



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

06 November 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The West University Neighborhood Association (WUNA) Board of Directors met on Thursday, 06 November 2008, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Boulevard in Tucson.

President, Lori Boston, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and Secretary, Joe Wasiak, called roll. The following board members were present: Lori Boston, Gal Witmer, Joe Wasiak, Cheri Wiens, Brian McCarthy, Adrienne Parry, Jenn O'Connor, Carolyn Niethammer, Noah Sensibar, Dave Boston, Patricia Pinzon-Pitts, Jane McCollum, Teresa Bommarito, Dave Croteau, Chris Gans, Sandra Morse, and John Patterson. The following were also in attendance: Jenny Leijonhufvud, Wendy (??), Bob Demurs, Roy and June Chamberlin, Therese Perrault, and Richard Mayers.

MOTION: Postpone approval of September, October, and November Meeting Minutes until all are prepared for review at December meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the WUNA September 2008, and October 2008 Treasurer's Reports.

Motion passed unanimously.

The following were announced:

- According to Kurt Tallis, 4th Avenue Merchants Association Marketing and Events Director, a trial of beer in recyclable aluminum bottles is scheduled for the 4th Avenue Winter Street Fair. Our location will still serve from the tap, but if the trial goes well all beer booths will use the recyclable aluminum cans at the spring fair. Kurt reports higher profit margins using the bottles as no beer is wasted to spillage. The recyclable aspect is also a positive. Joe Wasiak circulated the sign up sheet for the WUNA Beer Booth at the 4th Avenue Winter Street Fair on December 12-14, 2008.
- Rod's BBQ on Fourth Avenue has added their offerings to the Magpie's menu.
- Dave Croteau invited everyone to participate in community discussions at 7:30 PM Wednesday evenings at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Wednesday November 19 John Sedwick, 4th Avenue Merchants Association Executive Director, is invited to discuss happenings along Fourth Avenue.
- The property on the northeast corner of Herbert Avenue and 5th Street is for sale by owner. Cheri Wiens reports that if the property is not sold, the City is threatening to demolish the building on the property. Discussion about the demolition process for this property will be placed on the December WUNA Board Meeting agenda.
- Jane McCollum announced that flu shots are being offered this Friday at the weekly UofA Farmers Market in the Main Gate Shopping District. UofA Farmers Market is held Fridays from 10 AM – 2 PM.

The following items surfaced during the Call To The Audience:

- Brian McCarthy asked for a status report on the situation near Tucson High Magnet School. Joe Wasiak reported that the primary concern for pedestrian safety had improved significantly with the installation of the traffic diverter at Second Avenue and 6th Street. Joe also reported traffic flow is less and more organized, there is great Tucson Police Department presence during dismissal, and fewer drug incidents are being witnessed. Trash continues to be a problem.

- John Patterson requested an update on the temporary traffic diverters installed at First and Second Avenues along 6th Street. John wanted to know about the follow-up survey that was to happen after a 3-6 month trial. Joe Wasiak reported that the City never followed through on the process they described. Last report from the City was if residents wanted the temporary traffic diverters removed, a petition was required and if residents wanted permanent traffic diverters, a petition was required.
- The WUNA Board of Directors Retreat originally slated for November 8, 2008 has been postponed until a new board is elected next year.
- There was some discussion about the Annual Meeting. The date of January 16, 2009 is being looked at and a decision about incorporating a social event or volunteer dinner is still being investigated. Details will be hammered down by the December Board of Directors meeting.
- Carolyn Niethammer reported an incident where a neighborhood family witnessed drug dealing in Catalina Park and were threatened at gunpoint. The incident was reported to Tucson Police. Discussion emphasized the need to call Tucson Police covertly when drug activity is witnessed and provide detailed descriptions of the people and activity involved.

Jenny Leijonhufvud of the Dachman Institute presented a plan for a bike boulevard along Fontana and Fourth Avenues from Prince Road to University Boulevard. She covered the benefits of biking in Tucson and the impediments to biking / walking that exist. She explained the concept of a bike boulevard, a shared use street optimized for bicycle and pedestrian traffic while still allowing cars. She pointed to 3rd Street east of the UofA campus as an example of a bike boulevard in Tucson.

