



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

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

**MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY**

**PRESENT:** Rachel Putman, Chair  
William James, Vice Chair  
Jonathan Budwig, Commissioner  
Louise Lamb, Commissioner  
Carol Miraldi, Commissioner  
Bridget Schwartz-Manock, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Michael Wills, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Adam Yaron, Commission Liaison  
Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner  
Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Policy Manager  
Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:02 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 23, 2021**

Chair Putman called for comments/corrections. It was noted that the minutes included the first name of Dennis without a last name. The minutes were approved contingent on the last name being added by staff.

COMMISSIONER MIRALDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 23, 2021, MEETING AS AMENDED. VICE CHAIR JAMES SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) WITH CHAIR PUTMAN, VICE CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, LAMB, MIRALDI, AND

SCHWARTZ-MANOCK VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**2. Scottsdale Water: Colorado River Tier One Shortage**

Adam Yaron, Commission Liaison, noted that no public comments have been received on this item.

Gretchen Baumgardner, Water Policy Manager, provided an overview of the Scottsdale population, which stands at 255,000 with MAG buildout projection of 311,000. There are currently 93,000 meters in the system, consisting mainly of single family residences. A review of the water delivery portfolio was provided. The overwhelming portion of the portfolio originates at the Colorado River. Ms. Baumgardner read an excerpt of the news briefing regarding the Tier One shortage from ADOT and Central Arizona Project (CAP). Arizona is part of the lower basin, which consists of Arizona, California and Nevada. The system has been experiencing a historic over 20-year drought. There is increasing evidence of a warming climate, which is a process of aridification. The third component stressing the system is a structural deficit. When the system was originally allocated over 100 years ago, it was one of the wettest periods on record. Those levels are not projected into the future.

One of the factors triggering the Tier One shortage is the Bureau of Reclamation 24-month projection studies. The August 2021 report projects to January 1 of 2022. If Lake Meade falls below the elevation of 1075, a Tier One is triggered. Levels are projected to be below this threshold over the coming years. The first cut in January, 2022 will be 512 acre-feet. The current time period is important in Arizona's history and future. Each provider is required to have a drought preparedness plan as per statute by the Department of Water Resources. Scottsdale utilizes a tiered plan, which employs communication tools and triggered responses. Staff has recommended to City Manager Thompson to trigger the City's drought management plan in stage one, which is a communication plan. The goal is not to cause alarm but to heighten communication methods. The drought management team is a collective team of division and department heads.

The expectation under Tier One is for a three percent reduction in supply, two million gallons per day or 2,300 acre feet. Currently Scottsdale has a supply of CAP water above and beyond what is delivered to customers. The extra supply is put into the ground to be saved. On average, the City's water storage savings account has been approximately 15,000 acre feet. This is enough storage to assist the City with a Tier Three occurrence.

Water usage demand has actually decreased over the past 15 years. This is as a result of plumbing upgrades and conservation. However, with COVID came a significant increase in the number of individuals working from or staying in their homes, which resulted in significant usage increases. The City has activated its drought management plan to further conservation messages. They are increasing aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) of well capacity at the water campus. Four new recharge wells are being drilled to further recharge underneath the service area. Millions of dollars in funding is being utilized to ensure the City has the appropriate infrastructure to utilize the extra water supplies available. The City is

expanding some of its recycled water recharge. The City is expanding its automatic meter infrastructure (AMI) system meter network. This will allow staff and residents to analyze water usage on an hourly basis. The WaterSmart portal includes a high water use notification and bill notification. Staff is also working to implement a leak alert.

Over the past several years, the City has been conducting its own internal facility audits, with 22 facilities audited in 2020. Water staff are working with facilities to assist with saving water and to build water saving projects into the budget. A program to meet with City HOAs to develop conservation strategies is also underway.

In response to a question from Commissioner Schwartz-Manock, Ms. Baumgardner stated that staff is currently building a messaging campaign to develop the most effective ways to reach out to HOAs.

