

**WUNA Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011**

**I. Call to Order. Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Room 205, by WUNA President Chris Gans. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted; Jenn O'Connor and Chris Gans abstained.

Present: Chris Gans, President; Richard Mayers, Vice President; Cheri Wiens, Treasurer; Ford Burkhart, Secretary; Carolyn Niethammer, Historian. Janet Pitts Labate, Area 1; Kate Ervin, Area 2; Carolyn Niethammer, Area 4; Brian McCarthy, Area 5; Dave Boston, Area 6; Patrick Vincent, Area 7; Richard Mayers, Area 8; Robert Pitts, Area 9.

Members at large: Cathy Morrison, Michael Morse, John Patterson, Kurt Tallis, Matt Williams.

Others: Jill Bielawski, Lisa Chase (attorney), office in WestU.

**II. Minutes/Treasurer Report:** Report was approved, with fixes. A question was raised about restricted funds, \$15,000; it was determined that these funds are for historic renovation, for grants. The clarification was made part of the report.

**III. Announcements:** Kurt Tallis reminded all of the Dec. 9 to 11 street fair. Kurt urged all to call him about parking problems during the fair.

There will be a bike swap in November on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.; that will be last event aside from street fair before 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. closes down in stages for construction.

Matt Williams spoke of a Nov. 13 family bike event, a kids' bike scavenger hunt, sponsored by El Grupo youth cycling organization.

**IV. Call to Audience:**

Cheri Wiens said we should pressure the planning commission to avoid more disasters like The District (750 beds student housing) on 5<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Cheri said otherwise that sort of development will creep throughout the neighborhood, more 6 story monsters, with disruption ensuing. Cheri noted that is the reason they are moving to Bisbee; the board expressed regret at loss of Cheri and Roger.

**V. Graffiti Abatement. TPD Officer Jack Woolridge.** He observed that WUNA can engage a tow company to tow cars illegally parked during Street Fair and otherwise.

He also said our area is the worst hit in Tucson for graffiti, up from 8,000 cases in 2009, to 75,000 cases in 2011 reported to the COT contractor. That's not counting what others clean up. TPD wants us to report graffiti via his number, 837-7847. Don't call 911. Details are in a Powerpoint that he distributed, and is available on City web site. If you paint over with a different color, it makes a clean canvass where graffiti thugs will come and mark again. **Jeff Thomas offered to represent WUN in this effort.**

**VI. Street Fair Beer Booth:** Jeff Thomas passed out forms to sign up for shifts. He said the new beer price of \$5 will reduce drinking somewhat. Kurt said we have few violations at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. St. Fair because the goal of it is to have an experience of art and crafts; not drunkenness. We should Sign up to work at Wuna at Yahoo Groups main page.

**VII. West U Neighborhood Street Signs:** The signs to mark entry points to West U have been made; Chris presented a sample. At the December board meeting, we will have details.

**VIII. Block Party:** Anne Pollack, teacher of Capoeira arts, Brazilian martial arts, dance and music, spoke along with Sarah Fire, who runs Schoolhouse of Rock. They want to incorporate Roskrige and Tucson High kids in a project with their businesses, in a sort of Block Party event. They will make a call for artists and musicians to take part; Nov. 18 was possible date. Carolyn Niethammer suggested the spring time, maybe March 2012. Roskrige is OK with using its basketball courts. Lisa Agababian offered to help, as did Kurt Tallis.

**IX. Development Updates:** A considerable discussion took place of the Infill Incentive District (IID) plan. Staff is proposing it to Mayor and Council; there is no formal recommendation pro or con from the Planning Commission, since they were split. We are not in favor of extending its lifetime; Gans said we should stress that we don't want to see repeats of the past mistakes (eg. The District mainly). The city of Tucson is likely to extend the measure for another year. We should call City Council members and urge them not to extend it. Gans said **the WUNA Planning Committee recommends** that West U **requests to not** be part of the Infill Incentive District as currently written. The IID sets the bar very low for what is required of the developers in return for gaining easier development; there is no provision for neighborhood input.

Jeff Thomas said the date is Tuesday, Nov. 22, for the Mayor and Council meeting. He said WUNA should make a recommendation that they do not extend the IID time period, or just omit West U from the IID ordinance, until an Urban Overlay is part of the deal, and would protect historic structures.

Moved: The WUNA Board opposes extending the termination date of the IID; if Mayor and Council decide to extend the IID, we would like West U Neighborhood to be taken out of the IID until such time as protections for historic structures are included in the IID. Jenn O'Connor spoke to support sunset of the IID; if Mayor and Council extends IID, we request West U be removed from that plan. Motion Passed unan.

**X. WU Transition Area Update.** Richard Mayers spoke of the Transition Area, between Park and Euclid, which is within the West U boundaries. City wants to change the land use rules to be more transit oriented (bikes, pedestrians, streetscapes, mixed use, higher density). Last night a meeting discussed several proposals: Option 1 concerned 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to Speedway. The 714 Project and historic bungalows on Speedway near First St. were included in the debate. Option 1, which WUNA supports, was supported. Developer Mike Noonan wants to pursue a building taller than originally proposed at 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Euclid.

The proposals to demolish the historic structures and build 4 to 6 story buildings sets a precedent for destroying more HZPs, or Historic Zoned Properties. We favor an economic incentive to retain the historic properties; the owners would not demolish if they are required to replace with a similar small-scale structure.

It was proposed to put Jeff Thomas on the WUNA planning committee. Passed unanimously. Richard and Chris abstained.

#### **XI. Committee Updates.**

= Historic: Noah said all should try to keep historic approval for all projects in our area. We need to stop them at the outset; we can ask if workers have HPZ numbers for their work.

= Board: Patrick Vincent agreed to be rep for area 7. Moved, and passed. Richard and Chris abstained.

= Annual Meeting: Dave Boston and Carolyn Niethammer will work on a slate of officers. Cathy Morrison will organize the annual meeting, the food, etc. Chris is to contact Trinity about holding it Friday, Jan. 13, 2012.

= Michael Morse agreed to replace Cheri Wiens as Treasurer. So moved, approved. Richard and Chris abstained.

= Xmas carols: Jane McCollum is organizing holiday caroling.

**XII. Meeting adjourned.** At 8:37 p.m.

Ford Burkhart, Secretary.