

MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF GLENDALE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON NEIGHBORHOODS
Glendale City Hall – Room B-3
Wednesday June 3, 2009
6:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Nave, Chair
Sharon Brown
Sharon Heatwole
Vicky Loya
Donna Duggins
Derek Fowler
Mathew Versluis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Sprague, Vice Chair
Bill Jocewicz
JoAnn Caufield
Lynda Vescio

STAFF PRESENT: Matt Cohrs, Neighborhood Partnership Administrator
Josie Romero, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Angie Wilkie, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Eric Strunk, Community Partnership Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Marianne Kempton, LaFontana Heights HOA
Wendy Reinalda, Sierra Verde HOA

I. Call to Order

Chair Nave called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Chair Nave conducted roll call and noted that Commissioner Vescio, Commissioner Jocewicz, Commissioner Caufield, and Commissioner Sprague were absent.

III. Approval of Minutes – May 6, 2009

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the May 6, 2009 meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Loya made the second. The motion passed 7-0.

IV. Business from the Floor

None.

V. Review of Neighborhood Small Grant Applications

Ms. Romero introduced Ms. Marianne Kempton of the **La Fontana Heights Neighborhood HOA**. Ms. Kempton explained that La Fontana Heights is an older neighborhood in Glendale. The neighborhood extends from Missouri to Oregon, between 73rd Avenue and 75th Avenue. The neighborhood consists of 144 homes. It has a right of way on 75th Ave which is quite old and unkempt. They want to improve the entrance by painting the lettering, making improvements and adding granite. However, this proposal is only for the addition of granite to the border around the neighborhood to improve esthetics and dust control.

Commissioner Heatwole asked why the lowest bid from a Glendale contractor was not accepted. Ms. Kempton explained there were 3 bids for the granite and they were advised to shoot for the middle. The middle bid was selected in the amount of \$2,495.23 for new granite in the Right-of-Way (ROW) adjacent to the neighborhood. Mr. Cohrs added that for small grants three bids are not required, and Ms. Kempton went above and beyond in this proposal. He added that the lowest bid used the wrong material.

Ms. Kempton added that the granite will be spread by the neighborhood. It will be done after the summer, in conjunction with a neighborhood community party.

Commissioner Duggins made a motion to approve the grant to La Fontana Heights Neighborhood. Commissioner Brown made the second. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Loya commended the neighborhood for offering to spread the rock themselves. Commissioner Fowler requested maps be submitted with grant proposals. Mr. Cohrs pointed out that traditionally they are not required for small grants, but it would be noted.

Mr. Cohrs introduced Ms. Wendy Reinalda of the **Sierra Verde Homeowners Association**. The Sierra Verde HOA and the Irma Lane Neighborhood Watch are requesting the grant. Sierra Verde is located between Rose Garden Lane and Potter Dr. It sits between 71st Avenue and the Sierra Verde School. The community consists of 1,740 homes and 2 apartment complexes. Sierra Verde is requesting a grant for improvements to the Sierra Verde Park. The park is north of the 101 between 75th Avenue and 67th Avenue.

Ms. Reinalda explained that the Sierra Verde Park has a shade structure over the Evos playground. There are benches for parents to supervise children; however, the kids are continually in the sun. The grant is requested to purchase four new benches and replace one existing bench. The benches would be placed in the areas that receive shade through the day from the shade structure over the playground. The grant would also allow the relocation of two trees to provide more shade to the existing benches.

The bid accepted was for \$4,275.00. This includes the benches with delivery and the trees. The labor to plant the trees will be donated by the Glendale Parks Department. The community has participated in a Paint-a-Thon to paint the walls around Sierra Verde Park. The Irma Lane Neighborhood Watch, National Jr. High Honor Society students and other groups participated in the event.

Commissioner Loya asked if the park was shared by the school playground and not fenced off. Ms. Reinalda stated that the playground is separate. The park is used mostly during the day by young children and parents. Later after school the park including the fields are used by organized groups like soccer, baseball, and T-ball.

