

## Approved Meeting Minutes

**CITY OF GLENDALE  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON NEIGHBORHOODS  
Glendale City Hall  
5850 W. Glendale Avenue – B3  
Wednesday, June 5, 2013  
6:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Cole, Chair - Cactus District  
John Geurs, Vice Chair – Ocotillo District  
Alfred Dixon – Barrel District  
Manuel Cruz – Yucca District  
Cathy Corella – Barrel District  
Leslie Sheeler– Ocotillo District  
Carl Dietzman – Ocotillo District  
Davita Solter – Sahuaro District  
Josh Marshall - Cactus District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Ontiveros – Ocotillo District  
Melissa Neighbors – Cholla District

STAFF PRESENT: Sam McAllen, Executive Director  
Angie Wilkie, Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Matthew Dudley, Transit Manager

VISITORS PRESENT: Abhi Dayal, Valley Metro  
Sonya Pastor La Sota

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Cole conducted roll call. Commissioners Ontiveros and Neighbors were absent.

**III. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2013**

**Commissioner Geurs motioned to approve the April 3, 2013 meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Dietzman made the second. The motion passed 9 - 0.**

**IV. Business From the Floor**

None.

**V. Valley Metro Light Rail Project**

Mr. Dayal and Ms. Pastor La Sota of Valley Metro gave a presentation on the potential expansion of light rail in the west valley, including Glendale. Ms. Dayal and

Ms. Pastor La Sota are on the team that will be conducting a study regarding the expansion. A map of current and future high capacity transit routes was displayed.

Highlights of the presentation include the following:

#### Background

- Phoenix Transit Tax passed (2000) and Glendale GO Transportation Tax passed (2001)
- Glendale corridor in Regional Transportation Plan (Proposition 400 passed in 2004)
- Expanded study area to include emerging activity centers along the Loop 101 corridor such as the Westgate City Center (2013)

#### Overall Project Schedule

- 2013-2015: Alternatives Analysis
- 2018-2020: Project Development
- 2020-2022: Final Design
- 2022-2025: Construction
- 2026: Operations

#### Purpose of the Transit Project

- Connect downtown Glendale and West Phoenix to existing light rail system
- Connect major activity centers
- Improve mobility through and within the study area
- Support local planning priorities for transportation, land use, and economic development

#### Study Purpose

- To develop a recommendation for high capacity transit improvements in the study area, including:
  - What type of transit: light rail, bus or streetcar
  - Where to locate the alignment of the route

#### Alternatives Evaluation Process

- Identify route alignments that meet purpose and need
  - Serve the right places
  - Determine suitable modes for the study area and each alignment
  - Compare the most promising mode and alignment combinations
  - Determine which mode and alignment best achieves the goals and objectives

#### Study Schedule

- Public Involvement Process: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013 to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015
- Data Collection: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013
- Develop Project Goals and Evaluation Criteria: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013
- Alternatives Evaluation: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2013 to 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2014
- Final Definition of Preferred Alternative: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2014 to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2014
- Recommend and Adopt Locally Preferred Alternative: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015

#### Public Outreach Activities

- Glendale Family Bike Ride: April 14, 2013
- GO Glendale Open House: April 24, 2013
- Public Meetings:
  - Glendale May 6, 2013
  - Phoenix May 16, 2013
- Updates available via email and social media
  - [www.valleymetro.org/glendale](http://www.valleymetro.org/glendale)

Chair Cole inquired as to the location of the light rail tie-in for Glendale. Mr. Dayal indicated that off of the current 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue line, the tie-in would be either at Northern Avenue, Glendale or Camelback. A Camelback route would eventually extend down to Westgate.

Chair Cole wondered why the Glendale line could not tie into to the proposed route off of the I-10. Mr. Dayal explained that federal funds would be needed for the project and these funds would more likely be obtained with an east-west tie in for various reasons.

Commissioner Sheeler commented that residential areas may be disturbed and the city may have to buy out some of the homeowners. Commissioner Sheeler inquired about the valuation process for the purchase of homes along the new transportation route. Mr. Dayal stated that these issues would be looked at during the study.

Commissioner Dixon inquired as to the probability of obtaining federal funds for the project. Mr. Dayal stated that the study will help determine the feasibility of obtaining federal funds.

Commissioner Salter asked how representatives of Grand Canyon University felt about the proposed project. Ms. Pastor La Sota commented that the University was supportive during an initial meeting with Valley Metro and future meetings will be held as well.

Commissioner Dietzman wondered how the businesses along Glendale Avenue would survive the construction if this was where the route was to be placed. Mr. Dayal explained that this has been a concern of all of the businesses going through light-rail construction in downtown Mesa currently and in Phoenix previously. Ms. Pastor La Sota stated that these factors will be taken into consideration during the study. Ms. Pastor La Sota added that Valley Metro wants the local businesses to remain successful during the construction process. Commissioner Dietzman wondered if Valley Metro provided a subsidy to businesses during the construction period and Mr. Dayal replied in the negative.

Mr. Dudley commented that Lamar Avenue might be considered as a viable alternative to Glendale Avenue due to the physical constraints of Glendale Avenue in downtown Glendale.

Chair Cole inquired as to the public input process. Ms. Pastor La Sota replied that the public input process has already begun and will continue throughout the entire study process. Ms. Pastor La Sota asked the Commissioners to spread the word about the study.

Chair Cole stated that she would rather have the route for Glendale tie into the I-10 route and run north and south.

Commissioner Sheeler commented that she has not seen any information regarding the study on the City of Glendale website or in the district newsletters. Mr. Dudley will move forward on putting information on the City website. Mr. Dudley stated that information was sent to the district offices. Mr. McAllen requested that a link to the Valley Metro public feedback form be included on the City website.

