

Ward 6 Staff



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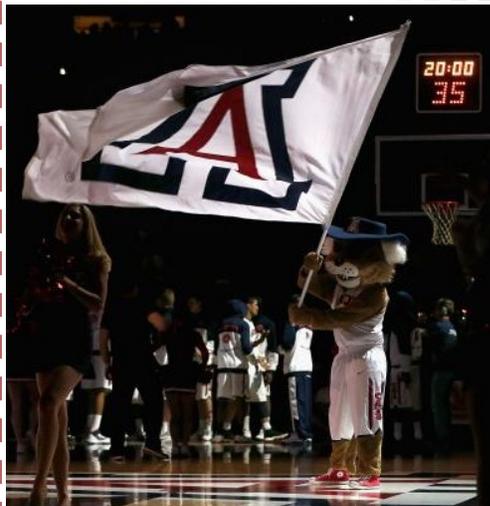
Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

March 18, 2015

In this issue...

Hoops Headed to the Dance	1
Urban Camping Ordinance	3
Broadway – A Tucson “Gateway Arterial”	3
Historical Commission	4
Sam Hughes Home and Neighborhood Tour	5
Sun Sounds of Arizona	6
Pima Animal Care Center	6
More on Dogs	7
Is your pooch “yogurt?”	8
Public Safety Pensions	8
Events and Entertainment	9



Hoops Headed to the Dance

Congratulations to Coach Miller and the team for advancing into post season again this year. UA basketball is a community event that brings us together each year around this time. We’re all hoping for another few weeks of the season. And we’re all hoping the celebrating will be appropriate.

On Tuesday we were going to be asked to adopt a “Crowd Management” measure that would allow law enforcement to proactively designate “event areas” and set into place certain guidelines relevant to those areas.

Nobody wants to see a repeat of the 4th Avenue incidents depicted below, or what happened at Main Gate last year. The intent of the proposal was legitimate, and unfortunately was based on a poor track record of drunks ruining things for the rest of the community.



The Ordinance would give the Chief of Police, in consultation with our Transportation Director, the ability to establish boundaries of what would be called an “Event



Important Phone Numbers

- Tucson Police
Department**
911 or nonemergency
791-4444
- Water Issues**
791-4133
Emergency: 791-4133
- Street Maintenance**
791-3154
- Graffiti Removal**
792-2489
- Abandoned
Shopping Carts**
791-3171
- Neighborhood
Resources**
837-5013
- SunTran/SunLink**
792-9222
- Environmental
Services**
791-3171
- Park Wise**
791-5071
- Planning and
Development
Services** 791-5550
- Pima County Animal
Control**
243-5900
- Pima County Vector
Control**
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 740-2760

Continued: A Message From Steve

area”. An “event” is defined as “100 or more persons” gathering together in a way that “requires” the coordination of law enforcement services beyond what’s normal. Once designated, there are certain actions prohibited within that area. Most of them are already illegal (destroying private property, running through a police line, removing lawfully placed traffic control devices, etc). Others are made illegal based on the context of the “event” (wearing a mask, throwing an object, operating a drone in the event area).

The justification for the Ordinance was to allow the police to establish the “event area” without having to wait for trouble to begin. The trouble I had with agreeing was simply the U.S. Constitution’s 1st Amendment, which states in part that we can’t make a law prohibiting “the right of the people peaceably to assemble...” If nobody has acted out inappropriately, I haven’t been convinced we have the right to tell people they can’t congregate based on our assumption that their intent is to take the celebration south. The “events” as they were defined in the proposed Ordinance are a function of the size of the gathering, not its focus, and not the conduct of the people involved.

While the evident intent of this Ordinance is to keep the post-season basketball celebrating in line, codifying something like this impacts any other possible event the Chief of Police and Transportation Director so designate. It could be a rally related to the State budget, an immigration related protest, or any other topic that has broad enough appeal to generate over 100 people to take part where law enforcement felt they needed to be a presence. The Ordinance would also in part give the City the right to restrict people from joining in, regardless of how people were behaving.

