

Government Services Committee
Tuesday, February 1, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes
Council Conference Room
5850 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ

Councilmember Joyce Clark called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Present were Councilmember Manny Martinez, Councilmember Phil Lieberman and Councilmember Joyce Clark. Also in attendance were Kristen Krey, Nan Robinson, and guest Erik Strunk.

#1 – Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2011 GSC meeting. Councilmember Lieberman seconded the motion. Motion approved.

#2 – Resignations: Sharon Heatwole (Ocotillo) from the Citizens Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods; Arneida Miller (At-Large, Barrel) from the Citizens Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods; and Brad Hendrix (Ocotillo) from the Planning Commission.

#3 – Citizens Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods – Background Information: Erik Strunk provided a background on the Commission’s efforts. He advised that last summer a survey was conducted of the Commission members to gauge their satisfaction. Since the grant money is no longer available, he wanted to see what the Commission members felt their purpose was outside of the grant program. He said the focus needs to be to connect with neighborhoods, and communicate with neighborhood leaders. A Work Plan was established (attached).

CM Clark inquired what the “hybrid group” is that was referred to in Erik’s memo to the GSC. Erik responded the “hybrid group” referred to the four different departments that make up the Community Services Group under Cathy Gorham: Parks and Recreation; Library; Code Compliance; and Community Partnerships. He said it has to do with how they communicate among/between departments, how they get neighborhoods to be more involved, and whether the departments are moving toward a greater integration of services – i.e. residents can involve all 4 groups in a neighborhood issue.

Erik advised they reviewed the role of the Commission, which they believe is to provide advisement to the City Council. Erik suggested Councilmembers communicate directly to the Commission members. If they viewed their previous role as grants administrators, it is a new time because there is no longer grant money available. Erik said the Commission members would like more contact with the Councilmembers.

CM Clark stated she did not want to speak with Commissioners as she did not want to risk prejudicing them.

Kristen Krey stated Board and Commission members have been trained to see their positions in an advisory role.

Erik stated the Commission is a non-regulatory board, so interaction with Councilmembers would be appropriate.

CM Clark inquired what the Commission had accomplished in the last 6 months. Erik responded they had been working on the "Adopt-a-Neighborhood" program; the registration of neighborhoods, new policies, and mentoring residents/neighborhoods.

CM Clark inquired whether neighborhood leaders attend the Commission meetings. Erik responded they do. He added that the Commission was also involved in assisting with the Volunteer program.

CM Lieberman commented that some of the leaders that have been on the Commission have been very dynamic, which encouraged the other Commission members.

Erik suggested allowing the current Commission's efforts and activities continue through the end of this fiscal year, and then Erik and Matt Cohrs can take a look at what their focus needs to be.

CM Clark stated she was just following up on some concerns from Commission members that had been passed along to her.

CM Martinez stated this Commission also seems to develop a lot of neighborhood leaders. He stated one part of this Commission's mission has been to work with churches and businesses in the community. He said perhaps now is the time to branch out to do more of this.

CM Clark stated in light of the fact there is no more grant money available, she felt the Commission needs to identify concrete neighborhood problems/concerns in each district and then work to resolve them.

CM Martinez suggested perhaps the Commission could help work at some of the results of all the foreclosures, as this has impacted many neighborhoods. He suggested, for example, the Tool Shed that is available through the Neighborhood Partnership Office.

CM Clark inquired whether there were any numbers on how many foreclosures are impacting Glendale. Erik responded it has been averaging 2,000 per month. He asked whether there were any other issues the Council would like the Commission to look at.

CM Clark stated they could speak with Commission members and find out what they are unhappy about or dissatisfied with. She suggested the GSC ask all of the Councilmembers to speak with new Commission members as they are sworn in to be sure they are aware of and comfortable with their role.

CM Martinez noted the B&C brochure references grants. Kristen stated staff will remove that reference for now.

Erik stated engagement between elected officials and Commission members is appropriate, and the connection is critical.

Kristen advised the group March 2, 2011 is the next Citizen's Advisory Commission on Neighborhoods meeting.

CM Clark invited the GSC members to attend this next Commission meeting.

Erik stated he will look at the Agenda items for that meeting. He added they may want to look at the language in the original ordinance. CM Clark stated they could look at the ordinance language in June/July 2011.

CM Martinez inquired whether the small grant funds were all gone. Erik responded they were.

CM Clark suggested Erik contact Cox and Qwest to partner with the city and help with small grant funding. Erik responded he could check into sponsors for the small grants program, and that in the past that was very successful.

CM Martinez stated each Councilmember receives \$15,000 each year, if they all turned it in to the Neighborhood Partnership Office to fund small grants, it would total \$90,000. CM Lieberman said he would contribute \$10,000 of his funds toward this effort. CM Clark said she would think about it. CM Martinez said he would give all of his \$15,000 to provide funding for small grants.

CM Clark suggested Erik work with the City Attorney's Office regarding grant fundraising. She said to check on an annual event with a silent auction as a possible fundraiser for neighborhood projects.

CM Clark asked Erik to prepare a memo for the afternoon's Council Workshop that would explain what the "hybrid group" is, including the four departments, and show concrete projects this Commission has been working on, as well as what they are currently working on. She also requested he explain the new role for Councilmembers to communicate directly with Commission members. Councilmember Martinez suggested first taking that idea to the full Council.

Erik stated he would provide the memo to Kristen Krey by 1:30 pm.

CM Lieberman suggested considering reducing this Commission to 7 members. CM Clark said they could review this suggestion at the end of this fiscal year.

CM Martinez inquired whether there were any stimulus funds available for neighborhoods. Erik responded it was already either spent or committed. CM Martinez asked if any more stimulus funding was received, whether it could come to the Commission. Erik responded that it would not, as it is all funneled through CDBG. He advised in the end it all goes to the neighborhoods.

Erik added that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP3) would be coming soon, in the amount of \$3,718,377 million. He said it would be coming to fix up homes. He added this federal money has strings attached and it funnels through CDAC.

Erik said they acquired 29 single family homes with the first \$6 million, all are in the process of being rehabilitated, and will be ready to be sold to residents.

CM Clark asked Erik to do a report on that and provide it to the Council.

#4 – Board and Commission Training for Liaisons: Kristen Krey informed the members that the January Board and Commission training for liaisons had been cancelled, and she would be rescheduling it. In addition, Kristen advised that she would be scheduling Board and Commission training, both Basic and Advanced, for sometime in the spring, probably April or May.

#5 – Next GSC Meeting: March 1, 2011.

#6 – Request for Motion to Adjourn and conduct an Executive Session:
At 10:16 a.m. Councilmember Martinez made a motion to adjourn to conduct the Executive Session. Councilmember Lieberman seconded the motion to adjourn to conduct the Executive Session.

Prepared by Nan Robinson