Commissioner Loya made a motion to approve the Sierra Verde grant. Commissioner Heatwole made the second. The motion passed 7-0.

VI. Spark Awards Review and Selection

Mr. Cohrs stated that June 27 will be the annual Leadership Forum and Spark Awards with a keynote speaker and planning review. Commissioner Duggins discussed the Spark Awards. Commissioner Duggins stated there were 32 nominations. The committee consisted of: Ms. Wilkie, Commissioner Duggins, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sprague, and Commissioner Versluis.

Commissioner Duggins stated the nominations and recommendations for each category.

In the category Business Support and Neighborhood Involvement, the recommendation went to **Mr. Stan Grossman**. Commissioner Heatwole asked what the parameters for the recommendation were. Commissioner Duggins explained that Mr. Grossman is a local business that donates to and supports the neighborhood and community. Commissioner Loya added that she served on a committee for disability with Mr. Grossman and that he worked far above and beyond in the community.

Commissioner Duggins stated in the category for Young Leaders on the Move, the recommendation was for **Mr. Jacob Janson**. This is due to the young man's dedication to the community. He and forty Boy Scouts and his church painted houses and numbers on curbs for the community. He himself put in 150 hours including making fliers and distributing them to the neighbors. He went above and beyond what a normal teenager would be expected to do.

In the category of Neighborhood Revitalization, Commissioner Duggins stated the recommendation was **Ms. Christine O'Hara** from Floralcroft. Ms. O'Hara is the backbone of revitalization for Floralcroft going above her duties to secure grants for the community and major revitalization of the neighborhood.

In the category of Community Partner (including NPOs, government, schools, faith-based organizations), Commissioner Duggins stated that the recommendation is **The Salvation Army**. The Salvation Army was chosen because of the work they do including the Christmas Angel program, the Holiday food bank, and sponsoring children for summer camp all in addition to their regular scheduled duties.

Commissioner Duggins explained that in the category of HOA Leadership, the recommendation was for **Mr. Bob Richards** of Arrowhead Ranch HOA. In addition to being a husband and father to nine foster children, Mr. Richards also is very active in his community. He is involved in the PTA, is a prayer leader at Church of Joy, is Vice President of his HOA and works with community development to help the neighborhood.

In the final category of Traditional Neighborhood Leadership (not part of an HOA), Commissioner Duggins stated that the recommendation was **Ms. Danielle Martinez**. Ms. Martinez has gone through Glendale University and the Glendale 101 program. Ms. Martinez was instrumental in getting the neighborhood south of Thunderbird between 57th Avenue and 59th Avenue into Glendale. She coordinated 500 sweat equity hours through neighborhood GAIN events and worked to get food donated for volunteers.

Commissioner Duggins made a motion to approve the Spark Award nominations. Commissioner Brown made the second. The motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Duggins reminded everyone that the Leadership Forum would offer networking, a breakfast, the Spark Awards and would have raffle prize drawings. A summer food drive will be held, donating the food to St. Mary's Food Bank in lieu of an entrance fee. In addition, patrons could get a sheet stamped at various booths to get door prizes. Mr. John Godek will be speaking on networking in neighborhoods. Chairman Mike Nave will be the emcee. Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sprague, Commissioner Versluis, and Commissioner Duggins will present the Spark Awards. Commissioner Loya, Commissioner Fowler, and Commissioner Brown will be greeters. Commissioner Heatwole will make the raffle winner announcements.

Commissioner Duggins stated that the event starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Glendale Civic Center. Luke Air Force Base will be doing the Color Guard presentation of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the national anthem, and invocation. An alternate plan "B" would be Mr. Jacob Jansen, the 14-year old Eagle Scout. His troop would do the color guard presentation, Mr. Jansen would do the pledge, and the national anthem and invocation would be covered by others.