Under current State Law, law enforcement can declare people to be an unlawful assembly if there are “two or more other persons with the intent to engage in conduct constituting a riot.” Our Ordinance would have said if you’re 100 or more people and we think you’re going to become a problem, we’re going to restrict any more people from entering the area and apply the prohibitions listed above, among some others.

The number 100 is arbitrary, is not based on conduct, and the proposed Ordinance puts the “State” in the position of assuming intent, all before anybody has stepped out of line.

Nobody from the Council was involved in crafting this proposal. We saw it in our meeting material for the first time. I asked for the item to be withdrawn from the agenda, stating that if somebody wants us to consider something like this, that person can bring it forward in a study session for a full and open airing. I know others were concerned about how this was handled. The item was yanked from the agenda. We’ll see if it comes back the right way.

Let’s all hope the ‘Cats go all the way. And let’s support the merchants along the celebration area, not act out, and join with TPD in appropriately and respectfully showing community support for the program. I just thought the proposed Ordinance went a step too far and came to us lacking any input.

Urban Camping Ordinance



Also on the Tuesday agenda was a draft of the Urban Camping ban Ordinance I had requested. On Monday I requested an update on our progress in establishing an alternate site. Without that, I didn't think the Ordinance was ready for prime time yet. Staff has in fact extended an existing agreement with Central City Church for 90 days in order that we have someplace for people to stay other than the downtown sidewalks. In the interim, we're

continuing to look for other sites.

Based on the Court ruling that was given last week, the "camping" has been eliminated from the downtown sidewalks. Central City Church is allowing those "campers" who want to use that private property to do so for the next 90 days. They describe themselves as a "low demand" site meaning people can pretty much come as they are – an important piece of this issue. Our agreement will pay them \$20K for all staffing, maintenance, porta-johns and to cover other necessities such as blankets. The Church can use more donated goods if you have the capacity to help out.

The draft makes reference to a permit fee that is to be charged for allowed urban camping. It was mentioned in reference to camping we allow in parks by groups such as the Boy or Girl Scouts. It is not intended to be charged on the site we're looking to establish. The church site may not be that site over the long term. It was important to ensure the process for locating that site is well underway as we sign onto this Ordinance.

When we adopted the motion two weeks ago I made it clear the Denver model for this sort of Ordinance was a good starting point. It specifically states that homelessness as a status is not illegal, and all the Ordinance is addressing is conduct; that of camping on public property. It also contains protocols by which law enforcement first attempts to identify the needs of particular individuals when addressing a "camping" situation. Our proposed Ordinance contains those parts. The goal is to get it or something like it in place so we have an explicit tool to point to when confronted with large objects placed in the public rights of way. We'll be approaching the needy who are living on the street with an eye first towards assisting them in getting services they lack.

With this as a template, I was sensitive to the rapidity with which this item came back to us after we discussed it two weeks ago. I pulled it from the agenda and will spend some time reaching out into the social service provider community and working with City staff and others to make sure what we finally end up voting on reflects a more robust and broad set of voices than we've had to this point.

The downtown area is right now cleared of the pods and other debris and Central City Church is serving as a temporary alternate site. We've got time to do this right.

Broadway – A Tucson "Gateway Arterial"

We did some work on our Major Streets & Routes (MS&R) Plan on Tuesday. While it may



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

have been rather boilerplate, the discussion included some material that will continue to be important as the Broadway design evolves.

The immediate item was for us to amend our MS&R Plan to reflect the approved Grant Road alignment. That corridor alignment was established back in 2009 and amending the Plan simply makes that document current. There will be a public meeting this week to let you see how the design planning process is going, to discuss land use planning, and the continued role of the Task Force. The meeting will be on Wednesday at the Tucson Association of Realtors, a block north of Grant on Tucson Blvd. It'll run from 5pm until 8pm and is free to attend. If you'd like more information, you can go to www.grantroad.info.

Speaking at the Grant Road meeting will be one of the consultants who has been working on the Broadway project, Phil Erickson. His emphasis is on Context Sensitive Design, so the land use part of the project is likely where his involvement will come in. He's still active with the Broadway Task Force in their design meetings.