Mr. McAllen thanked the representatives from Valley Metro for the presentation.

## **VI. Neighborhood Partnership Programs Year-End Report**

Ms. Wilkie provided an update on the activities that took place during FY 2012-2013, which included the following information:

### **Volunteer Events:**

- Community Volunteer Program
  - 109 volunteer projects
  - 2,311 volunteers participated
  - 10,319 volunteer hours completed
  - Close to \$225,000 worth of volunteer time
- Larger Volunteer Events
  - January: MLK Day of Service – 45 tons of grapefruit donated to St. Mary's Food Bank
  - February and April: Serve Day – 21 different projects completed, 500 volunteers completed 2,200 hours, projects included:
    - Painted 8 homes
    - Gleaned fruit that was donated to the Food Bank
    - Shelved books at the library
    - Orchard Glen & Heart of Glendale neighborhood clean-ups
    - Park clean-ups
    - Painted the gym at Isaac Imes School
    - Fed the homeless and local community
  - March: Faith Bible Church – Grenada Estates neighborhood clean-up and Pure Heart Church – Spring Outreach event
  - 27 Adopt-A-Street Clean-Ups were completed

### **Tool Lending Program**

- Registered neighborhoods and volunteer groups can check out tools for a particular project they are coordinating on their own.
- 52 groups and individuals utilized the program in FY2012-2013. Average 1 per week.
- Available equipment includes painting supplies, lawn equipment such as mowers, rakes and weed whackers, fruit gleaners, garbage bags, gloves, safety vests and more.

### **Community Education Programs**

- Spring 2013 Glendale University 101
  - 20 students graduated
  - 10-week program to learn how city government operates
  - Sponsored by Cox Communication
  - More than 900 students have graduated in total
- HOA Training Academy:
  - Annual program
  - Taught by professional attorneys who specialize in HOA Law
  - 4-week session
  - 65 students graduated in February 2013
  - Sponsored by Mulcahy Law Firm

### **Registered Neighborhoods**

- 193 registered neighborhoods
- Both HOA's and traditional neighborhoods
- Free printing and distribution of newsletters
- Eligible to become part of the Adopt-A-Neighborhood Program
- Assistance with arranging meeting space for neighborhood groups
- Respond to and research questions raised by neighborhoods and identify potential resources to address these concerns
- Provide opportunities for neighbors to network and share information with each other and similar associations

#### Other Services

- 587 "Zone A" Parking Placards mailed to residents near the University of Phoenix Stadium
- Discount Prescription Drug Program

#### Upcoming Volunteer Events

- August 13: Project Connect
- October 26: Rock & Roll Paint-a-Thon
- November 23: National Family Volunteer Day
- January 2014: MLK Day of Service
- January – March 2014: Fruit Gleaning
- February 2014: Serve Day
- March 2014: Cesar Chavez Day
- April 2014: Serve-a-Thon
- May 2014: National Join Hands Day

Commissioner Solter praised Ms. Wilkie for her hard work and great attitude on the job.

Chair Cole thanked Ms. Wilkie for her presentation and her service to the community.

## **VII. Staff Remarks/Update**

Mr. McAllen thanked the Commissioners for their service throughout the year and for participation in GAIN events, the Neighborhood Leadership Recognition Event in December and other events throughout the year.

Mr. McAllen thanked Ms. Wilkie for her successful efforts in obtaining grant funds for National Family Volunteer Day and sponsors for the HOA Academy and Glendale University.

Mr. McAllen announced that there are five Commissioners with terms expiring this month: Commissioners Cruz, Dixon, Ontiveros, Geurs and Cole. Mr. McAllen thanked all of the Commissioners for their service.

Mr. McAllen presented Certificates of Recognition to Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Geurs for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Mr. McAllen presented Chair Cole with a pin and a plaque in recognition of four years of service on the Commission.

Mr. McAllen announced that Commissioners Neighbors and Ontiveros called staff to report their absence from the meeting.

**Commissioner Geurs motioned to acknowledge the excused absence of Commissioners Ontiveros and Neighbors. Commissioner Sheeler made the second. The motion passed 9 - 0.**

**VIII. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Solter stated that the Glendale Elementary School District and the Peoria Unified School District will provide free breakfast and lunch to children under the age of 18 all summer. Commissioner Solter noted that there are blue Swift Charities containers at Peoria Unified Schools for the collection of clothes. Proceeds from the sale of the clothes will be given back to the Peoria Unified School District

Commissioner Cruz enjoyed the honor and privilege of working on the Commission over the last two years.

Commissioner Geurs confirmed that Mr. McAllen has been named the Executive Director of the Neighborhood and Human Services Department. All Commissioners congratulated Mr. McAllen. Commissioner Geurs asked that staff put out more reminders regarding bulk trash placement and pick up dates.

Chair Cole stated that in four years she has never missed a meeting and cannot believe this is the last day for her on the Commission. Chair Cole stated that she has learned a lot from her service and from the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Dietzman commented that this Commission runs very smoothly and he has learned a lot.

Commissioner Dixon was very honored to have served on the Commission and stated that this Commission does very important work.

Commissioner Sheeler stated that she will miss the departing Commissioners and commented that Chair Cole and Vice Chair Geurs were very welcoming. Commissioner Sheeler stated that she presented a scholarship to two eighth-graders at Challenger Middle School in the name of Councilmember Norma Alvarez. Commissioner Sheeler noted that her own neighborhood is desperately suffering due to increased crime, graffiti and vandalism. Furthermore, a neighborhood school was broken into and two homes have been burglarized. Commissioner Sheeler is committed to securing any help for her neighborhood that the City of Glendale has to offer.

**IX. Adjourn**

**Commissioner Solter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Commissioner Dietzman made the second. The motion passed 9 - 0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Kazmierczak