



MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZONA, held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Neighborhood Resources Office, 235 S. Arizona Avenue, Chandler, Arizona 85225.

Members Present

Peter Cwik, Committee Chair; Jen Felker, Vice Chair (via Phone); Robin Jackson, Committee Member (via phone); Brian Fox, Committee Member

Members Absent

Vernon Stewart, Committee Member (unexcused); Amber Hutchinson, Committee Member (excused), Heather Anguiano, 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; Nancy Jackson, Transportation Planning Program Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes of August 13, 2024

Motion made by **Committee Chair Cwik** to approve the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) minutes of August 13, 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. Approval of the 2025 Neighborhood Advisory Committee Calendar

Mrs. Quintana goes over the 2025 NAC calendar information with the committee and asks if there are any changes needed to the day of the week or time of day that this committee meets. Mrs. Quintana also reminds members to always RSVP so that we know whether there is a quorum for our upcoming meeting. Members can RSVP by email or phone. Additionally, Mrs. Mower will be sure to have her City of Chandler cell phone on the afternoon of the meetings in case of any emergencies. If we need to cancel, we want to give committee members as much notice as possible.

Committee Chair Cwik makes a motion to approve the 2025 Neighborhood Advisory Committee calendar.

Committee Member Fox seconds the motion.

Motion approved (4-0)

5. DISCUSSION

a. Transportation Planning Program Coordinator, Nancy Jackson, introduced herself, sharing that she is responsible for the mass transit, bus routes, paratransit, and Flex programs. Ms. Jackson then presented information to the committee regarding the Chandler Flex program. Please see the attachment to view the information that was provided.

Committee Chair Cwik asked if your destination is outside of the service area will the app decline your request.

Ms. Jackson stated that yes, it will tell you that your request is not in the service area.

Committee Chair Cwik asked where the city finds the drivers for this program, what training do they have, and what insurance is the trip covered by.

Ms. Jackson responds that the RFP requires them to run a turnkey operation. All drivers are contracted with VIA (contractor for the Chandler Flex service), all training and background checks are done by VIA and all scheduling and other staffing details are managed by that contractor, as well.

Committee Member Fox asked if information regarding the driver's history of insurance claims, etc.

Ms. Jackson answered that yes, as that is also part of the RFP, the contractor had to disclose any litigation. Additionally, there are cameras in each of the vehicles, which they have had to utilize, however mostly for missing items such as backpacks, etc. There has never been a safety problem with a driver.

Committee Member Fox asked for the methodology for the study that was completed. Also states that public transportation should be for everyone, what about the indigent population that needs to pay cash, is that a possibility?

Ms. Jackson responded that this particular study, the Price Road Study, was conducted over the span of a year, partnered with Valley Metro, and everything is posted online, for which she will send out the link. There were several public meetings as well.

Committee Member Fox asked what percentage of the trips were not student related.

Ms. Jackson responds that 48% of the trips taken in the program's first year were taken by students. She added that she will find more information for him and the NAC members. She continued that for the first two years the program was funded by the A for Arizona grant and that they are currently in the process for the next RFP and hoping that the next service period will be funded, at least partially, by FTA (Federal Transit Administration) funds, which would also require the Flex program to accept cash, so definitely working on that.

UPDATE: The city has obtained a federal Congressionally directed spending grant to fund up to 50% of the cost of Chandler Flex. Funds will be administered through the FTA, so this service must comply with FTA

requirements. The contract will be able to accept unbanked customers without access to debit or credit cards, such as cash or voucher payments.

Council Member Fox asked if the program hours will be extended past 10:00 p.m. as that is also a problem.

Ms. Jackson responded that they are always trying to consider ways to expand.

Committee Chair Cwik thanks Ms. Jackson for her time on behalf of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

- b. Neighborhood Resources Updates – Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director**, shared that there are three opportunities for NAC members, and all residents of Chandler, to provide their input, which consists of the Comprehensive Plan Survey, the Budget survey and the Comprehensive Housing Plan survey. The Comprehensive Plan survey happens every five years and can be completed now through the end of the year. The Budget survey is coming up on November 25 through January 10. Lastly, in early 2025 the City will do the Comprehensive Housing Plan survey and consultants will meet with NAC and other committees. More information will be shared as we receive it.

Committee Chair Cwik asked if the links for these surveys could please be sent to the NAC members and

Ms. Powell stated that they would be sent.

- c. Neighborhood Preservation Updates –Guy Jaques, Neighborhood Preservation Senior Manager**, Mr. Jacques shared that there will be a new Code Inspector beginning on November 18, named Jeff Middleton. Jeff is retired from the Phoenix Police Department and is excited to be involved here in Chandler. He has a passion for education and helping residents.

Mr. Jacques also stated he is excited to share that there will be interviews happening next Tuesday, November 19, for a part-time Code Enforcement position, which will cover varying tasks, such as covering when others are out, covering alleyways, dealing with illegal dumping, and so on.

Mr. Jacques shared that the full time Alleyway Maintenance Technician position has had a working title change and will now be called the Neighborhood Preservation Technician. This change was made to encompass the totality of what the role consists of, instead of focusing on just the alleyways. This staff member will educate the residents on alleyway responsibilities and help them to understand the codes. Additionally, this staff member will assist Neighborhood Programs. More information will be shared on this at a later date.