During our MS&R update, I asked whether Grant Road is considered a "gateway" corridor. It wasn't a purely academic question as that designation brings some design standards along with it. While Grant is not considered in that category, Broadway is.



Historical Commission

Last week the Tucson Pima County Historical Commission sent the Broadway Task Force a letter advocating for minimizing the demolition of historic structures as the alignment process continues to evolve. The current proposal takes out 24 historic buildings and an additional 13 that are considered "non-contributing" but that the Commission felt were important to preserve continuity of the streetscape. In order to achieve that, they offered several recommendations. One was of particular note:

Eliminate the median, where needed, especially in Historic Districts, in accordance with City of Tucson Major Streets and Routes Plan.

In that Plan's design guidelines there's sensitivity to neighborhoods and historic areas. Here's that language:

B. General Design and Development Guidelines

9. Effects on neighborhoods and historic districts shall be considered in determining the impacts of street widenings, new transportation routes, and reclassification of streets. Such projects shall be sensitive to and compatible with the specific neighborhoods and historic districts they pass through and serve.

The specific reference to gateway routes comes under Policy 5 of the MS&R:

POLICY 5

Further the goals for scenic and gateway routes through public actions and monitoring of development regulations.

IMPLEMENTATION

A. Development Guidelines for Public Improvements of Gateway Routes

All improvements within the public right-of-way should comply with the following guidelines:

1. Landscaping of gateway routes should be required using the following guidelines:

a. Landscaped medians shall be provided on routes of more than 4 through lanes, except where the route passes through or adjacent to a historic area and the width of the roadway would intrude on the character of historic structures... (my emphasis)

Broadway, between Euclid and Country Club is bounded on the North by Rincon Heights, and Sam Hughes neighborhoods – both of which carry historic designations. That's what the TPCHC relied on in making their suggestion to minimize impacts by taking a look at medians in the Broadway design and how they match up with the MS&R design standards and their impact on historic buildings along the corridor. The proposed alignment includes several such buildings the City will have to pay to demolish under the present design.

The Commission had other suggestions. Those include:

- Shift the alignment north or south, where needed, to avoid historic buildings.
- Narrow the width of certain landscaped sections, where needed.
- Narrow the width of certain sidewalks, where needed, to ADA minimums.
- Narrow the lane width, where needed.
- Develop a zoning overlay to legally allow and encourage a variety of creative solutions to parking problems created by road widening, including, where applicable: shared / cooperative parking, shared access to parking, adapting parking to side or rear, accessing parking from side streets or alleys, etc., sensitive to the concerns of the adjacent neighborhoods.

There's still a design effort in play with respect to Broadway. I don't think many people expect to avoid taking out all of the sensitive structures, but with some creativity and commitment, I'm still confident staff and the Task Force will come out of this with a project the region will look back on with pride.

With respect to the Grant Road design process, Catalina Vista and Blenman Elm neighborhoods also both carry an historic designation. The MS&R design standards will need to be considered as they move ahead in the development of those portions of the Grant corridor.

If you see Phil at the Grant Road meeting, let him know that you care. The Broadway Citizen's Task Force meeting will be held the following evening (3/19) at 1200 N. Campbell (Our Savior's Lutheran Church.) It'll begin at 5:30pm.

Sam Hughes Home and Neighborhood Tour



sam hughes neighborhood association

Above, I mentioned that Sam Hughes neighborhood is located along the northern edge of the Broadway corridor. It also carries the distinction of being one of our

Ward 6 National Registered Historic Neighborhoods. The significance of that status is noted

in these comments found on the National Register masthead:

National Register of Historic Places Program

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

On Sunday, April 12th from noon until 5pm, the Sam Hughes folks will be hosting this year's self-guided walking tour of the one square mile neighborhood. Included this year will be eight private residences and gardens, three unique businesses (each of which will offer complimentary goodies during the tour), and a historic church. Matt Bevel will also host a gallery/workshop. He's just finishing up a show at the Tucson Museum of Art.

