

Thursday, April 7, 2022-6:30 PM

West University Neighborhood Association

April Board Meeting, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University

Blvd. and Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84584666599>

I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome

At 6:32 p.m., Judy Sensibar called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Betsy Besenik-Larson, Lisette DeMars, Jim Glock, Kat Henderson, Rick McDonnell, Andy Pongratz, Shannon Riggs, Judy Sensibar, Erec Toso, Holly Vaden, Henry Werchan, Lex Wilcox, and Dave Zipps. Absent: Jane McCollum and Willem Van Leeuwen.

Also present: Diana Amado (Ward 6), Julie Jones, Mary Koenig (Vineyard), Samantha Neville (District 5), Megan Schrag-Toso, and Larrie Warren.

II. Announcements and Call to the Audience

Judy Sensibar observed that we are nearing the home stretch with only one more meeting before the summer break, and asked everyone to identify one concrete thing they'd like to get done this year. Among the proposals were planting more trees, particularly at the corners of Catalina Park and in the dog park at Anza, facilitating the repair of sidewalks, streets, and houses, adding curb cuts, doing a community-based event like an art show at the Vineyard, having the churches collaborate on community clean ups, finishing the petition for the traffic

circle at 7th Ave. and 1st Street, having more neighborly events including area gatherings, continuing to improve Anza, circulating sustainable electronic and paper bulletins, starting a community garden, adding historical signage to homes and to entry-points to the neighborhood, sponsoring a lecture or discussion series, addressing street flooding, and improving the general vibe on 4th Avenue through graffiti removal, public art, and streetscape improvements, and addressing mental health and substance abuse issues in the area.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

There being no objections or corrections, the March 2022 Minutes were approved in accordance with the provisions of the consent agenda.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Street Fair Beer Booth Debrief

Jim Glock observed that the main debits for the month were for the P.O. Box, the neighborhood clean up, and change for the beer booth. Jim stated that we are under contract for the traffic circle at 4th Street and 5th Ave. for \$27,000 and we can expect a couple of thousand more for landscaping. Jim noted that we have eaten up our 2022 budget for traffic circles, but are still in great financial shape, although we do need to figure out how to leverage our money for curb cuts and sidewalk repairs to get money from third-party sources because that work has the potential to decimate our budget.

Rick McDonnell observed that we did a campaign last year to get neighbors to take advantage of the City-administered Shared Cost Sidewalk Repair Pilot Program (see <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/tdot/shared-cost-sidewalk-repair-program>). Rick thought we should renew efforts to inform the neighborhood of this program.

Judy Sensibar observed that the beer booth has been a committee of one with an assist at the street fair this month from Noah Sensibar when ice distribution became a problem. Judy stated we need to get more people involved so the whole burden doesn't fall on Jim.

Jim Glock stated that this month's street fair was one for the books. Despite problems getting vehicles close to our booth for set up and breakdown and problems getting ice, we had a great weekend, selling 3600 beers and 700 nonalcoholic beverages, including 480 waters and 120 flavored seltzers. Jim did note that tips were lower than December, which was not unexpected given the increase in the price of the beer (from \$5 to \$7), and the more festive holiday mood in December as people ventured outside. Noah Sensibar went to Costco to get ice, which actually saved us 50%, and the brothers from Zeta Psi were a great help getting equipment and product to and from the booth.

There being no objections or corrections, the March 2022 Treasurer's Report was approved in accordance with the provisions of the consent agenda.

V. Committee Reports

A. H4AC

Shannon Riggs stated that we have Made in Tucson Sunday, April 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on 7th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues. There will be 160 artists and H4AC will have a booth with tees, stickers, and maps. Proceeds will go to beautification projects in the area. Johnny Carillo, who designed the map, will be signing them from 11:00 to 1:00. Shannon stated that H4AC could use some help with set up and breakdown and sitting at their booth.

