

WUNA Monthly Board Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 2011.

1. Call to Order: Roll Call. Welcome.

The meeting was called to order at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Room 205, at 6.40 p.m. by Chris Gans, WUNA president.

Other board members attending: Richard Mayers, vice president; Cheri Wiens, treasurer; Ford Burkhart, secretary; Carolyn Niethammer, historian; Dave Boston (Area 7); Janet Pitts Labate (Area 1); Richard Mayers (Area 8); Brian McCarthy (Area 5); Cathy Morrison (at-large); Carolyn Niethammer (Area 4); Jennifer O'Connor (Area 3); John Patterson (at large); Matt Williams (area 9). Michael Morse, (Area 6.) Others attending: Noah Sensibar, Bob Morrison.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report. Minutes of previous meeting were approved. As Treasurer, Cheri asked the board if it wants to use 714 Project funds used for other projects; no objection. Tips from Street Fair have been shared among Food Bank, Jefferson Park, and Friends of Tucson Birthplace (historic restoration project). Treasurer's Report approved, unanimous.

3. Announcements

Spring Street Fair: WUNA was 2nd in beer sales, to Iron Horse. We had \$18,162, compared to \$18,571 for Iron Horse. We got \$5,000 as our share.

4. Call to the Audience.

Tucson Police Officer Jobe Dickinson says latest crime numbers look fairly good. They show 25 burglaries; 6 larcenies; 13 stolen vehicles; 39 criminal damage cases including graffiti. Under major crime, at 630 E. Speedway, a home invasion occurred this week. Subject was selling marijuana out of the house; the other party returned to rob the house. He said a new graffiti unit has started work; it made an arrest of a female tagger who faces a felony charge of felony criminal damage. She had 70 tags in our area. He urged us to take pictures of tags as evidence before getting rid of graffiti.

5. Discussion of the District project and WUNA's plan for future development.

Chris said the District problems have raised questions about where we go from here as a neighborhood. Richard Mayers noted that we spent \$3,100 on our attorney. We have the appeal as a template for the future. But Richard said we were blindsided on the appeal. We had 30 days total to organize and carry out our plans because we were late to the event. He said two people are not enough to carry out something like this; it requires longer term work. Our problem is with the city, partly, and with ourselves for not being more carefully organized. Too few people are fully informed, Noah said.

Richard said we failed miserably in the political process. It is how the city of Tucson lives out its political life. We really don't know whether we did the right thing. Chris said we are still not prepared, not organized for the next crisis. Jefferson Park had 50 people attend a public meeting about protesting years of inappropriate development; they are moving toward getting approval. In their area, mini-dorms affect everybody; but here the new traffic is also going to affect everybody, Chris said. Richard noted that Jefferson Park gets 55 people out to meetings to discuss their collective problems. Carolyn voiced the problem of apathy in the WUNA area; how do we combat that, and get people to come to board meetings? Cheri said the 5th St. problems are failing to involve residents nearby – people affected by the District, those living directly across from the development, would not come to meetings. Jenn said we should figure out how to act next; Matt said we have the old 714 Project committee that could have been involved here. Matt said there was value in taking positions, hiring a lawyer, and letting the word slip out; Chris disagreed, saying we should keep our strategy to ourselves. Robert Pitts said he had success talking with neighbors, investing an hour; it takes a lot of time.

On the District project: Richard and Noah invited questions; Chris said he was sorry the load was on two shoulders. Jenn said the issues were too complicated for many people to grasp quickly. Richard Mayers said he has written a summary of what happened, in 2 pages, and will send it to the board. Dave Boston said all neighborhoods face this problem without sufficient committees, etc., to get the attention of Ward 6; he doubted we will ever have it. Chris reminded that the IID (infill incentive district) is a threat to all neighborhoods like ours; all protections for the neighborhoods have been deleted from the

document; he said Ward 6 and Councilman Kozachik are meddling with our neighborhood affairs. Matt said the IID is a tool for the city not to listen to the neighborhoods. Richard said we have good contacts with the larger community, the Downtown Neighborhoods Council, and Richard has attended the board meetings of other neighborhoods, which can be a powerful force on our members.

Jenn said we should voice our stand against IID more clearly, and have a goal. Matt agreed we should communicate more clearly with Ward 6. Chris said our goal should be to show how the IID negates any neighborhood plan. Michael Moore said we seem to react to a highrise, or the latest project thrown at us, but we are lacking a vision statement for the whole neighborhood; our neighborhood plan might be the place to start. Chris said our plan is an amazing document and we have amended it a few times; it is solid. John Patterson said the IID is the real problem. The original IID had neighborhood protections; the current one has none. Cathy said combining forces with other neighborhood groups would make the city nervous. John said he sees 3 of the area neighborhoods at the CCRC meetings.

Brian asked what became of Casa de los Ninos' request for approval of its building plans with 2 old homes to be demolished; those homes are in the future right of way of speedway. Casa is refusing to restrict itself to not knock down those two houses. There is a meeting tonight on those issues.

Chris said we should prepare materials by a June 30 deadline to get information into our last mailing of this fiscal year; stating meeting dates and issues that are current, and try to get more people to come to meetings. Carolyn said we had almost no response to our last general mailing. Cathy said she would volunteer to make an effort to get news of each meeting into the Star for the rest of the year. Jan said she has tried to get renters involved in meetings without success.

6. Other business:

Noah: Richard moved to reimburse Noah Sensibar for expenses at his company in support of our efforts on the District. Motion passed unanimously.

Trees: A motion was made to use funds in our treasury to top up the amount we will give to the Heritage Tree project to buy an entire tree for the convent site of an old orchard and mission. It will become a memorial garden near A Mountain. A project is seeking to plant 100 Trees for the Centennial, heritage trees like sweet limes, figs in many varieties. It is a cultural volunteer project to let people look at the city's past. Richard spoke in support. John said these heritage trees are available at Desert Survivors Nursery. The motion was approved unanimously. Carolyn will write to Diana Hadley for details.

Retainer: Chris asked the board to consider the Howard Baldwin legal retainer of \$3,000: it was allocated for 714 project work and we could use him for future legal work. Richard said he would like to stay with the attorneys who helped with the District.

CD renewal. We have a 6 months CD that has earned \$24 in the last year, at its low interest rate of less than 1 percent. It was moved to keep it in the CD. Unanimously approved. Chris abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Ford Burkhart, Secretary.