You can get tickets to the tour on the day of the event out in front of Rincon Market (Tucson Blvd and 6th Street). If you'd like to save that stop on the 12th, you can also get them ahead of time beginning on April 1st over at Arte de la Vida at 37 N Tucson Blvd (west side of the road) Monday through Saturday from 10am until 5pm, and Sunday from noon until 4pm. They've got an active website, so to check on this tour, the Broadway widening, the Himmel Park library landscape project, or general Sam Hughes information, you can at www.samhughes.org.

Sun Sounds of Arizona

More Broadway happenings.

Out at the east end of Broadway is another kind of community engagement. Sun Sounds of Arizona is using all of 2015 to celebrate its 30th birthday. Sun Sounds is a group of very committed workers (1 full time, 4 part time and 100+ volunteers) who provide free radio reading service, as well as taped readings of newspapers and other current print material, every day, all day, all year long. Their clients, who range in age from single digit to triple digits, include the blind or visually impaired, physically or learning challenged, or simply those who are experiencing reading troubles for whatever reason. Sun Sounds connects them to current events.

The volunteers work involves reading, recording and engineering the programs. If you'd like to see what they're all about, Station Manager Mitzi Tharin is opening the doors for personal behind the scene tours so you can see how they put the "show" together. To set up the studio visit, give them a call between 9am and 3pm, Monday through Friday at 296.2400. They're located out at 7290 E. Broadway. You can also use that same phone number if you've got somebody in mind who could use their services.

As with all non-profits, this group thrives on community support. If you can read, you can help. If you've got the desire and ability to offer some financial support, that's always an option, too.

Pima Animal Care Center

"If you save one dog you won't change the world, but surely the world will change for that"

one dog”

That’s a quote one of our Ch.12 workers has taped to her computer screen. It’s left from the days when the City produced a pet adoption show called “Pet Connection.”



A few weeks ago when I reported in a newsletter that PACC was offering free adoptions through the month of March, Lety (Ch. 12) tweeted out the information. A woman quickly replied that she’d be going down the next day to look for a new service dog. The new family member is who’s pictured above.

Thanks to Lety for sharing the information and to Judy for taking the cue and saving the pooch. We at the Ward 6 Office wish the new couple a long and happy time together.

More on Dogs

If you read this newsletter regularly, you’ll know that I’d characterize the adopted State budget as a dog. No offense is intended to our furry friends in that, though. There was a sliver of good news in one of the reductions in spending that didn’t make the media radar screen. The State will no longer be using General Fund money to fund a ‘Breeder’s Award’ for Arizona horse and greyhound breeders.

The amount paid for that has been as much as \$250K annually, with about 20% of that going to greyhound breeders. As recently as a couple of years ago there were 14 Arizona greyhound breeders who received the cash. It has been a subsidy helping to keep the greyhound racing industry up and running.

The reference to “Racing” is another small change associated with what’s coming out of this Legislative session. Through SB1480, the Arizona Department of Racing is being rolled into the Department of Gaming. They’re doing away with the Director of Racing and placing that position under the Gaming Department as a Deputy Director. I don’t know if that’ll make access to injury reports from Tucson Greyhound Park any more transparent than it has been under the current ADOR administration, but it certainly can’t get any cloudier than it is right now.

The change also makes clear that the reason greyhound racing still exists at all is not for the sport of it, but for the gaming industry. This change might set the stage for ending live racing in Arizona, shutting down Tucson Greyhound Park, and continuing the gaming element through simulcast races shown at Off Track Betting locations. If that happened, it’d be a positive step as one more live racing venue would cease to exist.

To the extent the Racing Commission is more divorced from any involvement with gaming, that might open more transparent oversight into the track and kennel conditions out at TGP for as long as it continues operating.

The State is still using the General Fund to offer a “hardship tax credit” to Tucson Greyhound Park. That benefit wasn’t eliminated. Nor is there legislation moving this session that

would allow TGP to stop live racing, and let it turn into a simulcast venue only. Perhaps next legislative term.

And finally, is your pooch “yogurt?”



Kim Kelly’s an anthropology doctoral student at the UA.



This is her with her best friend, Katie.

Kim and colleagues at the UA are studying the physiological effect dogs have on their partners. So what’s the “yogurt” reference? Just this –

Our digestive systems have both “good” and “bad” bacteria. The good ones are called probiotics. They help to keep our intestines healthy, and they assist us in digesting our food. Yogurt can help to enhance the work of probiotics in our body.

