



MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZONA, held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Housing Office, 235 S. Arizona Avenue, Chandler, Arizona 85225.

### **Members Present**

Peter Cwik, Committee Chair; Jen Felker, Vice Chair; Robin Jackson, Committee Member; Heather Anguiano, Committee Member

### **Members Absent**

Brian Fox, Committee Member (unexcused); Vernon Stewart, Committee Member (unexcused); Amber Hutchinson, Committee Member (excused)

### **Staff Present**

Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director; Guy Jaques, Neighborhood Preservation Senior Manager; Priscilla Quintana, Neighborhood Preservation Programs Manager; Erica Barba, Neighborhood Services Program Manager; Leticia Urrea, Administrative Assistant Senior; Tawna Mower, Neighborhood Preservation Analyst

### **Residents Present**

Duane Lidman, Orangetree Neighborhood

## **1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **a. Minutes of May 14, 2024**

Motion made by **Committee Member Anguiano** to approve the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) minutes of May 14, 2024.

Motion seconded by **Vice Chair Felker**.

**Motion approved (4-0)**

## **3. SCHEDULED/UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES/CALL TO PUBLIC**

(Members of the audience may address any item not on the agenda. State Statute prohibits the NAC from discussing an item, not on the agenda, but

the NAC does listen to your concerns and has staff to follow up on any questions you raise.

#### **4. ACTION AGENDA**

##### **a. Neighborhood Advisory Committee Chair Election**

Mrs. Quintana shared general information about the Neighborhood Advisory Committee election, stating that it takes place annually at the first meeting after May. Committee Chair and Vice Chair serve for one year, no more than two consecutive one-year terms.

**Committee Chair Cwik** stated that he is willing to serve for another term, as he feels as though he has fulfilled the duties, shown good leadership and participation within the committee, unless someone else has the desire. He is happy to continue in the same capacity. He also reminded the committee of the other role needing to be filled, Vice Chair, which Jen Felker has filled for the past year.

**Vice Chair Felker** stated that she is happy to fulfill this role for another year.

**Committee Chair Cwik** then asked if anyone is interested in either of these roles, to which no one replied yes.

**Committee Chair Cwik** called for a vote of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair remained filled as is.

**Motion approved (4-0)**

#### **5. DISCUSSION**

- a. Capital Project Funding/Bond Election Discussion – Matthew Dunbar, Budget & Policy Director**, presented information to the committee regarding capital project funding and the upcoming bond election. Please see the attachments to view the information that was provided.

Additionally, Mr. Dunbar relayed that there will be a Bond Exploratory Committee created and if any of the NAC members are interested to please let him know.

**Committee Chair Cwik** asked what the proposed bond rate is. Mr. Dunbar responded that the rate will not be known which bonds have been accepted. Also shared that right now the rates are hovering at 2.8%



but that there is hope that will improve with rate reductions that are rumored to be coming in September. Therefore, Chandler keeps it's rate at the 2.8% knowing that it is a conservative rate and may be lower.

**Committee Chair Cwik** asked if property tax remained the same then where the money came from to pay it back. Mr. Dunbar responded that once a chunk is paid off, the new monies (debt) is added in, so there is no need to raise the property tax rate.

**Committee Chair Cwik** also added that he is interested in joining the Bond Exploratory Committee.

**Committee Member Anguiano** thanked Mr. Dunbar for the visuals in his presentation as this type of information can be hard to understand and the visuals help.

**b. Neighborhood Resources Updates – Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director**, shared that this will be the last meeting in the Housing office, as Neighborhood Resources has been under renovation and will now have a beautiful new conference room that will be large enough for the Neighborhood Advisory Committee meetings. The downside of the remodel is that the Code team had to be moved across the street to City Hall. However, they are still very much a part of the Neighborhood Resources team. They now have a much larger space and are very happy and positive about the new area. All the supervisors are now in actual offices, which is great for personnel dealings, private meetings and so on. There is also a Neighborhood Programs room for event planning and preparation, as well as supplies. We also have touch down spaces for our team across at City Hall so that they can come back to this area any time needed or wanted. The Navigator team also has an amazing new space. All these changes are positive and well received, as well as will help to keep our team synergy. Ms. Powell shared that she is very excited for the NAC to be able to meet in the new space.

