



West University Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 3336
Tucson, Arizona 85722

07 February 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The West University Neighborhood Association (WUNA) Board of Directors met on Thursday, 07 February 2008, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Boulevard in Tucson.

President, Lori Boston, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and Secretary, Joe Wasiak, called roll. The following board members were present: Lori Boston, Gal Witmer, Joe Wasiak, Cheri Wiens, Brian McCarthy, Dave Knudson, Adrienne Parry, Jenn O'Connor, Carolyn Niethammer, Judy Sensibar, Dave Boston, Patricia Pinzon-Pitts, Teresa Bommarito, Dave Croteau, Jerry Juliani, John Patterson, and Matt Williams. The following were also in attendance: Patrol Officer Angel Ramirez, Roger Wiens, Jay Sexton, Ruby Sexton, Diana Lett, Brendan Snyder, Bob Dewos, Sylvia Jo Miles, Jill Bielawski, Jeff Thomas, Jim Glock, Varga Garland, Therese Perrault, Richard Mayers, Lori Aldecoa, Keith Bagwell, and Marlena Hanlon.

Cheri Wiens called attention to a \$500 discrepancy in the December 2007 Treasurer's Report. She is investigating the loss related to Street Fair cash disbursement and will report back at the March WUNA Board Meeting.

MOTION: Accept the WUNA December 2007 and January 2008 Treasurer's Reports.
Motion passed unanimously.

The procedures used to elect Area Representatives at the Annual Meeting was clarified and the Annual Meeting minutes will be modified to state the Area Representatives were voted in as a group.

MOTION: Accept the WUNA December 2007 Board Meeting Minutes and 2008 WUNA Annual Meeting Minutes with modification stated above.
Motion passed unanimously.

Lori Boston made the following announcements:

- WUNA t-shirts are available for sale after the meeting.
- The Environmental Assessment for the Modern Streetcar project is available for review during the meeting and will be available in the WUNA Office. Comments are due by February 18.
- A meeting was held with Trinity Presbyterian Church to brainstorm collaborative events with the neighborhood. Some ideas discussed were board game nights, movie nights, farmer's market on Sunday mornings, community supported agriculture distribution site, book groups, and current event discussions. Let Lori know if you have any additional ideas.
- Amendments to the WUNA Bylaws have been incorporated. The revised Bylaws of West University Neighborhood Association, Inc. are posted on the WUNA Yahoo Forum and will be placed on the WUNA website.

Patrol Officer Angel Ramirez introduced himself as our new Tucson Police Department Liaison Officer during the Call to the Audience. A discussion about graffiti resulted in the suggestion that WUNA Area Representatives and Members at Large survey their area and request graffiti abatement.

Diana Lett from Feldman Neighborhood provided an update on a Transportation Enhancement project to enhance pedestrian safety along Second Avenue in the Feldman and West University neighborhoods. She handed out and went over a draft copy of the pre-submittal form. Diana provided her phone number and e-mail address, welcoming any additional input or suggestions.

Keith Bagwell from Pima County District 5 Supervisors Office introduced himself and Lori Aldecoa, Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment coordinator. Lori congratulated the neighborhood for obtaining Pima County Board of Supervisors approval for a \$476,190 Catalina Park Splash Pad & Park Improvement project. She explained the next steps in the process: (1) Negotiation of an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Pima County and City of Tucson which would require approval of Pima County Board of Supervisors and Tucson Mayor and Council (3-5 months), (2) Pre-Construction Meeting (late fall 2008) to kick off detailed design between Tucson Parks and Recreation, Pima County, and the neighborhood, and (3) Tucson Parks and Recreation would execute the project (likely in 2009). Lori promised to keep the neighborhood informed and involved as the project progressed.

Jenn O'Connor recapped the Neighborhood Design Workshops. During the first workshop held in early December residents and local architects gathered neighborhood values and discussed design concepts for two hypothetical development projects. At January's workshop each architect presented concepts and ideas for the two hypothetical development projects (one residential, one mixed-use) and discussed how to have a conversation with developers desiring to bring a project into the neighborhood. Many people praised the workshops. Jenn mentioned that the architects invested approximately 169 volunteer hours helping with the design workshops.

MOTION: WUNA purchase \$50 dinner gift certificates for each architect participating in the design workshops.

Motion passed unanimously.

Natasha Winnick, a resident in Dunbar Spring Neighborhood, spoke of recent developments in the Downtown Links (Aviation Barraza extension to the I-10). In 2007 Tucson Mayor and Council approved a plan along the north side of the railroad to Seventh Avenue, then connecting to 6th Street/St. Mary's over to I-10. At the January 2008 Citizen Advisory Committee meeting, attendees were informed that the railroad now wants to install a third line necessitating changes in the route and proposed underpass near Ninth Avenue and 6th Street. Natasha new routes considered – all looking very similar to proposals rejected earlier by Citizens Advisory Committee. Given recent developments, Dunbar Spring neighborhood is asking to redo the route selection process. Several comments came up during a discussion that followed:

- The Downtown Links project will happen because voters approved the RTA Plan calling for a four lane cross-town road through downtown to the I-10. (Jerry Juliani)
- The most recent plan for Ninth Avenue/6th Street underpass severs the southern portion of Dunbar Spring from the rest of the neighborhood, cutting off a critical, community hub of businesses and demolishing some of the business buildings. (Matt Williams, Natasha, & others)
- The nature of this project poses significant engineering challenges, but there are still possibilities to consider alternative designs, as nothing will happen until 2011. (Jim Glock)

- WUNA's CAC representative has been attending most meetings, but recently experienced family medical issues precluding recent involvement.

MOTION: WUNA letter of support for Dunbar Spring's request to have CAC redo route selection process in light of recent developments. WUNA Board to review the letter at their March board meeting.

Motion passed.

MOTION: WUNA appoint Richard Mayers as WUNA alternate representative to the Downtown Links Citizen Advisory Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

During CCRC report John Patterson commented that the Board of Regents requested resolution of the Kennedy's life estate as part of their approval to move forward on resident housing project along 6th Street.

John also described a technique to lessen tree roots heaving up sidewalks in the neighborhood. Basically, dig down to the offending roots and remove a 2-3 inch section of the root. The root should die off and stop lifting or breaking the sidewalk.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Wasiak
Secretary