VII. Update on Neighborhood Indicators Project – Housing Assessment

Mr. Cohrs explained that the NPO has been working on the development of a neighborhood indicator system to monitor the health of neighborhoods and be a tool in long range revitalization planning across the city. Phase I of the project was completed in Spring 2008. Currently, Phase II of the project, the Community Housing Assessment is underway and nearing completion.

Mr. Cohrs stated that Phase II includes evaluating the neighborhood indicators or the health of the system. This includes evaluating the crime, codes, parks, streets, census and infrastructure or the overall health of the area. A consulting firm, Urban Environmental Research, was contracted to analyze existing systems, look at the data available in Glendale, and make a recommendation. The system ties into the existing GIS.

Mr. Cohrs gave the Commission the condition index to help explain how the homes in Glendale would be evaluated to determine housing conditions. The census tracts were used to identify areas to be evaluated based on areas. There is only one track for the Arrowhead area for example, since the area is the same age and condition. A van was utilized to obtain pictures of homes in Glendale and the video was converted every 20 feet into an image. There are 5,000-6,000 images.

Mr. Cohrs explained the physical or structural appearance conditions followed by the yard conditions. Additionally, the other miscellaneous conditions were explained. The Commission walked through actual samples of how to score or evaluate the housing conditions.

Mr. Cohrs said that the scoring is objective, but has defined parameters keeping the margin of error very low.

Commissioner Fowler asked if this would be redone based on the current foreclosure rate. Mr. Cohrs responded that this is the first run through and then it could be reassessed every five years. With this benchmark, Staff can go back manually to address issues such as damage, as necessary.

Mr. Cohrs explained that the final housing condition report would be an aggregate of data from the neighborhoods.

VIII. Commission on Neighborhoods Outreach

Mr. Cohrs and the Commissioners discussed results of neighborhood outreach.

Commissioner Loya contacted 40 people, and had live contact with 25. When asked about patterns or trends in the calls by Mr. Cohrs, Commissioner Loya stated that there were a few concerns about new people or renters coming into the community, the value of the housing in the community, the break-ins occurring, and the lack of community interaction (the neighbors all keep to themselves).

Commissioner Brown attempted to contact 62 neighborhood leaders and had 24 live interactions. The most common trends were lack of interest by neighbors (the neighbors do not know each other), code compliance, safety, vandalism and graffiti, the group homes (like a special needs young adult home), and cultural differences. Commissioner Brown also heard lots of compliments about Ms. Josie Romero, the office, and the staff. The neighborhoods appreciate the Commission and Staff reaching out.

Commissioner Versluis heard lots of apathy. There were many leaders saying that neighbors with fenced in yards come home and pull in the garage. Once the garage door is closed, no one is seen until the next morning when they leave for work. Other concerns include the foreclosures in the area, patio homes and condominium associations, which handle their own affairs and do not need the city. Mostly that comments centered around the fact that many neighbors are not getting involved.

Mr. Cohrs thanked the committee for all the outside help contacting the neighborhoods. The data will be used for outreach, determining community leader burnout and other things. The office will come back with next steps in the fall.

IX. Commission Retreat Discussion

Mr. Cohrs reminded the Commission that there is no July meeting. In August, the meetings will resume. Also, Staff would like to have the traditional retreat with the Commission, the Neighborhood Partnerships Administrators and Staff. They will share information with the Commission on key activities over the past year, talk about the upcoming year, and what the Commission sees for the year to come. The retreat will be on a Saturday in August. Mr. Cohrs will co-ordinate the date and topics to be discussed via email.

X. Staff Updates

Chair Nave reminded the commission that today is his last meeting as well as the last meeting for Commissioner Duggins and Commissioner Vescio.

Ms. Angie Wilkie stated that the Leadership Forum is coming along very well and the subcommittee meetings held each month and are moving forward successfully.

Ms. Wilkie went on to say that the Great American Clean Up yielded 30 volunteers from ASU West and a neighboring community which picked up 65 bags of trash in just a few hours at Thunderbird Paseo.

