

Bond Project Advisory Committee
Revised Minutes of ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday, February 19, 2015 Meeting
Approved at Wednesday, February 25, 2015 Meeting
Transit 2nd Floor Conference Room
149 N. Stone Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
Meeting called to order by Liz Rangel at 4:10 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Liz Rangel, Chair
Michael Keith
Roger Pfeuffer
Lorraine Morales
Tom Warne
Bob Walkup

Absent:

Dennis Arnold
Kevin Daily
David Hunter

Staff Members Present: Lynne Birkinbine (Office of Integrated Planning), Joanne Hershenhorn (Office of Integrated Planning), Jane Duarte (Parks and Recreation), Fred Gray (Parks and Recreation), Martha Durkin (City Manager's Office), Jason Jacobs (Reid Park Zoo)

2. Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2015
Michael Keith moved to approve the February 11th minutes. Tom Warne seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.
3. Discussion of Pima County Bond Advisory Committee (BAC) Chairs and the County Administrator's Bond Package Recommendations - a discussion ensued, then was halted and continued after discussion of item 6., which was taken out of order

Discussion ensued regarding the Pima County BAC Chairs and the County Administrator's bond package recommendation to fund 96 projects totaling \$640.7 million, including 24 City-requested projects totaling \$87.1 million. City Manager Martha Durkin informed the Committee that per discussion at the Mayor and Council meeting on February 18, 2015, the Committee may present its City of Tucson bond package recommendation directly to the Pima Board of Supervisors, either by letter or at a Board of Supervisors meeting, without first going to the Mayor and Council. Alternatively, the Committee may forward its recommendation to the Mayor and Council for discussion and possible action at the regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meeting on March 3, 2015. The Committee decided it will bring its recommendation to the Mayor and Council on March 3, 2015, at which time the Mayor and Council may discuss and take action on it, before it is presented to the Pima County BAC on March 13, 2015.

Tom Warne expressed concern about project allocations to the City, and discussion ensued. The discussion shifted to funding for the Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC) Expansion, which the BAC Chairs and the County Administrator recommended reducing from \$12 million to \$6 million. Fred Gray said while Parks would like the full \$12 million, they can build the “dry portion” in phases and they can work with \$6 million. The gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms and fitness/exercise areas are a priority. Martha Durkin said one alternative is for the Committee to request restoring the \$6 million as a regional project.

Michael Keith said if the Committee needs to stay within the \$640.7 million cap, they might want to re-look at their City projects line by line. Lynne Birkinbine said that starting with the \$87.1 million in City-submitted projects recommended by the BAC Chairs and the County Administrator, the Committee agreed at its meeting on 2/11/2015 to recommend restoring \$4.0 million for the Jacobs Park Recreation Center, and \$2,178,500 for the South 12th Avenue Cultural and Culinary Corridor, which brings the City request up to \$93,278,500. She said they should use a reasonableness test: if they want to restore a project or funding amount that was cut, they can if they provide a rationale to the Pima County BAC and the County Administrator.

Chair Liz Rangel noted members of the audience wanted to address the Committee and she would like to hear from them at this time, and return to the subject discussion after hearing from the public.

6. Call to the Audience

This item was taken out of order. The following individuals spoke:

Karla Van Drunen Littooy (TCC Today)
Barbara Levy (Tucson Symphony Board of Trustees)
Helen Erickson (TCC Today)
Mark Blakeman (Tucson Symphony, President and CEO)
Bonnie Kampa (Tucson Symphony Board of Trustees)
Carolyn Campbell (City resident and member, Pima County BAC)
Nancy Schlegel (Tucson Zoological Society President)

The first five speakers spoke of the importance of funding the Downtown Community Theaters (Leo Rich and the Music Hall) & Historic Cultural Landscape. The City’s original \$28 million request was reduced by the County BAC Chairs and County Administrator to \$18.5 million. Karla Van Drunen Littooy of TCC Today provided a handout on the Economic Impact of the Downtown Community Theaters and Cultural Landscape, and added that money has already been spent on related improvements. She said they planned to augment the bond money with a fundraising campaign. A couple of speakers expressed concern that the \$18.5 million might not address badly needed repairs for the theaters, and they would appreciate it if the Committee would consider increasing the requested amount.

Carolyn Campbell said she had worked on the County bond package for many years. She appreciates and supports the work of the City's Bond Project Advisory Committee. Nancy Schlegel, the president of the Tucson Zoological Society, said she supports the current County bond package recommendation moving forward in 2015, including the \$8.0 million recommended for the Reid Park Zoo African Expansion Phase II. She said they revisited the plans with the architect and they can make some changes and work with the \$8 million.

Liz Rangel left the room at 5:17 p.m. and returned at 5:19 p.m.

3. (Continued) Discussion of Pima County Bond Advisory Committee Chairs and the County Administrator's Bond Package Recommendations

The Committee discussed and voted on certain line items of the submitted BPAC recommendation that were reduced in the recommended County bond package, as follows:

Regional Sports Field Lighting: BPAC recommendation of \$11.2 million was reduced to \$7.68 million

Fred Gray, Director, Parks and Recreation, provided a revised Sports Field Lighting Package, which included lighting system replacements at existing fields (\$6.175 million), new lighting systems at existing fields (\$2.990 million) and new fields with lights (\$2,047,500). Committee members reiterated their strong support for lighting system replacements, citing enhanced safety; as well as reduced operating and maintenance costs and energy savings, which will provide a substantial cost-savings. They also supported adding new lighting systems to existing fields, to help meet the demand for more lighted ball fields. They felt new fields with lights were a lower priority. *Michael Keith made a motion to restore \$1.485 million, to bring the recommended request to \$9,165,000 million. Robert Walkup added that ball fields have strong public acceptance, and seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.*

Downtown Community Theaters & Historic Cultural Landscape; and the Adaptive Recreation Center Expansion

Discussion ensued. The Committee decided to postpone consideration of these two projects until after discussion of the other projects.

