

## **WUNA Board Meeting**

**Feb. 3, 2011**

**I. Call to order:** Meeting called to order at Trinity Presbyterian Church meeting room, at 6.30 p.m. by Chris Gans, President. Other officers attending: Richard Mayers, Vice President; Ford Burkhart, Secretary. Area Reps: Janet Pitts Labate (1); Gal and Jim Witmer (2); Carolyn Niethammer (4); Brian McCarthy (5); Judy and Noah Sensibar (6); Dave Boston (7); Richard Mayers (8); Patricia E. Pinzon Pitts and Robert Pitts (9); Jane McCollum (10). At large members: Dave Croteau; Jerry Juliani; Cathy Morrison and Bob Morrison; Sandra Morse; John Patterson, Matt Williams.

Others present: Jim Glock, Tucson DOT; Jill Bielawski; Officer Jobe Dickinson, TPD; Michael and Barb Tanzillo; Donovan Durband, Ward 6; Jeff Thomas and Adrienne Parry; Mike tk, neighborhood cleanup.

**II. Minutes:** Carolyn Niethammer moved, Ford Burkhart seconded, approval of minutes of December and January meetings. Approved unanimously. Treasurer's report: Jerry Giuliani moved to approve; Dave Croteau seconded; approved unanimously.

### **IV. Call to Audience:**

Officer Jobe Dickinson discussed crime patterns in the neighborhood. He invited members to send him nonurgent information at his email, [Jobe.dickinson@tucson.az.gov](mailto:Jobe.dickinson@tucson.az.gov).

He discussed a burglary in the 900 block of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. earlier in the d, near the site of other burglaries last week. A number of bike thefts by people entering backyards have been reported, with a suspect being a white female, 20 to 35; brown hair. Jill asked about the Magpie's worker held up by a gun to his head. He had no details. Dickinson said there was an arrest yesterday of someone accused of robbing fast food places.

**IV. Call to Audience.** No items.

### **V. Jim Glock. Changing 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. to two way traffic, Drachman to 5<sup>th</sup> St.**

He said there is now no funding to turn traffic signals around at 6<sup>th</sup> St. The regional transportation authority has given funds to rework other 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. traffic signals for the conversion. Speedway to drachman, rebuild need to for southbound. There was extended discussions of traffic patterns on 7<sup>th</sup> St. and elsewhere. Glock asked that WUNA send a letter to City Council to ask for an ordinance to fund the conversion. He said Councilman Kozachik will receive recommendations and relay a proposal to City Council.

He noted that it costs \$200,000 to redo a traffic light, to removed pole foundations, install new conduit lines. This one may cost a quarter of a million dollars to rehab.

Glock also discussed bicycle “boulevards” that let the city become more bike friendly. He said he has received funding for 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Fontana to convert to a bicycle boulevard. He noted that Tucson now has only 2% of commuters using bicycle. He said more bike boulevards can triple that rate.

Mayer moved that WUNA send a letter expressing board support of the change for 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., including the entire route from 6<sup>th</sup> St. to Fontana; Jane seconded. It was approved unanimously.

**VI. Cathy Morrison. Maynards event as fundraising:** Cathy proposed trying Maynards wine/beer tastings as a fundraiser. Maynards’ usual charge is \$15; they would charge \$25 and give Wuna the difference. It could get more people active in Wuna. Chris said he will ask Todd Hanley of Maynards to attend a meeting and discuss it further.

**VII. Chris Gans/neighborhood cleanup.** Chris noted that Feb. 28 to March 6 is brush and bulky waste collection. He invited Mike Birrer to discuss an idea to bring groups together for joint cleanup action with the Tucson Clean and Beautiful organization. Mike invited people to call him; at 520 488-9501. Or email to [mbir@juno.com](mailto:mbir@juno.com), if people are interested. Jeff Thomas spoke in favor of the idea.