Mr. Jacques reminded the NAC that the political season is now winding down and November 20 is the deadline for all signs to be gone and for candidates to remove their respective signage. Code Enforcement will give a one-week grace period but will then be out on November 26 to do a city-wide sweep to remove all signs (political signs, bandit signs, etc.). Also, Code Enforcement will be heading out on December 4 for a second sweep, follow up, if needed. At that time, the Code Enforcement team will start back into their regularly scheduled sign clean up days after that.

Neighborhood Preservation Officer will be the new working title for Code Enforcement staff, as shared by Mr. Jacques. This is more accurate phraseology for the inspectors, as it fits better with the goal of Code Enforcement trying to have a softer approach.

Committee Chair Cwik asked if there is any update on the alleyways, pertaining to which ones are being paved or redone.

Mr. Jacques stated that Code can obtain that information from the Streets Department, via a schedule, which will be forwarded to the NAC members. Mrs. Barba agreed to forward this information.

- d. Neighborhood Programs Updates – Priscilla Quintana, Neighborhood Preservation Program Manager**, relayed that the For Our City Kick Off event went very well on Saturday, October 19. Even though it rained and not all projects were able to be completed, we did have the opportunity to go door to door of the 160 Pamela Park homes, as well as the senior citizen public housing building in that neighborhood. Considering the weather, still had an amazing turn out. The event began at the Trinity Christian Fellowship Church where the Mayor and Council, as well as the Mayor's Youth Commission, cooked and served pancakes to all the

attendees. Mrs. Quintana shared that staff did try to call the event off, due to the weather worsening, but many still headed out to work in the alleyways. There was a group that distributed resource bags to each home in the neighborhood. Another group went door to door to educate residents on the For Our City Day survey that is now open, allowing the residents to let us know what they would like help with at their home, which will enable us to garner projects for the March 29 For Our City Day event. We have already received 11 surveys back and will be sending out another reminder very soon. Additionally, the neighborhood had access to several dumpsters to get rid of unwanted items.

G.A.I.N. – 24 neighborhoods registered for this year's event and Mayor and Council were able to attend five of those events. G.A.I.N. continues to get more momentum each year and it is great to see the numbers continuing to grow.

Golden Neighbors – Last week we hosted a Resource Gathering and had 14 residents in attendance. We had a few Neighborhood Resource staff there to tell the seniors about everything that our department offers to senior citizens of Chandler. This event was well attended and well received. It was nice to be able to remind them what the City offers to them and to connect them with resources for help outside of the City offices, as well. The next Golden Neighbors event will be the annual Holiday Celebration. This event consists of a nice hot breakfast, live entertainment and a gift for each senior citizen. We have moved the event to Tumbleweed Recreation Center this year to be able to accommodate more seniors, hosting 110 attendees this year! We have a goal of trying to grow our Golden Neighbors participants from other zip codes outside of the downtown area. We are collecting pillows, socks and lap blankets this year to gift the seniors. Mrs. Quintana thanked Committee Chair Cwik for connecting her to Blue Cross Blue Shield and stated that she appreciates the NAC members sharing out the Golden Neighbors information.

Committee Chair Cwik stated that Blue Cross Blue Shield is very excited to get into the East valley.

Committee Chair Cwik asked, regarding the NICE Assistance Program, when you apply for this assistance program and are approved, what is the time frame to utilize the funds.

Mrs. Quintana replied that you have 12 months to use the funds and added that Neighborhood Programs staff is currently trying to push out information to let residents know that there are funds available. Actually, just sent out a flyer on Constant Contact. Mrs. Quintana asked NAC members to share out that there are also funds for the HOA Matching Assistance Program, which a neighborhood can apply for every three years. Additionally, there are funds for Traditional neighborhoods through the assistance programs, just no matching involved.

MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Member Fox stated that he knows it is the end of political season but, around Chandler, as well as personally, there is a growing concern regarding Councilmember Harris' behavior. There are at least three groups that want to see him out of office. One way for this to occur is for a public inquiry. One of the ways to get a public inquiry is for a board or committee to request one, as stated in 2.11 Chandler Municipal Code (which Committee Member Fox reads aloud).

Committee Member Fox would like to request that a discussion on this matter be put on the Neighborhood Advisory Committee regular meeting agenda for the first meeting of 2025. The five pieces of information that he will be providing for that discussion would be as follows:

1. Evidence that Harris has pathologically lied regarding his veteran Service, past business dealings, education and regarding being a best-selling author
2. Evidence regarding the current case against Harris and his wife for election crime, tampering with and removing political signs
3. Evidence presented to Mayor & Council, as well as the City Attorney, for signature fraud
4. Evidence of events and actions throughout Harris' first term for unethical actions
5. A summary and inclusion for the inquiry request

Committee Member Fox went on to include that documents will be provided well before the first meeting of the year, which he believes is in February. He added that he considers it a privilege and responsibility to elect our leaders and hopes that the NAC members will take this request seriously as well. Evidence will speak for itself and, again, would like to see this on the agenda for the first meeting of the new year.

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Committee Chair Cwik questioned whether there can be an action agenda item for the February 2025 meeting.

Ms. Powell stated that she will investigate the process, so that it will be followed correctly, and then get back to everyone as soon as possible.

CALENDAR

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

Save the date for Golden Neighbors Holiday Celebration, Wednesday, December 18, 9-11 a.m., Tumbleweed Recreation Center, 745 E. Germann Rd., Chandler, AZ 85286

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

JEN FELKER

Jen Felker, Co-Chair

Tawna L. Mower

Tawna Mower, Recording Secretary