Chair Putman asked about ways to report water use violations. Ms. Baumgardner stated that the City has a water waste ordinance. An application for submission of violations is available on Scottsdale EZ.

Chair Putman inquired about additional ways to use reclaimed water. Ms. Baumgardner stated that several inquiries have been made to staff. Reclamation requires expensive infrastructure, and as such, has not yet been offered.

In response to a question from Chair Putman, Ms. Baumgardner said the City projects the cost of water to increase. Other states in the Tier have been good stewards, with California volunteering to take deeper cuts than is required.

In response to a question from Commissioner Schwartz-Manock, Ms. Baumgardner identified the areas in the City that fall within the Salt River Project.

### **3. G.A.I.N. 2021 Program Overview**

Mr. Yaron stated that no public comments have been received on this item.

Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager, stated that there are approximately 115 neighborhood watch groups and 200 captains throughout the City. There are four district divisions. One of the main goals of the program is getting to know your neighbors. Traditionally, block parties have been held to assist in this process. However, at the onset of the pandemic, such gatherings could no longer be held. As an alternative, residents were encouraged to picnic in their driveways. In this way, people would still be outside and would be close enough to communicate with their neighborhoods. G.A.I.N. assisted by organizing parades. She shared photographs from last year's parade. In 2020, there was participation by various departments, including Police, Fire, Solid Waste, Citizen Services, Parks & Recreation and Code Enforcement. Approximately 1,800 observers participated. The event was so successful that they repeated the event at Christmastime and had 2,000 participants. There are plans to repeat the event this year. The district boundaries and routes were reviewed. Commissioners were invited to participate.

#### **4. Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program: Overview of Public Applications Received in the 1st Quarter for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner, provided an overview of the NEGP requests. Since the Commission met, staff received five requests for funding, four of which were ineligible based on program criteria.

Requests were listed as follows:

1. Landscape enhancements: Ineligible; subsequently submitted to Operation Fix-It
2. Carport gate replacement: Ineligible; subsequently submitted to Operation Fix-It
3. Right-of-way enhancement along Shea Boulevard between 100th Street and 104th Street: Met criteria, however, major potential project constraints would surpass the NEGP budget for the fiscal year; City staff is coordinating with right-of-way staff and the applicant to work towards resolution
4. Rear yard maintenance: Ineligible; subsequently submitted to Operation Fix-It
5. 4452 N. 66th Street: Placement of pet waste tower on 66th Street between Chaparral and Camelback Road; Request does not address the program requirements for ongoing maintenance; 66th Street is not a classifying street under the program criteria; there is coordination with Park Staff and the Office of Communicate to coordinate increased messaging

Commissioner James referenced the earlier presentation regarding water conservation and questioned whether landscaping should address plants requiring water usage. Other alternatives include boulders and rocks. Furthermore, when approving projects, perhaps water impacts should be more greatly considered. Mr. Yaron stated that all plant material requires some basis of water to establish growth over time. Right-of-way staff are able to contract with water trailers to establish the first year of water, with weaning over time to rainwater and excess water. Unfortunately, the vendor's estimate exceeds the total annual budget for the NEGP funding. Conversations are ongoing with right-of-way staff on alternative measures to improve the character of that stretch of roadway and address the applicant's request.

Commissioner James clarified that his question is about whether plants are actually necessary at all. If the goal is to improve the landscape and appearance of that strip adjacent to Shea, the question is whether this can be accomplished without plants or infrastructure that requires water, such as boulder landscaping. Commissioner Schwartz-Manock suggested the possibility of public art. Mr. Yaron stated that staff can set this for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Yaron discussed the challenges of evaluating requests on a singular basis without other requests to compare and prioritize. As such, staff would like to bring these to the Commission for evaluation on a quarterly basis, which will provide the opportunity to compare several requests to determine best use of funding.

