

MINUTES
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION (NAC)
City of Carrollton

Thursday, June 11, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Council Briefing Room
Carrollton City Hall
1945 E Jackson Road

The Neighborhood Advisory Commission of the City of Carrollton convened on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Chair Alan Overholt, Commissioner Melvin Chadwick, Commissioner Laura Philips, Commissioner Jan Stephens, Commissioner Debi Whitley and Commissioner George Barnes. City staff present: Mr. Scott Hudson, Director, Environmental Services, Mr. Brian Passwaters, Division Manager, Community Services, Ms. Maleka Jiwani, Sr. Community Development Program Specialist and Ms. Alina Ciocan, Community Development Program Specialist. Vice Chair Horace Blake and Commissioner Sanjay Pillai were absent. Commissioner Mike Ghouse was absent due to resignation.

I. Call to Order.

Chair Overholt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Introductions. – Item to introduce those present.

There were no introductions to be made. However, Mr. Hudson informed the Commission about Mr. Ghouse's resignation due to personal reasons. Furthermore, Mr. Hudson reiterated the importance of the attendance policy. Commissioner Barnes suggested that the initial welcome letter from the City Secretary's Office should use the same language as the NAC bylaws in regards to the attendance policy.

Chair Overholt asked Mr. Hudson about the application procedure for re-appointment for the seats that are due to expire in September. Mr. Hudson responded that the City Secretary's Office will send a reminder to current Commissioners to re-apply.

III. Review the Minutes of the May 14, 2009 Meeting. - Item to review and adopt the minutes from the May 14, 2009 meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

Ms. Jiwani informed the Commissioners about a minor change in the minutes.

Chair Overholt asked for a motion on the minutes of May 14, 2009 regular meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. Commissioner Stephens made a motion to adopt the May 14, 2009 minutes. Commissioner Chadwick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion followed about the handouts that were distributed to Commissioners, including the Speakers Bureau information, the proposed PY 2009 CDBG budget and an updated contact list of Neighborhood Associations.

Chair Overholt suggested that staff from Crime Prevention and Community Services Division should be added to the list of Speakers Bureau. Staff agreed to modify the handout and distribute an updated copy by email.

IV. PY 2009 One-Year Plan of Action and Consolidate Plan. – Item to formulate a recommendation to City Council on the draft Program Year (PY) 2009 One-Year Plan of Action and Five Year Consolidated Plan.

Ms. Heidi Aggeler with BBC Consulting was available via conference call to answer any questions about the Draft PY 2009 One-Year Plan of Action and Consolidate Plan.

Commissioner Whitley asked Ms. Aggeler about affordable housing and utility expenses. A discussion followed and Commissioner Whitley suggested that the utility expenses should be increased to at least \$200 per month.

Chair Overholt raised the issue about the State of Texas not imposing state income taxes. As a result higher property taxes are collected, which consequently increase the rent expense.

Commissioner Stephens asked a question about assisted living facilities that are listed in the report. She specifically asked about the licensing of these facilities. Furthermore, Commissioner Stephens inquired about the American Community Survey (ACS) and its origination. Ms. Aggeler provided a detailed response.

Commissioner Barnes identified a typo in the report. Ms. Aggeler said she will make the correction.

Commissioner Whitley raised a question about the accuracy of the statements made in the Anti-Poverty section of the ConPlan. Ms. Jiwani stated that these are City-wide goals and they are implemented by various departments and City-sponsored non-profit organizations.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to close the public hearing, adopt and recommend to Council the PY 2009 One-Year Plan of Action and Consolidate Plan.

Commissioner Whitley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Neighborhood Mentoring Program. – Item to share information on Neighborhood Advisory Commission contact with neighborhoods. Discuss the upcoming NAC event in the fall.

Chair Overholt initiated the discussion on the Fall event. Commissioner Philips provided an update to the Commission. She stated that she contacted Felisa Conner with the City

of Garland and got her commitment to speak at the event on building community block by block and social capital. Subsequently, Mr. Passwaters will make a presentation on Code Enforcement for approximately 10-15 minutes. This will be followed by presentations on Neighborhood Beautification and Crime Prevention.

Commissioner Barnes emphasized the importance of personal contact with the assigned HOAs in marketing this event.

Marketing ideas were also exchanged at this time. Ms. Ciocan provided details on quotes for advertising in different newspapers.

Event Committee Chair Philips shared the 13 Commandments that were authored by Ms. Conner and informed that we have her permission to reproduce and distribute them.

Commissioner Chadwick asked for the reasoning behind holding the event on a Saturday morning. Event Committee Chair Philips said that we are trying a new format to gauge interest and she feels those who are interested will come on a Saturday.

VI. Program Updates. - Item to brief the NAC on the status of the neighborhood registration process, Neighborhood Enhancement Matching Grant Projects, Francis Perry Estates N.O.T.I.C.E. Program, People Helping People Program, and the Enhanced Code Enforcement in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Targeted Area.

Ms. Ciocan reported that there are no new updates on the People Helping People program. Chair Overholt asked if there will be a transition towards the expanded home repair program. Ms. Ciocan responded that extensive marketing will take place to advertise the new program. Mr. Hudson further stated that Council was favorable towards expanding the current People Helping People program. Furthermore, Ms. Ciocan mentioned that the Francis Perry Estates project is expected to be completed on June 26, 2009.

Ms. Ciocan reported that 225 code enforcement cases were closed in the month of May.

Ms. Jiwani reported that three new neighborhood registrations were received since last meeting, and they were Arbor Creek, Country Villas and Indian Springs. Staff also sent an email to Woodlake Neighborhood Associations to register with the City.

Ms. Jiwani stated that the Highlands Association is interested in pursuing an NEMGP project.

VII. Visitors Comments & Other Business.

(Items not listed elsewhere on the agenda may be addressed at this time. No official action can be taken on any item discussed during this portion of the meeting.)

Commissioner Whitley raised several questions.

The first question was related to the NAC tour. Mr. Passwaters informed her that the tour was cancelled since there are only two new commissioners.

Her second question was regarding the City's Signature Event that was supposed to replace the 4th of July Event. Mr. Hudson stated that planning is underway for the Signature Event.

Next, Commissioner Whitley made comments regarding the Thomas Pool and its reconstruction. She feels that this pool is being neglected compared to the one at Rosemeade Recreation Center. Mr. Passwaters responded that improvements have been made to the Thomas Pool and there is more work to be done.

Chair Overholt asked staff for an update on the ordinance changes. Mr. Hudson provided a brief summary of the discussion that took place at the Subcommittee meeting and invited the interested Commissioners to attend the upcoming meeting scheduled for June 16th.

Mr. Hudson also provided a brief overview of CDBG-R and the general goals of the NOTICE program.

Chair Overholt asked about the Weatherization Assistance Program funding through the Department of Energy. Mr. Hudson responded that Dallas County has been designated to administer Carrollton's allocation. Mr. Hudson stated that he did not have details on how Dallas County will manage the funding in our City. Efforts will be made to collaborate with the County to efficiently utilize the grant allocation.

VIII. Adjournment.

Chair Overholt adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Alan Overholt, Chair
Neighborhood Advisory Commission

Scott Hudson
Director, Environmental Services