

Thursday, October 7, 2021-6:30 PM
West University Neighborhood Association
October Board Meeting, Via Zoom <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/89744730942>

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, Cindy Doklan, Jim Glock, Shannon Riggs, Judy Sensibar, Willem Van Leeuwen, Larrie Warren, Henry Werchan, and Dave Zipps. Absent: Lisette DeMars, Brian Chanecka, Richard Fifer, Jane McCollum, Rick McDonnell, Rev. Mack Sigmon, and Lex Wilcox.

Also present: Christian Alvarado (UA Journalism student), Diana Amado (Ward 6), Collin Chesston (Transportation & Mobility), Mary Koenig (The Vineyard), Lucy LiBosha (Candidate for Ward 3), Samantha Neville (District 5).

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

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

III. Announcements and Call to the Audience

Judy Sensibar introduced Lucy LiBosha, noting that we are a nonprofit and cannot engage in political discussion, but we can receive factual information. Lucy stated that she is running for City Council in Ward 3 and provided information on her background, her experience, and her priorities, including social services, affordable housing, and advocating for the working class.

Mary Koenig stated that the Vineyard would be doing a neighborhood cleanup on Sunday, November 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They will have trash pickers and bags. There will be pizza, gatorade, and water for all volunteers on the lawn at the Vineyard after the cleanup.

Judy Sensibar stated that there will be a pig roast on Sunday, October 16 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. There will be kids' activities, a bounce house, music, and raffles.

Samantha Neville stated that the District 5 strategic plan is available online. There is also social media available there with a discussion of the plan.

Judy Sensibar stated that the street fair is officially on. Jim Glock noted that we should get the fraternities to assist and that Zeta Psi had done a great job cleaning up Catalina Park.

IV. 5th Street Bike Boulevard

Collin Chesston gave an update on the 5th Street Bike Boulevard from Euclid to 6th Avenue. Collin stated that a consultant for the project is under contract, the project is in design, and the design is about 20% complete. He also said a design consultant is under contract for the 6th Avenue bike lane and the consultant is close to sharing preliminary concepts. Collin

stated that a bike boulevard is intended to reduce the volume of cars and reduce their speed, while a protected bike lane is typically a dedicated space for bikes on a busier street. Collin stated that a bike boulevard needs a traffic calming feature every 300-500 feet, and the City does not need signatures from neighbors for new traffic circles on bike boulevards. On 5th Street, we won't see dramatic changes. There is already a traffic circle and a couple of speed bumps; the City will add a traffic circle and a couple of speed bumps and clean up the intersections, and the speed limit will drop from 25 mph to 20. Euclid is the busiest cross street for the new boulevard, but it already has a good crossing. In response to a question about repaving, Collin noted that the funding from the RTA does not cover paving and the City is looking for money; there is a second round of Covid stimulus money coming and the City is hoping to tap into that for repaving. Cindy Doklan expressed concern that the bike boulevard would increase volumes on parallel streets; she also thought the design consultant should get on a bike on 5th Street to see how bumpy it is. Collin observed that we don't need to convince anyone about the need to repave; the City just has to find the money for it. Collin asked if we would like to see more angled parking; Betsy Besenik stated that it is heavily utilized on Fifth Street near Sky Bar and we probably need more.

V. Committee Reports

A. Development Committee

Judy Sensibar reported that she had done her rounds to the wards to discuss Capstone, and everyone was super-receptive to our position that there should be no zoning change for the project. Judy is still working on getting to the mayor's office on this issue.

B. Streets Committee

Jim Glock reported that we need one more signature for the traffic circle at 5th Avenue and 4th Street.

C. Parks Committee

Judy Sensibar reported that we are looking to put in 24 more plants at Catalina using the green stormwater infrastructure grant. She noted that we had a great neighborhood cleanup with Zeta Psi, and they are planning to help once per month. She also noted that the Anza dog park is up and running and the new bathrooms should be starting soon. Jim Glock stated he is interested in finding shade structures for Anza. Judy stated that Parks went over budget with the dog park and that there are concrete tables that are not being used because they have no shade. She also stated that shade structures are projected to cost \$10,000 each. Larrie Warren stated that he will approach both motels around the park about contributing. They have been pretty generous already, but hopefully, they will be willing to throw in some money. Larrie stated it is a very nice dog park and that people are coming from far afield to use it. Betsy Besenik stated that Parks came to WUHZAB last week and presented multiple options for shade, including a less expensive option. Parks will be talking to Historic and she thought the discussion would be positive.

D. CCRC: Campus Community Relations Committee

Henry Werchan stated that, two years ago, the U of A started the Livable Communities Initiative, a large meeting with campus-area neighborhoods that came up with a list of initiatives for the CCRC to promote. It appears that the CCRC will be trying to reinvigorate this initiative in

the coming months. Henry stated that Kappa Alpha and Grace Lutheran Church recently participated in a traffic circle clean up on 1st Avenue. He also stated that he worked to get a red tag lifted for Zeta Psi in light of their work with the Catalina clean up. The red tag followed a loud and disruptive party in September, but it issued more quickly than red tags had issued in the past, and given their assistance with Catalina, he thought they were deserving of a reprieve.

Shannon Riggs observed that she, Henry, and Judy met with Stephanie Ritter, the new on-site manager at the Union about the graffiti on the windows, vacancies in the commercial spaces and other upkeep. Shannon stated that, in addition to the graffiti, they discussed the alleys, trash, the problems with daily trash pick up and pedestrian safety and lighting on Herbert. Ms. Ritter was supposed to contact the City about removing the graffiti, but as of tonight's meeting, it was still there. Ms. Ritter reported that the large commercial space on the bottom floor will hopefully be leased to a local restaurant chain with locations in Phoenix and Flagstaff. Henry stated it was a good meeting and they will meet once per quarter.

Betsy Besenik observed that there has been an explosion of realtor signs in the neighborhood, and it turns out that many of these are just advertising: they're on properties that aren't available for rent or sale. Henry stated that we should look at the West University guidelines and take the matter to WUHZAB; Jim Glock thought we should also call sign code enforcement.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Zipps