



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

07 June 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

The West University Neighborhood Association (WUNA) Board of Directors met Thursday, 07 June 2007, at the Postal History Foundation, 920 N. First Avenue in Tucson.

President, Lori Boston, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Secretary, Joe Wasiak, called roll. The following board members were present: Lori Boston, Gallagher Witmer, Cheri Wiens, Joe Wasiak, Brian McCarthy, Dave Knudson, Adrienne Perry, Carolyn Niethammer, Noah Sensibar, Chris and Mary Nichols, Patricia Pinzon-Pitts, Dave Croteau, Jerry Juliani, Sandra Morse, John Patterson, and Matt Williams. The following WUNA members were present: Jeff Thomas, Brenda Neufeld, Peter Wilke, Varga Garland, Therese Perrault, Roy and June Chamberlin, Bart Lim, Marlena Hanlon. The following guests attended: Diana Lett, Roger Carrillo, Lieutenant Jeff Coleman, Danny Israel, and Jonathon Houst.

<p>MOTION: Accept the WUNA May 2007 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Lori Boston made the following announcements:

- The next Home Tour meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m., Saturday, June 9, 2007 at Time Market. Many volunteers are still needed. The meeting will last no longer than one hour.
- WUNA received a flyer announcing August 7, 2007 as National Night Out. WUNA is considering organizing an activity in Catalina Park that evening (a picnic or campout).
- WUNA received notice of a tentative hearing on June 28, 2007 concerning creation of a parent drop-off zone near the intersection of Seventh Avenue and 4th Street. Noah Sensibar stated that the request had been withdrawn.
- Cheri Wiens will be acting as timekeeper for the WUNA Board Meetings. She will give speakers a 2-minute and 1-minute warning that their time is about to expire. She will also call for a decision to continue when speaker's time has run out.

Jeff Thomas and Jerry Juliani spoke during the Call to the Audience. Jeff complimented the Tucson Police Department on being present to speak with residents at the meeting. Jerry reported on a bank robbery in the neighborhood. He stated the credit union on Park Avenue and 2nd Street was recently robbed and the criminals were apprehended by the Tucson Police Department within three hours.

Diana Lett from the Feldman Neighborhood Association came to update the WUNA Board on a proposal to install a pedestrian refuge in the Speedway median near Second Avenue, precluding eastbound Speedway traffic from turning left on Second Avenue and into Feldman Neighborhood. She explained the Tucson Department of Transportation process requires a letter from affected neighborhoods to make an improvement on an arterial street. She gave examples

of how the neighborhoods might go about deciding to write such letters. Diana stressed there was no time limit for making this decision.

MOTION: WUNA take up the matter of a pedestrian refuge at Second Avenue and Speedway during board meeting in September 2007.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: WUNA form a Traffic Committee and appoint Therese Perrault as Chair.

Motion passed unanimously.

Among issues the new Traffic Committee will look into over the summer is the Second Avenue and Speedway pedestrian refuge.

Lieutenant Jeff Coleman, TPD, came to address crime matters in our neighborhood. He wanted residents to know that Tucson police were aware of an upswing in burglaries in our area. He shared there were 8 residential burglaries in West University and 6 in Dunbar Spring between May 4 and June 4, 2007. That compared with 3 in West University and 4 in Dunbar Spring during the same period in 2006. He emphasized these numbers are only for reported incidents. He guessed there were 1/3 more unreported incidents. A common thread in a majority of these burglaries was they appear to be “crimes of opportunity”, meaning access was achieved through an open door, gate, or window.

Lt. Coleman emphasized the importance of calling 911 for any suspicious activities. It is helpful to police if you can get a description (top to bottom, race, age, clothing) of suspicious individuals or license plate number of any vehicles. But, do not wait to gather information before calling 911. Also, do not endanger yourself to obtain additional information.

Some things Lt. Coleman mentioned the Tucson Police are doing:

- Directed bike patrols around the parks. Seven arrests were made in the past few weeks.
- Using ‘bait bikes’ to capture bicycle thieves.
- Using ‘bait trailer’ near construction sites to catch thieves stealing building supplies, especially copper pipe.

The City Council is still deciding about installation of cameras to monitor downtown activity and Fourth Avenue Merchants Association is considering using their own camera monitoring activity. Catalina Park was offered as an extension of the Fourth Avenue cameras if installed.

Questions came up about pawnshops. Lt. Coleman stated the Pawn Unit is recovering more property than ever and that TPD does contact pawnshops to locate stolen property. Keeping serial numbers of valuables is the most helpful thing citizens can do.

When it comes to follow up, Lt. Coleman acknowledged that not every case receives thorough follow up. However, he did say to call and specifically ask about any actions taken on your particular case.

A short discussion was held concerning selection of a WUNA Back to Basics project. Ballots were made available to anyone needing one. Lori Boston reviewed discussion from the neighborhood meeting held May 31 and answered questions.

Roger Carrillo mentioned Traffic Enhancement Grants as another possible funding stream, especially for projects involving pedestrian safety. He suggested WUNA look into this funding for walkways and lighting.

Three WUNA t-shirt designs were presented for a vote. Those in attendance selected Cheri Wiens's design incorporating neighborhood house numbers to spell out WUNA. Cheri was awarded a dinner gift certificate for her winning design.

Danny Israel of Phi Kappa Psi (PKP) fraternity addressed the WUNA board seeking housing recognition for their fraternity house. The fraternity is relocating to 1011 N. Tyndall Avenue from their current house at 545 E. University Boulevard. PKP desires house recognition so they are allowed to conduct off-campus recruiting at their house. Their goal is to increase membership and qualify for an on-campus house. The fraternity is already a recognized fraternity of the University of Arizona, but their house is not recognized as a place where they may conduct recruiting activities.

PKP's request stirred lots of discussion. Members wanted to know the fate of the existing PKP house on University Avenue. Danny Israel said it would be put up for sale immediately if WUNA recommended recognition of their new house on Tyndall Avenue. Jerry Juliani expressed a desire for PKP to only sell the University Avenue property to new owners intending to occupy the property as a single-family residence. Peter Wilke, owner of the property adjacent to the PKP's University Avenue property, expressed concerns about the behavior of the PKP residents. He told of several incidents with noise and litter. Bryan Mc Carthy, a resident near the Tyndall Avenue property, expressed grave concern about having a fraternity once again occupy the Tyndall Avenue property. The previous fraternity residents were extremely disrespectful of neighborhood residents and Bryan fears the same from PKP.

MOTION: WUNA Executive Officers continue discussions with Phi Kappa Psi to negotiate a written agreement. The Executive Officers shall call a Special WUNA Board Meeting to vote on the issue once a recommended agreement is struck.
Motion passed unanimously.

As the Phi Kappa Psi discussion ran long, John Patterson yielded his time for the CCRC report.

MOTION: Accept the May 2007 WUNA Treasurer's Report.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Wasiak
Secretary