**c. Neighborhood Preservation Updates –Guy Jaques, Neighborhood Preservation Senior Manager**, added that he echoed Mrs. Powell, the new space is amazing, and everyone is very excited.

Mr. Jaques shared that a team was chosen to attend the Strategic Code Academy at the Memphis School of Law. Jurisdictions from all over the

country come to participate. This is a big think tank with much collaboration, with goals of teaching and determining whether we are using best practices. During this time, the Chandler team was able to sit down with the law team and others from different cities to come up with some amazing ideas.

Mr. Jaques shared that one new idea they will be implementing is a Code Enforcement Academy, which is much like Neighborhood Program's Good Neighbor 101 class. This will be education for topics such as what it is like to be a Code Inspector, go through the Code Inspection process, and what the most popular code violations are, as well as facilitate ride-along opportunities for residents to accompany staff. This will help build the relationship between the Code team and the residents of Chandler. There were many other great ideas that came out of our time at the conference. It was well worth the time and exceeded expectations.

Mrs. Powell applauded the team, as they mostly received feedback that they are already meeting, or exceeding, best practices. Mrs. Barba adds that this was an application process for entry, so they were actually chosen.

Mrs. Barba also added that another idea that will be starting soon is going into the Title one elementary schools, working with Principals, to speak to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students about the City of Chandler's Graffiti Program. These schools are in areas where graffiti is more prevalent.

**Committee Member Angiano** added that she is happy to help get Mrs. Barba in touch with the right people.

Mrs. Powell added one more item related to Code Enforcement, shared that we are trying to get the word out, via our CAPA division, that campaign signs are still to be left alone, as some signs have been taken down already and we have received complaints. Mrs. Powell asked the NAC members share this information if they come across anything related to the topic. Mr. Jaques shared that candidates need to remove their own signs or that City staff will remove them after the election period is over (15 days after the general election). Code Enforcement will have a sign pull day at that time and then resume weekly patrols for all signs. Mrs. Barba added that even though those not moving on to the general election could legally be pulled, in Chandler we wait to remove until the



end of that 15 day post general election period, that way we are not having to look at the content of the sign. Mr. Jaques added that Code Enforcement has not removed any signs.

Mrs. Powell thanks NAC for helping to spread the word in order to educate others.

- d. Neighborhood Programs Updates – Priscilla Quintana, Neighborhood Preservation Program Manager**, relayed information regarding changes to the annual For Our City Day.

**For Our City Day** will be on Saturday, October 19, 2024, and March 29, 2025. The heat on event day in October has become more of an issue over the past few years. That, coupled with the multiple competing events that happen city-wide in October, led to this change. There will be a kick-off event happening on our traditional day of October 19, where we will have some community projects and a pancake breakfast. Then, the For Our City event will take place on March 29. This will also give us an opportunity to not just mail out the surveys but to have volunteers go door to door to assist residents in completing the survey and educating them about the event.

Mrs. Powell shared that Neighborhood Programs staff did an analysis of average temperatures in March and that it should be nice. Mrs. Quintana added that this is one of our busiest months for volunteer request so that should help as well. Mrs. Quintana asked for the NAC members to share this information if anyone in their circles are looking for answers to their questions.

**G.A.I.N.** – Mrs. Quintana shared information regarding what G.A.I.N. is for new members. Neighborhood Programs supports the Police Department by awarding previous participants (Mayor's Neighborhood Excellence Awards) with assistance funds to be used for their upcoming G.A.I.N. events. At the kick-off event, the winners of last year's awards will be announced and the resources for this year's G.A.I.N. events will be assigned (SWAT vehicles, graffiti truck, fire trucks, etc.). This year's G.A.I.N. night will be on October 19, which is the same day as our For Our City Kick-Off event. Mrs. Quintana shared that this will be an amazing day!

