

Thursday, November 2, 2023-6:30 PM
West University Neighborhood Association
November 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., Betsy Larson called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Chris Gans, Jim Glock, Joel Ireland, Betsy Larson, Rick McDonnell, Andy Pongratz, Erec Toso, Willem Van Leeuwen, and Dave Zipps. Absent: Lisette DeMars, Brian Kemp, Shannon Riggs, Judy Sensibar, Mack Sigmon, Holly Vaden, Henry Werchan, and Lex Wilcox.

Also present: Diana Amado (Ward 6), Casey Anderson (FAMA), Torre Chisholm (Friends of PACC), Naomi de la Rosa (Pima County District 5), Liz Koleski (Vineyard Christian Community), and Amelia Latham (FAMA).

II. Announcements and Call to the Audience

Betsy Larson thanked Wim Van Leeuwen and his wife for decorating the corner of University and 6th for Cyclovia. Betsy also stated that the Ten West Street Fest is Saturday, November 4, at 6th Avenue and 7th Street. There will be tents, musicians, and food trucks, and H4AC will be hosting a children's area. Jim Glock stated that there is a piece of pavement they will be painting and volunteers are welcome.

Jim Glock stated that the Greater Arizona Bicycling Association have a swap meet on November 12 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Children's Museum on 6th Avenue near Armory Park. A link to the event is here:
https://www.bikegaba.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=307669&item_id=1967961.

Liz Koleski stated that Vineyard Christian Community and various churches around town will be participating in Serve our City after church on Sunday, November 5. The churches will be doing things to help the community; Vineyard will be doing a neighborhood clean up.

Diana Amado stated that the City has started a Team Up to Clean Up program that will provide volunteers with pickers, vests, and bags. A link to the City's website is here:
<https://climateaction.tucsonaz.gov/pages/teamup>. Diana also stated that Ward 6 is back in its office and open for business and she encouraged people to come visit.

Naomi de la Rosa stated that the 34th annual All Souls Procession is Sunday, November 5 at 5:30 p.m.

III. Consent Agenda: Treasurer's Report; October Meeting Minutes.

There being no objections, the minutes for the October board meeting, and the Treasurer's Report for October 2023 were approved pursuant to the terms of the consent agenda.

IV. Relocation of Pets of Pima Parade & Friends of PACC Festival

Casey Anthony stated that the Pets of Pima Parade & Friends of PACC Festival will be February 18, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be the third year for the event and there will be a new route for the parade because the City is no longer allowing the use of 4th Avenue. Torre Chisholm stated that the parade will move to 6th Avenue with a staging area at 6th Avenue and 1st Street. Canines will walk in the Procepción de los Perros, cats will walk or ride in the Cat Convoy, and all other pets, including pigs, goats, reptiles, birds, and pocket pets, will be featured in the Pet Pride portion of the parade.

Torre stated that the parade will proceed south on 6th Avenue to 7th Street, and then west on 7th Street to 5th Avenue. The Festival Area will be located on 7th Street between 5th Avenue and 3rd Avenue. Casey stated they will start dropping barricades at 8:00 a.m. and only local traffic will be allowed; there will be volunteers to help get people to their property. Torre stated that there will be a hard stop from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and he estimates it will take the parade 20 minutes to clear a particular location. Torre stated that their initial thought was to restrict parking. Betsy Larson stated that a lot of cars will be parked and won't move; Jim Glock noted that 6th Avenue is wide enough that people can view the parade from the street side of parked cars; if you put a chalk line marking where people can stand and sit, that would work. Torre stated that they will promote parking at Tucson High and parking lots near the end of the parade route and also encourage use of Sun Link, which will be allowing pets on board out of crates that day. Casey stated that 7th Street will be shut down and they are working on extending that to Antigone Books. Betsy Larson suggested that FAMA should reach out to Park Tucson to have them allow parking in what would otherwise be 24/7 permit required zones. Torre stated that all participants will get waste bags and a street sweeper will be deployed after the parade. Torre noted that there have been zero complaints to date regarding sanitary and safety issues, and pet owners are encouraged to step out of the parade with their pets if they can't handle the event. Torre also noted that there will be a post-parade adoption event at Corbett's.

V. Committee Reports

A. Development Committee

Rick McDonnell stated that we had a very productive meeting with the Zoning Examiner on Capstone, and the preliminary findings by the Zoning Examiner are all favorable. The next step is review by the Mayor and Council. As Rick noted previously, part of the benefit to WUNA from the project is money for sidewalk improvements and ADA ramps. Rick noted that we won't have access to the money until next year, but we need a few folks to develop an RFP with facts and figures so we are ready when the money drops and can hit the ground running. Rick stated that his goal is to have a draft RFP by December 31. Betsy Larson stated that she has a lead on the contractor who is installing ADA ramps on 5th Street. Jim Glock stated that he ran into the contractor building sidewalks for the Food Conspiracy, who had a lot of tips and expressed interest in bidding.

Rick stated that TEP had an unfavorable ruling from the Board of Adjustment regarding undergrounding on scenic and gateway corridors. Rick thinks it likely that TEP will challenge the ruling in court, but if the ruling stands, TEP will have every reason to select another route. Diana Amado stated that Ward 6 has had no further discussions with TEP. Chris Gans stated that he had heard about the possibility of TEP using another route to the east on Country Club. Rick stated that he absolutely believes that TEP will not underground. He also noted that all legal costs TEP incurs are reimbursable by ratepayers. Dave Zipps noted that TEP is having another public open house on the project on Thursday, November 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way.

B. Streets Committee

Jim Glock stated that he has not heard back from the City about his request to do a painted traffic circle at 7th Avenue and 1st Street. Jim noted that we are on a City list for installation of a reduced price speed hump on 3rd Avenue near Time Market, but there is quite a backlog. Jim stated that we could use funds held by the City to construct one at market prices, but it would knock down our ledger. Jim noted that DTM is seriously understaffed, but he will continue to hold their feet to the fire.

C. Parks Committee

Jim Glock stated that he is making progress on the Anza shade structure, but we are still months away. He is waiting on structural calculations from the vendor, but once he has them, things should move pretty quickly. Right now, Jim is fussing with the insurance carrier because we have to hold the City harmless.

Rick McDonnell noted that we had a group of neighbors at our last Board meeting who reported that many folks at Anza are coming down Echols to occupy vacant properties. Rick stated that if you see someone trespassing on a vacant property, be sure to call 911. Rick stated that nothing will happen, but the information will get entered in a database for complaints, and when TPD pulls information about complaints, it will see that there is a problem.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.