONER SIEGEL MOVED TO CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT GRAND FUND PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 23/24 WITH CRITERIA PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION, AND TO REVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM CRITERIA IN JUNE OF 2024, WITH ANY APPROVED MODIFICATIONS OF THE PROGRAM TO GO INTO EFFECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 24/25 REQUESTS. VICE CHAIR HEWITT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) WITH VICE CHAIR BUDWIG, VICE CHAIR HEWITT, AND COMMISSIONERS DOTY BRADY, LAMB, SCHWARTZ-MANOCK, AND SIEGEL VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **6. Recognition of Service: Commissioner William James**

Mr. Reynolds and Commissioners recognized Commissioner James for his service.

#### **7. Recognition of Service: Commissioner Jonathan Budwig (Chair)**

Mr. Reynolds and Commissioners recognized Chair Budwig for his service.

#### **8. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for future agendas:

- General presentation from the Scottsdale Police Department, regarding crime report and court action regarding criminal activity
- Scottsdale Road as a signature corridor with unifying themes – it was recognized that this request may be fulfilled via email communication from staff to the Commission

## **9. Staff Updates**

Mr. Reynolds announced the next Commission meeting date of October 25, 2023, during which there will be discussion regarding NEGP requests. During the upcoming City Council meeting on October 10th, it is anticipated that two new NAC members will be appointed. A new chair will be selected at the next NAC meeting, to serve through the new year.

## **10. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Siegel and seconded by Vice Chair Hewitt, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

AYES: Chair Budwig, Vice Chair Hewitt, Commissioners Dody Brady, Lamb, Schwartz-Manock and Siegel.

NAYS: None

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