

WUNA Monthly Board Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011

1. Call to Order. Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Room 205, by WUNA President Chris Gans.

Present: Chris Gans, President; Richard Mayers, Vice President; Michael Morse, new treasurer; Cheri Wiens, ex-Treasurer; Ford Burkhart, Secretary; Carolyn Niethammer, Historian. Janet Pitts Labate, Area 1; Kate Ervin, Area 2; Ford Burkhart, Area 3; 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, Matt Williams.

Others: Suzanne Schafer, Occupy Tucson; Stephanie Chace and Prof. Diane Austin, BARA (new member). Jill Bielawski; Jody Gibbs, architect; Dave Croteau.

2. Approval of meeting minutes. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted. Vote was unanimous with Gans and Mayers abstaining. The Treasurer Report was accepted unanimously, with Gans abstaining.

3. Announcements.

Street Fair will be Dec 9, 10, 11. Wuna booth will be at 7th St. and 4th Ave..

Carolyn Niethammer distributed welcome packets for two new members.

4. Call to the audience.

BARA: Prof. Diane Austin described the work of BARA in the Geronimo Hotel building where that branch of the UA occupies parts of two floors.

Occupy Tucson: Suzanne Schafer spoke on behalf of herself as part of the Occupy Tucson movement. Suzanne is not an official rep, but was here to say that a move might be imminent from the Aug. 20 Park on West Congress downtown. De Anza Park, at Speedway and Stone, might be considered as a new place to move to. Suzanne said Occupy does not want to surprise the neighborhood if they decide to move here. Janet Pitts Labate said her neighbors would not have any objection. Dave Croteau noted that he had frequently been forced to be absent as he was running for mayor and working at Roskrige School along with other commitments, causing absences and his departure from the board.

He noted that Veterans for Peace have protested in a similar ways to Occupy for years and were now helping with the Occupy movement here. Croteau said Tucson is now No. 2 nationally in number of arrests at a site, but leads the nation in the peaceful nature of relations with the police. Croteau said the Occupy Movement was asking for the potential opportunity to demonstrate in De Anza park. There were generally supportive comments, but no vote was taken.

5. Street Signs: Cathy Morrison said she is in touch with printers who have agreed to make the signs for entry points to WU, which will be aluminum with reflective sheeting. Cost is \$16 each for the 105 signs, black and white. Cost will be \$17.50 to hang each sign. So the total will be \$2,800 total cost. We will make 19 extra signs to replace those stolen or to sell to those who wish to buy them.

6. Feldman's Quik Trip mailer: Richard Mayers presented. Feldman's wants a donation to help with the mailer for Quik Trip. They want to mail out information to their neighborhood, and have no funds left to do so. They think they can prevail in a zoning hearing, and Feldman's wants to press its case in opposition to Quik Trip when it goes before city zoning. It was moved to give Feldman's \$500 to support their mailing, since the WU area would be impacted, being across the street from the site. Motion passed with no abstentions.

7. Annual Meeting: Cathy Morrison spoke as chair of the event along with several board members. It will be Friday, Jan. 13, at Fellowship Hall, a large room at the back of the main sanctuary of Trinity Church. We will publicize the meeting with the old WUNA door hangers throughout the neighborhood, with a sticker saying the details on the annual meeting.

8. 4th Ave. Street Fair and donations: Chris Gans asked board members to come to the beer booth to help out around lunch time on Fair days, even if not on the signup list. Help is needed 12 to 2 p.m. generally. Community Food Bank is a possible target for funds. Michael Morse said they do need funds, and the old donors are drying up. Tom Warne said 1 in 4 children go to bed hungry in Tucson. Jenn moved to give all our tips to Food Bank. It passed Unanimously with no abstentions.

Extra item: Gans noted that Cheri Wiens will be leaving the neighborhood soon when her house sells. They are moving to Bisbee because of the disruption of her block by construction of The District at 5th and 5th and the prospect of hundreds of students living there. Carolyn Niethammer recalled Wiens many contributions to WUNA over the years and said that we will miss her.

