

Thursday, December 2, 2021-6:30 PM
West University Neighborhood Association
December Board Meeting, Via Zoom <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/89744730942>

I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome

At 6:38 p.m., Judy Sensibar called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Betsy Besenik-Larson, Lisette DeMars, Brian Chanecka, Cindy Doklan, Jim Glock, Rick McDonnell, Shannon Riggs, Judy Sensibar, Willem Van Leeuwen, and Dave Zipps. Absent: Richard Fifer, Jane McCollum, Rev. Mack Sigmon, Henry Werchan, Larrie Warren, and Lex Willcox.

Also present: Samantha Neville (District 5), Kat Henderson, Scott Henderson, and Keeli McCarthy.

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

Jim Glock gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's report, highlighting the transfer for t-shirt purchases and the banner expense. Jim reported that everything else was routine. There being no objections or corrections, both the Treasurer's Report and the November 2021 Minutes were approved in accordance with the provisions of the consent agenda.

III. Announcements and Call to the Audience

Samantha Neville put a link to Supervisor Grijalva's website in the chat: <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=8288>. She stated a schedule of Board of Supervisors meetings can be found there, along with a link to a page with the District 5 monthly newsletter. (At the bottom of that page, you can sign up for the newsletter.)

Dave Zipps gave some background on the "alley clean up letter" many in the neighborhood received from the City in late November, in which the Environmental Services Department stated residents had to clean up their property lines abutting alleys or face fines. Dave stated that he found an article by News 4 Tucson online stating that it had contacted city officials, who said the letter was a blanket letter sent out to all of the residents in the area after several of their trash truck operators complained about their routes being unsafe. As a result, many people received the letter when their property presented no issue at all.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Streets Committee

Jim Glock stated that 6th Avenue planning continues and Betsy Besenik went to a town hall on the proposed protected bike lane on November 30. Jim stated that Betsy has calculated that we could lose up to 50 parking spaces with the protected lane, which will be similar to the protected lane on University between Stone and 6th. Jim flagged the survey for the project on

the City's website and encouraged everyone to take it. December 17 is the end of the public comment period.

Jim stated that we are in good shape with the traffic circle on 4th Street and 5th Avenue. Jesse Soto reported that the traffic circle is out for agency review with police, fire, and utilities. Once that is complete, we can begin the design process. There will be negotiations with the City on the design with the goal to reduce costs. We will probably have to focus on landscaping, not art, because of approval requirements.

Cindy Doklan asked about the status of the 5th Street bike boulevard. Judy Sensibar stated that it doesn't present any material issues because there is no bike lane.

Judy Sensibar stated that Chris Gans has submitted a petition to remove the protected bike lane on University. Rick McDonnell stated that losing 50 parking spaces on 6th in connection with a protected lane would be a big problem, and we probably need to give the City an alternative. Jim Glock then moved for the Board to adopt the following statement with regard to the bike lane being proposed for 6th Avenue:

With respect to 6th Avenue, the Board recommends that the City consider an option similar to University between 4th and 6th Avenues, the main features being the elimination of the two-way left turn lane, allowing curbside parking with a buffered bike lane between the parking and through lanes.

Rick McDonnell seconded the motion, and a discussion of the merits of the motion ensued. Betsy Besnik confirmed that we stand to lose 40-50 parking spaces on 6th in a half mile, and we will also experience tighter parking spaces and narrower travel lanes, which will put parked residential vehicles on top of moving vehicles, creating a safety issue because there is no room for error. Scott and Kat Henderson raised a procedural question, asking whether the Board needs to do more investigation before taking a position. Judy Sensibar stated that the Board has been getting feedback for many months and has participated with the City in four different events to gather information and perspectives. Lisette DeMars stated that she was uncomfortable with the Board staking out a neighborhood position on this issue, and as a non-cyclist, she was concerned that she did not have the expertise to address the merits of the competing proposals. Following this discussion, the motion was put to a roll call vote and approved by a vote of 6 in favor (Besnik, Doklan, Glock, McDonnell, Sensibar, Van Leeuwen), 2 opposed (DeMars, Chanecka), and 2 abstentions (Riggs, Zipps).

B. Parks Committee

Lisette Demars stated that the survey being conducted by the Historic Fourth Avenue Coalition for short- and long-term projects in the area will continue through December. A facilitator will then comb through the data in connection with an outdoor community charette to be held in January.

Cindy Doklan asked about the status of shade at Anza Park. Judy Sensibar stated that it turns out light is more important than shade. There is just one pole, and it is not enough.

There have been discussions about using Gorilla solar lighting, but it might not be sufficiently durable.

Rick McDonnell has been using Anza quite a bit; his dog loves it. Rick said the park is 100% better than a year ago, but noted that the grass is now dead because there was no overseed, and dispensers with pet waste bags have been empty for weeks.

C. Development Committee

Rick McDonnell reported that he has been engaged with the City on Code Enforcement, and the Development Committee is very focused on systemic problems that need to be addressed. The City has been saying, "Yes, we'll do something," but there is no follow up. Rick reported that code enforcement writ large is under-resourced and we need to put the pressure on the City to make increased staffing a priority.

Rick gave an update on TEP's Kino to DeMoss-Petrie project, noting that TEP's attorneys and the City's legal department are engaged in conversations about options that include undergrounding on gateways and in residential areas but overheading in industrial areas. Rick stated that Steve Kozachik believes the February 7, 2022 Line Siting Committee meeting is likely to be delayed in light of these discussions. Rick thought it was interesting that TEP is acknowledging that undergrounding is something they likely need to put before the ACC. He also stated that the attorney for Sam Hughes is representing the interests of all neighborhoods on undergrounding, but he was retained by Sam Hughes because he could not enter a contract with the Undergrounding Coalition, which is not a legal entity.

D. H4AC: Made in Tucson

Shannon Riggs stated that Made in Tucson on November 28 was an incredible event that went off way better than anticipated. Artists who participated were saying it was the best show ever, and H4AC will be doing it again next spring.

V. Beer Booth for Street Fair

Jim Glock stated that he has been doing outreach via email to find volunteers for the beer booth. Jim stated we have a busy location and we need as many as 12 volunteers for the afternoons. Jim stated we need to select what entities should get our tips, which are typically around \$600. Last year, the tips went to the Roskruge school library and the foodbank operated by Trinity Presbyterian. (Previously, they went to the Southern Arizona Community Foodbank.) Rick McDonnell stated he is very empathetic to teachers and would like to help the school. Betsy Besenik stated she knows two teachers at Roskruge, and Judy Sensibar suggested we go to Betsy's contacts to determine how best to donate to the school. Jim Glock then moved that the tips go to Roskruge and the foodbank operated by Trinity Presbyterian, which was seconded by Rick McDonnell. All present approved.

VI. Annual Picnic and Elections

Judy Sensibar stated that Henry Werchan will be the Chair of the nominating committee for the election of 2022 Board members and officers. She stated that all four officers have agreed to serve again, and she will be trying to get the area representatives to be more active. In response to a question, Judy stated that the Historian position is self-monitored. She also stated that she is working to get additional organizational representatives, particularly more participation from the U of A. Judy asked people who are interested to self-nominate by emailing wuna2014@gmail.com. Judy stated that she is targeting Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. as the date for the picnic and elections at Catalina Park. She also stated that she and Betsy aim to send out the snail mail newsletter the week before the annual meeting.

VI. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Zipps