#### **VIII. Updates:**

John Patterson discussed the 3-story building in the Coronado dorms area. It will come before CCRC next week. He said the new UA arboretum director will present a report; and Spring Fling is on the agenda. In the area north of Coronado dorms will be a new 3-story building, as a laundry with other uses. The UA wants to re-landscape the area, adding water harvesting and short term parking spots.

Dave Croteau discussed the drop-off plans for Tucson High and Roskruge. Roskruge wants to let parents drop off children in a new configuration at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> St. letting them pull into a parking lot and pull back out onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and then go on to 6<sup>th</sup> St. He also said Roskruge site council is planning to replace old mulberry trees.

Catalina Park: There were questions about lack of progress on the park plans. Chris suggested we ask the several local offices involved if we can move this project along. Judy Sensibar will attend upcoming meetings on this and report back.

Grant: Chris relayed word from Keith Bagwell, from Supervisor Elias’ office about a meeting on grants to provide technical assistance to community groups. Anyone from the Wuna board who wants to attend should let Chris know. Details will be posted on the forum.

School impacts: Richard Mayer and Chris Gans met with TPD and Parkwise and Pie Allen and Iron Horse about impacts of Tucson High and Roskrige on area since bus drop-off areas have been moved into the Wuna area. Tucson High has some 3,000 students and Roskrige about 700 students, so they have impact on traffic flow in the neighborhood. Ward 6 office will join in study of the issues. Gans voiced a hope for creative solutions, wants Wuna's voice heard as we form new ideas for change. For one, we want some large buses that now stop and park on our streets near 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> St., bringing traffic to a standstill and blocking roads, to go elsewhere for that. Chris also said all sides are trying to split the burden between WUNA and Iron Horse by sharing bus drop-off sites.

Jenn O'Connor is contacting the city about 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave speeding problems. She is meeting with neighbors to see how to prevent this nuisance.

Beer booth: 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Street Fair, April 1 to 3. Beer booth signups coming.

Charter School: Chris said there may be a charter school coming to the old Baptist church on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. and said it will be nice to see it being used. It is not in foreclosure, but is in the pipeline.

High rise "The District" project: Richard reported informally on progress with the proposed tall buildings for student housing, to be called "The District." It seems it will wind up taller than earlier proposed, with solar panels put on top. The new height may be 74 feet. Richard said protest letters sent previously are still on file but we may want to submit new ones in light of new developments. The new project would be worse for the neighborhood in terms of inconsistent very tall design next to low residential areas. The old residences may be "walled off" from the new development along 5<sup>th</sup> St. since the city has sold right of way for streets. One problem is that the IID (infill incentive district) doesn't have the safeguards that other residential areas have. The IID seems to let people do things they couldn't do otherwise to encourage development. The other side is that dense, urban development is a good thing in certain places in the city. Richard proposed WUNA work with Feldman's, Dunbar Spring, Pie Allen, Iron Horse to be proactive on such development issues. Large sections of WUNA are under threat of development based on commercial zoning as well as the IID exceptions. Neighborhood groups want to control development in the overlay district. Richard said he will e-mail detailed notes to the board members.

Beer booth tips: Adrienne asked what we might do with our tips money from the beer booth. There was also discussion of whether to continue to allocated \$500 from our general fund for the historic trolley. We pushed that discussion to the March meeting. Tips this year were about \$1,100. Carolyn Niethammer suggested we donate \$1,000 to the Community Food bank, for the SnackPack Program, which sends backpacks home with needy schoolchildren to provide weekend nutrition. Brian moved approval, Richard seconded. Passed unanimously. From tips, there was \$166 left over; we agreed to hold it for an emergency.

Design funds: Jane Mccollum said there was \$400 left from design competition funds. There was some talk that we might use it for educational workshops on design and development. It was also suggested we use it to have architecture students build a model of the park. It was put on the agenda for March.

Main Gate: Carolyn thanked Jane for generous gift certificates donated as door prizes for the annual meeting.

The next meeting is Feb. 14.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.