

Thursday, March 4, 2021-6:30 PM
West University Neighborhood Association
March Board Meeting, Via Zoom <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87152096098>

I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome

At 6:30 p.m., Judy Sensibar called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Betsy Besenik-Larson, Lisette DeMars, Brian Chaneka, Cindy Doklan, Jim Glock, Rick McDonnell, Shannon Riggs, Judy Sensibar, Larrie Warren, Henry Werchan, Lex Wilcox, and Dave Zipp. Absent: Richard Fifer, Jane McCollum, Rev. Mack Sigmon, Monique Vallery, and Willem Van Leeuwen. Also present: Diana Amado (Ward 6), Mindy Bernstein, Ben Elias, Scott & Kat Henderson, Arlethe Morrison (District 5), Ellen Platts, Andres Portella, and Sally Rusk.

Judy Sensibar announced that Lex Wilcox had joined the Board.

The icebreaker was everyone's favorite business on Fourth Avenue. During the discussion Judy Sensibar observed that the Historic Fourth Avenue Coalition had been formed to support businesses on Fourth because the street fair had become the focus of the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association.

II. Consent Agenda Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

There being no objections or corrections, the Treasurer's Report and the February 4, 2021 Minutes were approved in accordance with the provisions of the consent agenda.

III. Announcements and Call to the Audience

Lex Wilcox announced that there would be a neighborhood clean up after church on Sunday, March 7. Starting at 11:00, ten volunteers from the Vineyard would be meeting on the lawn at Second Avenue & Fifth Street. Additional volunteers are welcome. A church member who helps coordinate clean-ups with the City would be bringing tools, and pizza and sandwiches will be provided as a thank-you for those who participate.

IV. Committee Reports

A. CCRC: Campus Community Relations Committee

Henry Wechan reported that the Committee will meet during the week of March 8. The University is now in Stage 2, with in-person classes of up to 50 students. He noted that University Boulevard appears to have gotten quite a bit more animated as a result.

Judy Sensibar noted that Henry had previously reported that the University is working on a grant for a community treasures mapping project. The goal is for students and neighborhood residents to collaborate in the development and employment of a mobile app that will allow users to map the location of important places in their neighborhoods. Judy coordinated with the Architecture professor writing the grant and WUNA could get a stipend of \$1000 to help with the mapping.

B. Development Committee

Rick McDonnell reported that the Development Committee met on March 3. The discussion centered on the need for code compliance in the neighborhood. More and more people are moving in and making changes outside the permitting and development process, which could impact the ability to continue our HPZ. Rick observed that Code Enforcement is struggling and the City's resources to engage on this are limited, so we are going to need help from Ward 6. The Committee is currently drafting a letter to Steve Kozachik and including the fact that Feldman's has approached Ward 6 because they want to become part of our HPZ, thinking it will provide protections for their neighborhood. Judy Sensibar stated that attempting to enforce Code violations doesn't work because the penalties are a slap on the wrist; you spend time trying to enforce something that has no teeth. She stated these concepts are going into the letter. Jim Glock observed that the rules and regulations are there; what we need is diligence from the neighborhood and the City in reporting and pursuing violations. He also stated that loss of institutional memory has impacted enforcement. Jim encouraged neighbors to report violations on the City's website: (<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/code-violation-report>).

Rick stated that Judy has been involved with the Hub 5 folks about the runoff at 1st & Tyndall, and that Ward 6 has been helping us, which is a big deal. Rick stated that there is another meeting in ten days, and the goal is to stop the "black sludge" they are generating from coming west through the neighborhood.

Rick stated that there are ongoing discussions to expand the Central Business District and that Shannon Riggs is providing input. Shannon reported that she attended a series of 2-hour virtual meetings designed to get community input on the future of the CBD. She stated she would love to hear from people to get a neighborhood perspective. Per the City's website, a series of virtual small group stakeholder meetings will be conducted in March, with the intent to provide a recommendation to the Mayor and Council in April.

C. Streets Committee

Jim Glock reported that the Streets Committee will do a walking/bike tour of adjacent neighborhoods on Saturday, March 13, at 10:30 to look at traffic control and mitigation measures, including traffic circles, chicanes, and plantings. Anyone interested is welcome; the group will depart from Merle's Auto parts on University just west of Stone. Jim noted that Cindy Doklan has developed a brief survey that will be sent to neighbors to gather data for potential mitigation and improvements on Fourth Street.

Jim observed that the Committee has identified a City-administered Cost Share Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51moxrH7zps>). Ben Elias will be checking with the City on the current status of the program.

Judy Sensibar asked the Streets Committee to identify locations for ADA access ramps in the neighborhood, and to seek input from our neighbors on locations.

Jim reported that the City will reconfigure the bike lane on University from Stone to Fourth Avenue. The City will eliminate the left hand turn lane and will install a bike lane with two configurations: a "protected" bike lane from Stone to Sixth where the bike lane will be adjacent to the curb and protected by parked cars located between the bike lane and the travel lane, and a traditional bike lane from Sixth to Fourth with cars still parking against the curb. The two configurations will allow the City to assess the performance of each for possible change going forward. Jim advised that the City asked whether it should eliminate the recently-added bulb-outs at University & Sixth as part of this project, and the Streets Committee concluded that it

should not. Betsy Besenik reported that the City had gotten very little feedback from residents on University in its survey on how to configure the bike lanes, and that we should try to encourage residents to get involved. She added that the park lane will be 9 feet wide rather than the traditional 8, but she is still pessimistic about the protected lane.

D. Parks

Judy Sensibar reported that pre-construction work for the dog park at Anza starts on March 8. The new director of Parks & Recreation will be coming to the Board meeting on April 1.

Lisette Demars reported that the Historic Fourth Avenue Coalition is also interested in public restrooms and public access. She will have more to report next month.

V. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Zipps