B. CCRC: Campus Community Relations Committee

Henry Werchan stated that there is a CCRC meeting next week and the main agenda item is the Sol Apartments. There will also be an update on the blood drive and the food drive. Henry also reported that Zeta Psi at University & 1st will be having a carnival and car wash Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9, to benefit the Pima County Animal Shelter. Betsy Besenik said the fraternity brothers from Zeta Psi who worked at the beer booth were kind and apologetic and they knew why they were doing their community service. Judy Sensibar stated they saved the day on Friday and Saturday and they are coming with Sigma Nu to the Vineyard for the clean up on April 10.

C. Development Committee

Rick McDonnell reported that Planning and Development Services had a public hearing on Wednesday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m. on special exceptions proposed by TEP to the uniform development code that would provide a mechanism for TEP to obtain relief from the

gateway ordinance in connection with the Kino to DeMoss-Petrie project. (The gateway ordinance requires the undergrounding of transmission lines on gateway and scenic corridors, including Kino, Campbell, and portions of Broadway.) Rick distributed a map depicting gateway and scenic arterial streets in the City and observed that there are a significant number of gateway and scenic corridors; he noted that if all of TEP's criteria were adopted, TEP could above-ground on any of these streets. Rick stated that TEP spoke first at the hearing, followed by 18 other neighborhoods, who expressed alarm that there is an exemption process being considered. Rick also observed that the neighborhoods were not making NIMBY arguments; they were asking why we have codes if they can be swallowed up by exceptions. Rick also noted that TEP is a Canadian company, that TEP in Tucson is the only utility in the state that doesn't underground as a matter of course, and that all of Tucson needs to rally. Betsy Besenik asked to whom we should direct our community outreach; Rick stated Steve Kozachi has very strong opinions and we need to make our voices as loud as or louder than TEP. Rick observed that the project's community working group will meet virtually on April 13, followed by a virtual public open house meeting on April 14 at 6:00 p.m. (A link to the open house meeting will be posted on TEP's web page for the project, <https://www.tep.com/kino-to-demoss-petrie/>.) Rick observed that TEP is still determined to above-ground some or all of the project, and that its interactions with the community via the community working group have been completely pro forma.

Dave Zipps observed that while there are many gateway and scenic corridors on the map distributed by Rick, Euclid is not one of them. Dave also recounted the history of TEP's views on using a route up Euclid as part of the project, which went from eliminating Euclid when TEP was initially studying alternative routes and route segments for the project, to including Euclid as one of three possible routes in its application to the ACC for approval to construct the project, to amending its now-withdrawn application to make Euclid its preferred route. Dave observed that, as we push for undergrounding, we also need to make sure that TEP does not use a route up Euclid as an end-run on undergrounding on Campbell if TEP is not satisfied with the outcome of its negotiations with the City over the special exception process.

Jim Glock observed that TEP has a franchise agreement with the City that renews every 25 years and it is coming up for renewal soon. Jim observed that Cox and the phone companies are no longer on utility poles and you no longer see above-ground utilities in Phoenix. Jim said the City should consider leveraging renewal of the franchise agreement to make sure TEP is a responsible citizen.

Judy Sensibar stated that the City has confirmed that it will abandon the parking protected bike lane on University between 6th and Stone and restripe that stretch sometime between April and June to match the buffered lane between 4th and 6th.

Jim Glock gave some updated information on the Downtown Links project. The 6th Avenue underpass will open by the end of April. When it opens, the 6th Street and Stone intersection will close for the summer to rebuild the drainage and sanitary sewer, 6th Street at

the railroad crossing will close for the duration of the project, and 6th Street east of Stone will be diverted to the new Stone intersection. Broadway to Stone should be open by the end of the year.

Jim stated that the City has a new director of Transportation and Mobility, Sam Credio. D.

Parks Committee

Judy Sensibar stated that there will be an Easter egg hunt and brunch at Catalina Park on Saturday, April 16 at 9:00 a.m. Betsy Besenik will be buying eggs, we will be providing spiral hams, and we will be asking neighbors to bring sides. Set up will start at 8:00 a.m. and volunteers would be appreciated.

Judy also stated that the slide at Anza is being replaced. The City is also digging up all the sand and replacing it with treated wood chips.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.