Ms. Wilkie noted that in Thunderbird Palms, the grant project is including the shade structure, the ramada, the water fountains, dog fountains, and benches. This project should be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Romero stated that the East Catlin Court community projects received funding. Funding will be used to add driveway aprons at 57th Avenue between Northview and Gardenia.

Ms. Romero went on to note that the Floralcroft neighborhood has received federal money which will be used for landscape improvements.

Ms. Romero explained that the Sands West Mission Park table, canopy, and ramadas are nearly complete. The project will be done by June 30th.

Ms. Romero commented that the Emerald Point neighborhood project of landscaping improvements has been completed and looks great. The residents and neighborhood leader also repainted the monuments which look good too.

Ms. Romero ended expressing that the La Fontana Heights goal is to spread the rock in October and to combine it with a community connection grant. The residents will spread the rock and have a community connection event at the same time.

Mr. Cohrs stated the Arrowhead Ranch Phase II is almost complete (will be done in the next month).

Mr. Cohrs also explained the Arrowhead Lakes landscaping by Gothic is complete. The office and the HOA are very pleased with the landscape and the company (which is a new vendor of the city).

Mr. Cohrs stated that the Glendale University graduation from spring yielded a 97% excellent rating and 3% very good rating. He also informed the Commission that the 2009 HOA Glendale University schedule is on the internet and residents are already registering.

Mr. Cohrs stated that Staff is looking forward to the Leadership Forum on June 27th. This is a banner neighborhood event and growing larger every year. The keynote Mr. John Godek will perform an exercise with the group about finding people's positive attributes. Some of the positive attributes for instance are neighbors helping one another with yard work or neighbors tutoring kids in math. This will tie into the summer marketing outreach theme of neighbors helping neighbors.

Mr. Erik Strunk stated that it has been a challenging year with the budget cuts and there will be more challenges to come. The challenges faced with the Governor and Mayor going different directions will require citizens to stay involved and make their views heard.

Mr. Strunk thanked Commissioner Duggins and Chair Nave for their years of service. Mr. Strunk stated that their legacy will leave richer, stronger neighborhoods behind and that they have laid the groundwork for greater things to come.

Mr. Strunk emphasized change being inevitable especially with the changing of Commission members, the challenges in lieu of grant money, the budget and court issues

Mr. Strunk commented on the Floralcroft federal money, explaining that the design work generated the right paperwork which helped the neighborhood qualify for government stimulus money. With the grant and \$240,000 stimulus funds, the neighborhood will be able to get the project done.

Commissioner Versluis commented that the meeting was very good and thanked Chair Nave for all of his time and effort.

Commissioner Heatwole thanked Commissioner Duggins for all of her help with the Spark Awards and also thanked Mr. Cohrs for the good work on the neighborhoods indicator system.

Chair Nave has served on the Commission for 5 years (instead of the traditional 4 year appointment). He has enjoyed his time on the commission, stating that it is a great Commission to be on. He explained there are three parts working together, the staff, the boards and the Commissions, and the neighborhoods. He went on to state that the city of Glendale has an "it" factor to it which is protected by the staff and boards. The heart and passion of the city is in continuum with the neighborhoods. The staff has been great, and Glendale is a great place to live.

Commissioner Duggins stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Cohrs, Ms. Wilkie, Ms. Romero, Mr. Strunk, Patrick, and all the staff. She enjoyed the Commission and everyone on it and will miss everyone.

Commissioner Brown said it was a great meeting. She thanked Commissioner Duggins for her leadership and mentorship.

Commissioner Loya thanked Commissioner Duggins and Chair Nave and commended the Chair for being nurturing in his role. Commissioner Loya thought it was a great meeting.

Commissioner Fowler thanked both Chair Nave and Commissioner Duggins.

XI. Adjournment

At 7:45pm, Commissioner Duggins made a motion for adjournment. Commissioner Versluis made the second. The motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne Gillen
Recording Secretary