Jenny showed details of a proposed route along Fontana Avenue with a jog at Grant Road to Fourth Avenue. Ideally this bike boulevard would connect from the Rillito River Bike Path to the Barraza-Aviation Bike Path, creating a north-south bicycling route from the Tucson Mall area to Downtown. Initially, the plan calls for a bike boulevard from Prince Road to University Boulevard. In the West University Neighborhood the plan calls for traffic circles at the 1st Street/Fourth Avenue and 2nd Street/Fourth Avenue intersections, restricted access to Fourth Avenue from Speedway Boulevard, bike boulevard pavement markings, and destination signage along the route.

Jenny explained funding is being sought from RTA. Phase 1 of the project, calling for infrastructure like traffic circles, is estimated at \$250K. Appropriate crossings at Grant Road are being addressed as part of the Grant Road Widening Project. The remainder of the route was selected to use existing traffic signals at major intersections.

Those present had questions and concerns:

- Several people expressed a desire for the bike boulevard to continue all the way down Fourth Avenue to the Fourth Avenue Underpass, which will include bicycle/pedestrian access to downtown when completed.
- Others commented that if the bike boulevard made a jog over to Third Avenue at University Boulevard the route could connect to the Barraza-Aviation Bike Path at the end of Third Avenue in the Iron Horse Neighborhood.

MOTION: West University Neighborhood Association Board of Directors supports the concept of a bike boulevard along Fontana and Fourth Avenues between Prince Road and University Boulevard.
Motion passed unanimously.

Lori Boston initiated a discussion about WUNA Board of Directors and compliance with the WUNA Bylaws. Specifically, there is a need to address director absences resulting in automatic resignation, whether special meetings of the board count for director attendance purposes, and codifying electronic meetings/voting. It was pointed out that the WUNA Bylaws state, “A director who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors shall be deemed automatically to have resigned as director.” This year several board members met the

criteria for automatic resignation. Initially, each board member in this situation was to address the board.

MOTION: Dave Croteau is reinstated to the WUNA Board of Directors.
Motion passed.

MOTION: Jerry Juliani is reinstated to the WUNA Board of Directors.
Motion withdrawn.

It was decided that WUNA Board of Directors Special Meetings count for attendance purposes when applying the automatic resignation criteria since the WUNA Bylaws do not make a distinction between regular monthly meetings and special meetings.

MOTION: Extend this meeting by 30 minutes to allow complete discussion of agenda items. Board members needing to leave at 8:00 PM would be acceptable.
Motion passed.

After much discussion, board members recommended Lori reappoint directors to the vacancies created by the automatic resignations as permitted in the WUNA bylaws. Lori Boston reappointed Bridget Werchan, Judy and Noah Sensibar, Chris and Mary Nichols, Patricia Pinzon-Pitts, Dave Croteau, Jerry Juliani, Sandra Morse, and Matt Williams to the WUNA Board of Directors.

The need to discuss electronic meetings/voting was tabled.

Brian McCarthy placed the following motion before the board:

MOTION: The Direct Center for Independence has been part of our neighborhood for more than 20 years. They provide valuable services to people with disabilities and are an asset to our neighborhood. We should not support any plan or proposal that would force them to relocate.
Motion withdrawn.

Wendy (??), Direct Center Executive Director, was present. She said she had met with Jaret Barr, an assistant to the City Manager. Jaret informed Wendy that the City would not break their 99-year lease with Direct Center. Wendy went on to say Jaret did offer that relocation to another location is an option. Jaret would like to see Direct Center in a showcase building with state-of-the-art accessibility, built to Green standards.

When queried, Wendy did not desire any support from WUNA at this time. She thanked WUNA for bringing this activity to Direct Center's attention and promised to keep WUNA apprized of future developments. She said Direct Center would proceed cautiously in any move, but did not want to shut down possibilities for an enhanced Direct Center facility.

John Patterson did not have a CCRC report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Wasiak
Secretary