9. Development Issues:

Communication: Richard Mayers said he had come upon a communications idea that grew out of the Occupy Movement. It would use bulletin board software to replace the old newsletter. People on the mailing list could opt in to get the new newsletter; need someone who uses HTML is needed to help to produce the newsletter. It is simple: You send items in, they are collected, and you send it out. It seems secure, with privacy guarantees, and protects email addresses. Our development efforts suffer from a major communication problem; this is a possible solution.

Neighborhood Plan Amendment: Gans recalled that Wuna members spoke at City Council last week in favor of allowing the sunset of the IID provisions that would replace our own plan and allow very tall buildings with other negative characteristics for a historic neighborhood. We reminded the city of our firm and united opposition to the building of The District at 5th and 5th. The city attorney said the city could not remove the West University area from the Infill Incentive District now, but could do so in the future if a process was followed, taking a few months. Brian McCarthy said we certainly do need to opt out. Council Member Kozachik said we should let him know how can we make the IID provisions better? Gans said we have many options including moving to Form Base Code plannings, which emphasizes the form of building and streetscapes, rather than strict adherence to code provisions.

Gans said Ernie Duarte, director of planning and development services at COT, had said some developers were trying to use provisions of the IID that are more suitable downtown to plan for high buildings in our own area. There are protocols to change the IID boundaries, excluding WUNA, but it will alter the whole process, and will require a minimum 90 days for the process. There were 3 projects near the U of A that the city says would be imperiled by the sunset of this proposal. The councilmembers who favored extending the IID for only 6 months was seen as a stopgap measure by Kozachik. This doesn't mean he is opposed to us, Gans said. We may have Ward 6 support if we take them proposals. The old Baptist Church education building could be an anchor for upgrading the southern side of the WUNA

area. Jill said she believed Mr. Kozachick heard the WUNA neighborhood's complaints loud and clear, but it is unclear what he also believed that the council took us seriously and may be prepared to help our cause in the future. Jenn said we should try to meet with the council members and try to educate them about our desires.

Gans said the WUNA planning committee will meet next Thursday on all of this.

Tom Warne said that money would come from PAG for a study of the changes requested by WUNA. He echoed that the council had thought they could vote us out of the future of IID, but learned they could not do so without a lengthy process. PAG money is available for a study of issues along the modern streetcar line. That would address setbacks, streetscapes all along 4th Ave and University Blvd.

Jody Gibbs, a **former** resident of our area for some 20 years, spoke about architecture issues. He said the project on 5th Ave. and 5th Street is the worst project he has seen in 40 years in Tucson. He said Ernie Duarte seems unqualified professionally to make the decisions he is making, and Wuna needs to file complaints with the Pima County historic commission. The Pima county historic commission has some good standards that could help in such situations. There is a Public perception that WUNA has approved the 5th and 5th project. The Star's recent coverage did not reflect Wuna's position.

Chris Gans asked for a motion on the proposal for a plan amendment. To oppose the plan amendment as proposed including changes for the 714 North Euclid property. Richard Mayers moved that we not support the plan amendment as recommended recently by the planning commission. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Gans **recommended that** we should make it clear that we do not support the 14-story building heights that have been recommended for the transition area. Cathy Morrison said we should make clear that we do not approve any proposals that will involve the destruction of historic property. Gans said the Wuna planning committee should draft a letter and then the WUNA council should take it to City council members.

Carolyn Niethammer moved that the Wuna board direct the planning committee to write a letter to the city expressing concerns about the expansion of Area A to include the 714 site. Motion passed unanimously, with Richard Mayers abstaining.

10. Committee updates.

UA: John Patterson said the UA is looking at new areas for drop offs by buses to replace drop-offs near the Main Gate; one would be south of McKale; another would be along Cherry. The buses would purchase permits to make drop-offs; the shuttle owners are not happy with the plan. The UA is also upset about the bicycle device which amounts to a mass drinking machine; UA is seeking a way to control it as a street danger.

DNRD: Richard Mayers said The Downtown Neighborhood Residence Council is changing its board; it will have a smaller constituency board and the council may in fact cease to exist. The DNRC is a group of downtown neighborhoods that work together on common issues, and Richard Mayers is the Wuna representative to the council. Mayers said he favors pursuing another kind of coalition if that group disappears.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.33 pm.

Ford Burkhart, Secretary.

