



Citizens Steering Committee (CSC)

May 27, 2009 Meeting Summary

Pima Community College Downtown Campus, Amethyst Community Room, 1255 N. Stone Avenue; 5:30 PM, Conversation & Refreshments; 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Meeting

CSC Members Present: Charlie Wachtel, Chair; Jason Brown, Vice Chair; Eunice Jacobsen; Bernadette Jilka; Darel Magee; Martina O’Brien; Bill Quiroga; Joshua Randell; Cathy Rex; Leon Solomon; Lois Roth; Gloria Townsend; Bob Wright; Vicente Zarate

CSC Members Absent: Dick DeNezza, Erik Nielsen, Ken Scoville

Staff Present:

UPD OARP Team – Chris Kaselemis, Administrator; Rebecca Ruopp, Project Manager; María Gayosso, Lead Planner; Jennifer Burdick, Planner

Ward 3 Staff – Tamara Prime, Council Aide

Technical Advisory Team – Jim Rizzi, Tucson Police Department; Karen Larkin, Parks & Recreation

Meeting Agenda & Discussions	Actions Taken/ Follow-Up Required
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions The CSC members introduced themselves by name and affiliation to the project area. Staff members and audience members introduced themselves.</p>	
<p>Regular Business</p> <p>2. March 18, 2009, and April 15, 2009, CSC Meeting Summaries – CSC members approved the summaries, with the understanding that a change will be made to the April 15, 2009 summary, under the Tucson Electric Power (TEP) Transmission Line Project, to clarify that the public’s preference at the Open House leaned towards desiring a new route for the new line, as opposed to following an existing line.</p> <p>NOTE: A CSC member asked that the May 27, 2009, meeting summary augment a point listed in the summary for the March 18, 2009, as part of the CSC announcements. In the notes describing the “City of Tucson Budget & the Proposed Elimination of Urban Planning & Design” item, the issue of lighting in the OARP area was discussed as a “low-hanging fruit” that should be addressed. The point the CSC member asked to augment relates to the funding options that can be used to install lighting. The notes indicate that infrastructure costs are paid only by the city or through grants, but in times past, infrastructure like lighting was something paid for in part by the property owners. This option, along with the others, needs to be considered when recommending lighting for the OARP area.</p> <p>3. CSC Announcements and Membership – Lois Roth indicated that she is going back East for the summer months and this would be her last meeting. It was generally agreed that Lois could stay in contact via email to participate in development of the draft OARP document in the months to come.</p> <p>4. Updates and Announcements –</p> <p>■ Historic Miracle Mile Open House & Tour – UPD Staff OARP Project Manager Rebecca Ruopp provided a quick overview of the 2nd Annual Historic Miracle Mile Open House & Tour, held on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Pictures taken during the event highlighted the variety of activities planned</p>	<p>Approved by a 14-0 vote.</p>



for the event, which drew approximately 500 people to the Oracle area. A debriefing for those involved in the planning will be held in the near future. The Gateway Business Alliance is looking forward to assuming the planning and coordination of the annual Historic Miracle Mile Open House & Tour events.

A copy of the presentation can be viewed online at www.tucsonaz.gov/planning/oarp.

■ **Award from Pima Community College – UPD Staff & Jason Brown, CSC Vice-Chair**

OARP Project Manager Rebecca Ruopp shared that the Pima Community College Downtown Campus awarded the City of Tucson OARP Project Team their 2009 Community Partner Gem Award at their May 11, 2009, End of Year Recognition Ceremony. Jason Brown, CSC Vice Chair and Assistant to the President of PCC's Downtown Campus, provided information about the award and selection process. Each year, a community partner that has demonstrated exceptional service and commitment to the community is selected to receive the Gem Award. The PCC Selection Committee felt that the obvious choice for 2009 was the OARP Project Team, which is inclusive of the Citizens Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Team and Project Staff Team. The OARP Project has been a positive one for the area and done much to highlight its best features. It has involved the entire community through the efforts and dedication of its Citizens Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Team, and the City of Tucson Project Staff Team. The award resides with the OARP Project Staff Team, and images of it can be seen on the web site at: www.tuconsaz.gov/planning/oarp.

■ **Jacinto Park Dedication – Charlie Wachtel, CSC Chair**

Charlie Wachtel, CSC Chair, described the celebration that his neighborhood, the Miracle Manor Neighborhood Association, held on Saturday, May 16, 2009, to celebrate the completion of substantial improvements to Jacinto Park. The park, located on the corner of 15th Avenue and Jacinto Street, received support and funding through a number of grants to add a ramada, a basketball half-court, swings, a game table, a drinking fountain and a perimeter walking path to the park. The project is a great example of how a neighborhood can bring residents and businesses together to work with local agencies and government to enhance their community.

■ **Gateway Business Alliance – Bob Wright, Treasurer**

CSC member Bob Wright, treasurer of the recently founded Gateway Business Alliance, gave an update about the progress the group is making. Through a donation from Ward III, the GBA has some funding to help with initial costs of getting started. The GBA is a legal entity registered with the State as a non-profit corporation. The Leadership Team, in concert with the support of consultants awarded through the RTA MainStreet Business Assistance program, has developed a web site, set up a phone number, and created membership applications and publicity brochures to help market the organization.

The GBA will be hosting its debut mixer on June 4, 2009, from 5:30-7 pm, at the Executive Inn & Suites. The Leadership Team, made up of the officers and committee chairs for the GBA, put together invitations for all area businesses. A period for networking will be held from 5:30-6:15, followed by a short presentation and raffle drawing. All are welcome to attend, and everyone is invited to check out their new web site at www.gbatuscon.com.



