

Thursday, November 3, 2022-6:30 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 6:31 p.m., Judy Sensibar called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Betsy Besenik-Larson, Lisette DeMars, Jim Glock, Andy Pongratz, Judy Sensibar, Holly Vaden, Willem Van Leeuwen, Henry Werchan, and Lex Wilcox. Absent: Jane McCollum, Rick McDonnell, Erec Toso, and Dave Zippis. Also present: Samantha Neville (Pima County District 5), Lt. Tony Archibald, and neighbors Jan LeBate and Raul De Los Angeles.

II. Announcements and Call to the Audience

Lt. Tony stated that he is in charge of recruiting at TPD which has 1,100 employees. He is in charge of the promotional processes and is seeking community volunteers to work with the assessment center to evaluate 49 candidates for Sergeant. TPD needs 2 female volunteers on 11/15, 11/16, and 11/17 from 8 am- 5 pm. Food included. He will send an email with information and it will be shared via the WUNA listserv.

Judy shared that the "Black Lagoon" in the 1st and 2nd street area will be addressed by a NEW rainwater retention system! Matt Williams has been helping to orchestrate the design and process. This project is expected to make a really helpful impact on reducing the smell and flow of the runoff in the area.

The neighborhood clean ups last month were successful, and the neighborhood extends a thank you to the many volunteers. The Anza Park picnic was also successful.

Andy Pongratz shared work continues on his house and he is excited to move into WUNA. He would like to create a communication board for Catalina Park. \$300-\$500 is needed for supplies, along with volunteer work to build the board. Board members requested information about materials and timeline for the project. Jim requested Andy's son, Adam, present at the December 1st meeting so a discussion about the project can take place. It was noted that Parks and Rec should be involved in the project.

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

Jim Glock observed that we came in under budget for the Anza event. Funds were used to support local businesses. Jim recommends WUNA advocate to spend down city funds that can be used for neighborhood projects. The first of these projects is already in the works- to improve sidewalk access by adding ramps along priority corridors and near parks.

There being no objections or corrections, both the Treasurer's Report and the October 2022 Minutes were approved in accordance with the provisions of the consent agenda.

IV. Pima County District 5 Report: Samantha Neville

Samantha Neville stated that affordable housing, land conservation, investing in neighborhood reinvestment, and early education are priorities for the 2024 budget. She shared about the new Regional Affordable Housing Commission to study the housing crisis in Pima County and reminded everyone to please vote.

Samatha and Lisette summarized that Pima County allocated \$10 million for Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPs) and shared updates about the new Pima Community College Desert Vista preschool. Samantha recognized the need to continue advocating for more funds to be invested in early childhood, especially for students.

V. Committee Reports

A. Historic Fourth Avenue Coalition

Lisette stated that members of HFAC met recently with Ward 6 to share information and seek support for the project being pursued through a grant from the Drachman Institute.

Lisette recounted that last fall the HFAC Sustainability and Development Committee conducted community and business surveys. These surveys provided information about the needs and assets of the Historic Fourth Avenue District (businesses and neighborhoods), gathering and distilling input from more than 200 participants, including participation from WUNA residents. The surveys informed an online charrette, where three target themes identified by the survey results were discussed: 1) safety, 2) accessibility and 3) sustainability. As an example, participants mapped out geographical areas for better lighting, sidewalk improvements and public bathrooms.

The proposed project with the Drachman Institute will use the information from the survey and charette (see link below) to launch the next step in the needed work. A "Historical Fourth Avenue District Improvement Plan" would address the priority projects identified and assist in securing support (including funding) from partners around those projects. This plan will also help track how the improvements and projects funded by HFAC and others align with the priorities determined by the survey. As an example Lisette shared that the sidewalk improvement work being funded by WUNA to add accessibility along University Boulevard and near neighborhood parks is aligned with this proposed project.

[W Historic Fourth Avenue Coalition Community Priorities Survey and Charrette Overv...](#)

B. CCRC: Campus Community Relations Committee

Henry Werchan reminded WUNA about a survey that was sent: CCRC is looking for feedback around the recent campus shooting. He encourages everyone to take it and provide feedback and perspective.

Henry gave an update on the project in which a group of students in his UA Digital Design class are building a digital platform to provide a virtual tour of homes in historic neighborhoods. Rick McDonnell, Judy Sensibar and Betsy Snell (the WUNA President in the 1980s) selected 12 properties to kick off the project for WUNA. These properties start at Time Market and go west on University highlighting structures designated as 'significant.' Homes will have QR codes and in the future, there will be signs out front.

C. Streets Committee

Jim Glock stated that he held a traffic committee meeting. Peter, Chris and Jill attended. The two priority projects are: COT 5th street bicycle boulevard work from 6th Ave to Euclid (Jim stated this project should go to 7th). For the 6th Ave project, the parking is expected to remain at the curb. To protect cyclists, separation options are being explored. Further work will take place in the spring; currently no construction is expected. Jim shared that WUNA has both traffic specific funds and additional funds that can be used for sidewalks, traffic circles and other projects. Some traffic circles may need to be replanted to meet requirements about setbacks.

D. Parks Committee

Judy shared that the bathroom at Anza is open! Jan shared the lights are on and it is being used. It has a new remote locking system.

Raul asked about the stop sign on 7th Ave and 1st. St and says no one stops at it.

Betsy suggested the trees that may need to be moved from the traffic circles be used at Anza Park to create a visual screen to hide the old and new bathroom.

E. Development Committee

Betsy described the Ward changes being proposed at the COT meeting today. Of the three proposals, one would affect WUNA directly. The Commission seemed flexible and willing to change things. No decision will be made today, they have extended the decision making process and will be reaching out to neighborhoods.

Judy shared that sadly Capstone's request to move the bungalows at Speedway and Euclid in the Main Gate Overlay was passed 4-1 by the Pima Historic Plans Sub Committee.

Trinity Church construction of apartments replacing the Trinity Church Classroom building is slated to begin in less than a month. An update has been requested from R&R.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.