

WUNA Monthly Meeting

Feb. 2, 2012.

The meeting was held at the Trinity Presbyterian Church meeting room at 6:30 p.m.

Board officers attending: Chris Gans, President; Richard Mayers, Vice President; Michael Morse, Treasurer, Ford Burkhart, Acting Secretary (for Jim Glock).

Board members attending: Janet Pitts Labate (Area 1); Kate Ervin (Area 2); Robert Lane (Area 3); Carolyn Niethammer and Ford Burkhart (Area 4); Brian McCarthy (Area 5); Dave Boston (Area 6); Patrick Vincent (Area 7); (open) (Area 8); Patricia E. Pinzon-Pitts and Robert Pitts (Area 9).

At Large: Kurt Tallis; Sandra Morse and Michael Morse; John Patterson; Matt Williams; Cathy Morrison; Sarah Fire; Noah Sensibar; Barb Tanzillo. (20 voting board members present.)

WUNA members, guests, others: Jill Bielawski, C.J. Jones; Linda Pierce of Pima Society of Friends (Quakers). Jack Shomenta. Keith Bagwell for Richard Elias, Pima County Supervisor.

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Approval of Meeting Minutes (Dec. and Jan.) and Treasurer's Report: Both approved with two abstentions, Gans and Mayers.

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Announcements:

Kurt Tallis announced "Fords on Fourth," a big car event, 8 am to 3 pm, Sunday, March 4. The parade and band will march on 4th Ave. at 10 a.m.

Kassy Rodeheaver, from Tucson Public Library at downtown branch: Said the library is looking at ways to get to know neighborhood associations. She offered research assistance to WUNA, which she has adopted as her own community board. She will sit in on our board meetings.

Francis Saitta: PCC; asked for support as he is running for 5th district position on Pima Community College board of governors; said he is running based on 46 years in education as a teacher.

Block party: Anne Pollack said the event will be a neighborhood arts party on March 30, 4 to 7 pm. Roskrige School is letting the basketball courts be used, will provide tables and electricity. She invited participants, artists to provide an activity. Mariachis will play.

Keith Bagwell for Supervisor Elias: asked us to contact him if needed.

Committee Updates:

CCRC report, John Patterson said he posted his report; we could look on line.

DNRC: Richard Mayers said he is resigning from the Downtown Neighborhood Residence Council. It was a good place to learn about other neighborhoods. Anyone else is free to join to network.

Development Updates: (Planning Committee)

Dec. 13 plan amendment was passed for Main Gate transition area. Gans said greater heights and density are goals of the changes. WUNA says Historic properties must be off the table and opposes the higher heights and density. But City Council passed the plan amendment, up to 160 feet.

There are 29 historic properties are in the area; 18 to 14 are eligible for the demolition process. The owner could seek to make more money from an historic property by opting into the urban overlay district and enter a process to get the building knocked down.

At the long zoning examiner hearing last week speakers from WUNA spoke well for not approving the overlay and rezoning as presented, based on the previous points, recalling impact of the District at 5th and 5th, traffic, etc. Six spoke in favor; 25 spoke against including Diana Lett of Feldman; Rincon Hts neighborhood.

We have a continued hearing. The developer, Steve Buss representing Campus Acquisitions, asked us what we want to get the project going, since they say they have only 16 months to get the project going, and not lose a year of student rent.

The WUNA Planning Committee met on Saturday, and decided several points: destroying historic property is off the table. We proposed step heights, in some areas. Chris said we should think about whether we want to say "No" to all of the proposed heights and see the City of Tucson simply vote to approve the worst possible form of this, or should we figure what we want and what we are willing to go along with to get some concessions. Chris said we should keep heights tallest along Park Avenue, and step things down along Tyndall and west to Euclid Ave.

Motion to have the Planning Committee draft a statement for the Mayor and Council and others: Moved by Matt Williams; Passed without opposition; Mayers and Gans abstained.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