Commissioner Schwartz-Manock asked for a review of the Commission's annual budget and cycle. Mr. Yaron stated that the fiscal year begins July 1st. For the past three years, the Council-approved budget has been \$30,000. The larger City projects have had the most extensive reach and distribution in terms of funding. Smaller projects have been between the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000.

**5. Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Proposal: Neighborhood Parks Landscape Enhancement**

Brandon McMahon, Associate Planner, stated that no public comments have been received. This request will replace trees damaged by storms in the previous month. To date, the City has lost approximately 200 trees throughout parks, Civic Center Plaza and other portions of City-maintained areas of Old Town. The request will replace approximately 150 trees in 14 neighborhood parks with a cost estimate of approximately \$200 per tree. Although the funding will not cover , and will assist tremendously in reviving the parks. The locations were identified on the presentation map. The requested is \$15,000 in NEGP funding for landscape enhancements to storm-damaged neighborhood parks throughout the City.

Vice Chair James asked for the balance of NAC's allotted funding. Mr. McMahon stated that the funding balance is \$30,000 for this fiscal year.

Chair Putman asked about the decision-making process on which parks would be chosen for tree replacement. Mr. McMahon stated that decisions are based on a tier structure according to park type throughout the City. Departments are guided towards NAC's enabling ordinance and purview as being closest tied to neighborhoods. As such, they are encouraged to be limited to neighborhood parks.

Commissioner Budwig noted the budget limits and the requested funding for this project and asked whether it would be prudent to budget the total funding of \$30,000 over each quarter at \$7,500. Mr. McMahon said that this conversation did take place with the Parks Department. In terms of timing and contracting. There are some efficiencies gained by bulking the total purchase and planting together. The preferred planting season is during the fall months.

Commissioner Schwartz-Manock asked about the total annual budget request from Operation Fix-It. Mr. McMahon stated that Operation Fix-It does not have the same types of requests as the Parks Department. Their projects include such things as the creation of butterfly parks in neighborhood parks, which are outside the scope of the Parks Department. The purpose of Operation Fix-It is as a City program that solely operates on community volunteers and donations.

Commissioner Miraldi commented that over the past five years and toward the end of the season, the NAC typically had funds left unused. Based on the planning season, it would probably be best to provide the funding requested at this time.

COMMISSIONER MIRALDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANT PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ-MANOCK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0) WITH CHAIR PUTMAN, VICE CHAIR JAMES, COMMISSIONERS BUDWIG, LAMB, MIRALDI, AND

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**6. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Putman requested an update regarding the Phoenix Rising stadium.

**7. Staff Updates**

Mr. Yaron stated that residents will be receiving voting pamphlets in the mail in October regarding the election for General Plan 2035. Commissioner Miraldi served on the General Plan Citizen Review Committee on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner James noted that the last General Plan election failed to pass and there was some political movement around the issue. He inquired about the current political landscape and where the issue stands. Mr. Yaron referred Commissioners the voter pamphlet. The statutes limit him to what he can discuss. However, City Council did vote unanimously for approval.

Mr. Yaron reviewed the status for Spirit of Scottsdale Award nominations, with only one submission this far. This followed a series of social media promotions. Nominations are currently slated to close at the end of December.

A proclamation was initiated by Chair Putman with the Mayor's Office and Mr. Yaron invited Chair Putman to speak on this. Chair Putman stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The designated color is pink. She is both a breast cancer and ovarian cancer survivor, diagnosed in May of 2020 with breast cancer and June of 2020 with ovarian cancer. She reached out to the Mayor to declare September Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. She read it into the record.

The next NAC meeting is currently planned for October 27, 2021. This date will likely change due to upgrades taking place to the meeting space. Because COVID transmission continues, Zoom calls will continue.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Commissioner Schwartz-Manock and seconded by Vice Chair James, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

AYES: Chair Putman, Vice Chair James, Commissioners Budwig, Lamb, Miraldi and Schwartz-Manock.

NAYS: None

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