Urban Greenways, City of Tucson/City of South Tucson: BPAC recommendation of \$15 million was reduced to \$8.5 million

Fred Gray, Director, Parks and Recreation, provided a map showing Urban Greenway corridors. Given the reduction, Parks is now proposing to construct 7 instead of 13 urban greenway segments. Parks staff prioritized which linkages between existing parks and related facilities were most needed, and the 7 segments reflect this. *Tom Warne made a motion to accept the reduction, which was seconded by Robert Walkup. The motion carried 6-0.*

Public Safety Training Academy, three projects considered at same time – Judgmental Firearms Training Facility, Multi-purpose Training Facility, and Driver Training Facility: BPAC recommendation of \$18.8 million combined was reduced to \$0

A couple of Committee members focused on the Judgmental Firearms Training Facility, citing its importance today, given what has been occurring nationally. Others noted that we do have firearms training, but it may be in various locations, not in one “regional” facility as envisioned by this project. *Robert Walkup made a motion to restore \$4.1 million for the Judgmental Firearms Training Facility. There was no second and the motion died.*

Reid Park Zoo African Expansion Phase 2: County BAC recommendation of \$10.0 million was reduced to \$8.0 million

Given that Nancy Schlegel of the Tucson Zoological Society indicated they can work with the proposed cut from \$10 million to \$8.0 million, *Tom Warne made a motion to accept the \$8.0 million (i.e., accept the reduction), which was seconded by Michael Keith. The motion carried 6-0.*

Oury Park Festival Area: BPAC recommendation of \$1.5 million was reduced to \$0

Lynne Birkinbine said Ward 1 staff had previously indicated this cut is acceptable, as long as there is still funding for the pool renovations (which there is). *Tom Warne made a motion to accept the reduction, which was seconded by Michael Keith. The motion carried 6-0.*

Downtown Theaters & Historic Cultural Landscape: BPAC recommendation of \$28.0 million was reduced to \$18.5 million

There was much discussion about the needed improvements and their priority, given the proposed funding cut. Committee members indicated, and staff confirmed, that the Eckbo landscape restoration is a priority. Recent estimates indicate there are approximately \$37 million in total needs. The members of the public involved in fundraising and in attendance at the meeting indicated they wanted flexibility in establishing how the funding can be used. Tom Warne suggested that maybe Rio Nuevo could consider participating. Michael Keith said he would like to have an opportunity to talk to Rio Nuevo about this, and suggested they set this item aside until a later date. The Committee agreed.

Tom Warne left the room at 6:15 p.m., returned at 6:20 p.m. He excused himself from the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

El Pueblo Center Improvements: BPAC recommendation of \$2.5 million was reduced to \$2.0 million

Fred Gray said the Parks and Recreation Department can work with the \$2.0 million. *Roger Pfeuffer made a motion to accept the reduction, which was seconded by Michael Keith. The motion carried 5-0.*

Jacobs Park Recreation Center: BPAC recommendation of \$4.0 million was reduced to \$0
Chair Liz Rangel reminded the Committee they had voted at the last meeting (February 11, 2015) to restore funding in the full amount of \$4.0 million. The Committee agreed and they moved to the next item in the list.

Sentinel Park – A Mountain Improvement Project: BPAC recommendation of \$2.5 million was reduced to \$1.5 million

Fred Gray said Parks and Recreation staff has revised the project scope a few times, and they can work with the \$1.5 million. *Roger Pfeuffer made a motion to accept the reduction from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million, which was seconded by Michael Keith. The motion carried 5-0.*

Fort Lowell Park Improvements (not a ranked project): BPAC recommendation of \$5 million was reduced to \$2.0 million

Fred Gray, Director, Parks and Recreation, provided a map showing the proposed Fort Lowell Park improvements. Discussion ensued. He said if the project was phased, the highest priority would be completion of the athletic fields near Glenn Street, and that these and related improvements could be completed for \$2.9 million. *Michael Keith made a motion to request that partial funding be restored to bring the total request to \$2.9 million (which is \$900,000 more than the BPAC Chairs' and County Administrator's recommendation). The motion was seconded by Roger Pfeuffer. It carried 5-0.*

The Committee asked for an update of what their total request is now. Lynne Birkinbine said they are up to approximately \$95.4 million.

Discussion returned to the subject of the Downtown Community Theaters & Historic Cultural Landscape, and the Adaptive Recreation Center. The Committee reiterated its desire to hear if the Rio Nuevo Board might be interested in funding a portion of the TCC project, and to hear more details regarding TCC project component cost estimates. Regarding the ARC, Fred Gray reiterated that while Parks would like to have \$12 million to build the project in entirety, they can build a portion of it for \$6 million, with plans to expand it. Roger Pfeuffer said that the ARC is a regional project, and he suggested they consider reinstating the additional \$6 million as such. Lynne Birkinbine said there may be opportunities for regional collaboration on the additional \$6 million, because the project serves a public health need. The Committee ran out of time, and the discussion of these two projects was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Draft Letter to Mayor and Council regarding Pima County Bond Advisory Chairs and the County Administrator's Bond Package Recommendation
This item was not discussed.
5. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Frequency, Meeting Schedule
It was decided to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at 149 N. Stone Avenue in the Transit 2nd Floor Conference Room.
7. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.