■ **TEP Transmission Line Project – UPD Staff**

At the April 15, 2009, CSC meeting, Ed Beck gave an overview of this project. A change was requested to the meeting summary for that item pertaining to the general response of the public that attended the first Open House. CSC members asked to be kept apprized of the project's progress, and staff shared that TEP was working through their consultant, EPG, to organize the next Community Working Group meeting. No date has been confirmed yet, although June 10 or June 11 were the last dates circulated to the Community Working Group. CSC members asked that the CSC members be added to TEP's notification list.

■ **Grant Road Character Segment Workshops – UPD Staff**

Another round of Character Segment Workshops for the Grant Road widening project will be held on June 1, 3, and 4. The western segment workshop, which covers the portion of Grant Road in the OARP project area will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd, at Executive Inn & Suites, from 6-8 p.m.

■ **Summer/Fall OARP Schedule – UPD Staff**

OARP Project Manager Rebecca Ruopp proposed a revised meeting schedule for the CSC, in light of upcoming staffing changes. The following are the recommended changes, and staff will follow up to schedule the meeting dates by the June 17 CSC meeting:

- **June 17, 2009:** Meeting topic is Urban Design; Outline of Plan will be distributed
- **July:** Meeting topic is to review draft Plan
- **August:** Meeting topic is to review draft Plan
- **September & October:** Various public meetings will be held to get input on the draft Plan, including Public Open Houses, Gateway Business Alliance meeting(s), and Neighborhood Association meeting(s)
- **November:** Staff will review comments; Staff will prepare final draft plan
- **December:** Final draft plan will be put through the formal public review process, going through the Planning Commission, then the Mayor & Council

Staff will work to get drafts to the CSC two weeks in advance of any meeting.

Questions and comments were as followed:

- ♦ *CSC Member:* What is the official review process? And how will we be able to ensure that this plan will differ from others that just sit on the shelf?

Staff Response: Plans can include goals and projects that identify actual capital improvements to be undertaken. The main difference between approved plans that sit on a shelf and those that get done is the people who care about them. The more people keep pushing for the plan to be implemented, or continue to reference it, the more the plan is likely to be saved from just sitting on a shelf. For example, the Gateway Business Alliance and the neighborhood associations can be advocates of the OARP document.

Mayor Walkup and his wife, Beth, were both at the Historic Miracle Mile Open House & Tour. Beth Walkup is leading an effort that will impact social service agencies in the area. It may also help to bring about solutions to issues, such as the lack of grocery stores in the area. Through improved communications among these agencies, the need to find a location for the Community Food Bank was identified – and might lead to it coming into the Oracle area.



Break (15 minutes)

5. Circulation/Streetscape Preliminary Goals and Concepts –

OARP Project Manager Rebecca Ruopp introduced this element of the OARP document using a PowerPoint presentation. Illustrations were used to show comments collected from the visioning workshops could be incorporated into a conceptual circulation and streetscape plan for the area. Examples included building a “sense of place” through adding gateways, monuments, landscaping, shade, streetlights, bus stops and benches, and crosswalks. Where appropriate, edges of neighborhoods and transitions between residential, commercial and industrial uses could be strengthened.

One challenge for the OARP document will be that the circulation/streetscape concepts will have to be somewhat general, because the Oracle area is so large. The CSC can opt to encourage neighborhoods to develop more detailed and specific plans for their areas, however.

Questions and comments related to the discussion were as follows:

- ♦ *CSC Member:* Why is Stone Avenue highlighted only between Ft. Lowell to Grant Rd. in the slide showing how historic context and landscaping influence the sense of place?

Staff Response: The highlighting is based on information collected by Demion Clinco’s research on the historic resources in the area.

- ♦ *CSC Member:* Can we push the City to include the rest of Stone Avenue?

Staff Response: Advocates will help in this respect.

- ♦ *CSC Member:* The presentation includes images of lighting that are not allowable by current regulations and do not depict Tucson. I think that City documents should never include examples of things that aren’t appropriate or legal.

Staff Response: You make a good point. I didn’t catch that and I know you’ve raised that issue before. We will work on that.

- ♦ *CSC Member:* The old streetlamps used in the downtown area are wonderful. Especially those used on Scott Ave, just south of Congress. They have a great presence.

- ♦ *CSC Member:* The bus stop on Scott Avenue has the right materials and in general, the stops downtown are pretty.

- ♦ *CSC Member:* I think we should really focus on Oracle in this plan. Stone already has a plan.

- ♦ *Audience Member:* I have tried to use handrails while downtown and they can get so hot during the summer.

Staff Response: Accessibility and the types of materials used are important decisions.

- ♦ *CSC Member:* Bus stops only offer 1 hour of shade each day. That should be addressed somehow.

6. Discussion and Additional Information Needed – UPD Staff and CSC Members

This item blends with the questions and comments listed in Item 5 above.



7. Call to the Audience –

Only one audience member requested a moment to speak. Her comments were as follows:

- ♦ *Audience Member:* I want to use this forum to formally thank my neighbors. Over the years, I have been blessed to have good and caring neighbors. The Meet Rack has been supportive of me. Scotty and Rita have taken good care of me. The staff at Starr Gems helped me fix my fence. Creative Awards has been helpful and supportive of me. The staff at the SALC drug treatment facility check in on me regularly. And the Viacusas staff have helped nurse me to better health. All of these wonderful people deserve my thanks for their kindness and caring. Thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.