Mrs. Powell added that this is the last time this should happen, the two events on the same day, due to the new FOCD date in March. Mrs. Quintana tells the

committee that there were 34 neighborhoods who participated in the G.A.I.N. events last year.

**Envision** – Mrs. Quintana relayed that the interdepartmental Envision Committee continues to be out in the community, building relationships. Scheel's came in as a partner for the Galveston Elementary School staff, wanting to do something nice for the beginning of the new school year. The staff is getting ready to move into the new Galveston Elementary School building and Envision and Scheel's came together to give each staff member a new wagon, so that they would be able to haul their supplies for recess to a nearby park until the new building is ready, as well as move when the time comes. Principal Alcala hosted a staff retreat, to which Neighborhood Programs staff was invited and presented the wagons, alongside team members from Scheel's.

The City of Chandler's Executive Leadership Team will also be in the Galveston neighborhood on September 26, surveying the neighborhood, and giving Galveston Elementary staff backpacks with a first aid kit inside to keep in their wagons.

Mrs. Quintana shared that the Envision program will look to give this same type of support to other local schools as well, such as San Marcos Elementary. Neighborhood Programs staff were also able to go on a tour of the new Galveston Elementary facility, which is amazing!

**Golden Neighbor** – Mrs. Quintana announced that Golden Neighbors is starting up again in September with our first event of the year. We will be hosting a Gardening Workshop at the Sunset Library on Thursday, September 19, where library staff will educate the group on the health benefits of gardening. We will then do a guided painting project with an artist that was recommended by the Chandler Vision Gallery.

The next Golden Neighbor Holiday Celebration will take place on Wednesday, December 18. This will be our third annual hot breakfast where every senior citizen goes home with a holiday gift. We are currently seeking donations for this year's breakfast. The cost over the last couple of years was about \$3,000.00 and any donations would be appreciated to cover food, gifts, facility fees if any, etc. We would like to be able to invite as many senior citizens as possible, therefore we are looking into hosting it at a larger space here in Chandler this year. More information to come.



Mrs. Quintana then shared that there will be a Golden Neighbors pillow drive coming soon as well, as our goal is always to connect seniors with items of daily living, including things that they may not replace often enough due to funds being tight. We will be looking for about 100 pillows to add to the holiday gift that they will each receive.

**Committee Chair Cwik** stated, regarding the G.A.I.N. event, that he encourages all NAC members to get involved, put out a table, get neighbors together, get to know each other. It is a great thing and who knows, you could even win some monies for your neighborhood to make improvements.

**Committee Chair Cwik** also shared how the resources are awarded, or given out, at the G.A.I.N. Kick-Off event, for those who have never been, and goes on to ask NAC members to please plan to attend for their neighborhood.

**Committee Chair Cwik** asked if the For Our City Day neighborhood has yet been chosen. Mrs. Quintana responds that it has and share that it is Pamela Park neighborhood this year. She then goes on to tell the committee the neighborhood boundaries and that by serving this area we will round out all the downtown traditional neighborhoods.

**Committee Chair Cwik** asked how many homes are in the Pamela Park Neighborhood. Mrs. Quintana replies that there are 141 homes.

**Committee Chair Cwik** applauded the work that goes into all the programs and events, stating that this is why we are all here, so inspired by what can be accomplished.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **CALENDAR**

For Our City Day Planning Committee Meeting, August 28, 2024,  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., ASU Innovation Center, Rm #102, 249 E. Chicago  
Street, Chandler, AZ 85225

G.A.I.N. Kick-Off, Saturday, September 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.,

Chandler Policer Department Downtown Station, 250 E. Chicago Street,  
Chandler, AZ 85225

Next Regular Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting, September 10,  
2024, 6:00 p.m., Neighborhood Resources Offices, 235 S. Arizona Avenue,  
Chandler, AZ 85225

For Our City Day Kick-Off, Saturday, October 19, 2024, Pamela Park,  
More information to come

G.A.I.N. Night, Saturday, October 19, 2024, more information to come

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



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Peter Cwik, Chair



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Tawna Mower, Recording Secretary