Kim and her group is going to study whether having puppies in your life has the same effect on us that probiotics do. Does living with a dog encourage those positive bacteria to the extent they improve our physical and mental health. To find out, they’re partnering with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, pairing test subjects with a dog companion and watching the effects over three months.

I could save Kim and her study group the trouble – of course they’ll find out that being around puppies has a positive effect. But let’s let them go through the motions to learn what those of us who are soft touches for pooches already know.

Public Safety Pension

The State made some legislative changes to the Police/Fire pension system. The changes reduced the benefits to recipients, were challenged in court, and were reversed. That’s not a surprise since the State Constitution clearly says the Legislature may not diminish a person’s pension. Each is an individual contract.

The result of the lawsuit is that the City will have to add another \$18M to our out-of-pocket costs to fund that system. The Pension Board gave us until the end of March to decide whether or not we wanted to commit to the full amount this fiscal year, or to phase-in the payments over three years. Doing the phase-in would end up costing us an additional \$6M over the term of the payments.

There’s another lawsuit pending that will likely add even more to our funding commitment. All we know is that the Court won’t be making that decision during the upcoming

fiscal year. We suspect the financial impact will be similar to the additional \$18M we're faced with now.

Either way (pay the \$18M now, or phase it in), we're going to have to find the money from a combined set of sources. Some will probably have to come from our Stabilization Fund (rainy day fund). Some may be in an inter-fund loan between the General Fund and other departments. We'll also have money from our vehicle impoundment fees and land sales. I do not support other debt restructuring options as those will only increase our interest payments and hurt us with lending agencies. What I do support is this M&C committing to re-funding any of the money that comes out of the rainy day fund through excess budget capacity as it comes available, as soon as it does so. Our standing with Bond rating agencies is a serious issue for long term borrowing.

I mention this here only as a precursor to the more detailed budget references that'll be coming in the next couple of months. This \$6M will be coming from somebody's allocation. We will have another tough budget year ahead of us, not made any easier by the work up at the State by the way. I join my colleagues in our mutual commitment to continuing the progress we've made fiscally as we work out from the recession, realizing that State driven obligations to fund the public safety pension program is a growing portion of what we'll be challenged to consider.

The Arizona League of Cities and Towns is working with several public safety unions and legislators to try to craft a work-around solution to take to the voters. The current President of the State Senate, Andy Biggs, is said to be the roadblock to making significant progress in that collaborative effort. If the collaboration works, it could be a very big win for Plan participants over the long term and to our budget as well. If Biggs is successful, we all lose. There are a lot of people working in support of the collaboration.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events and Entertainment

What's happening in Ward 6 and Tucson...

Preparing for and Coping with Extreme Heat and Electrical Outages

Ward 6 Office, 3202 E. 1st St.

Saturday, March 21, 2015, 1 pm – 3 pm

Join us for an important workshop from the Physicians for Social Responsibility's Building Resilient Communities Committee on how to best prepare for extreme heat emergencies.

RSVP to Grace Rich, President of the North University Neighborhood Association at (520) 622-5659.

4th Avenue Spring Street Fair

4th Ave. between 9th St. and University Blvd.

March 20 – 21, 2015, 10 am – 6 pm

Free to the public, the Fourth Avenue Street Fair brings together 400+ arts and crafts booths, 35+ food vendors, Main Stage, street musicians, food, jugglers, street performers, the ever so popular Free Kids hands-on-art Pavilion. There is face painting, balloons, demonstrations, sidewalk entertainment and tons of other fun activities.

<http://www.fourthavenue.org/fairs/general-information/>

Arizona Chamber Music Festival

Leo Rich Theatre, 260 S. Church Ave.

Sunday, March 15 — Sunday, March 22, 2015

There's still time to catch the renowned Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival. As always, Festival director, Peter Rejto, offers a stimulating mix of familiar and unfamiliar, old and new, in the best tradition of the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music. Find tickets and a schedule of performances at: <http://www.arizonachambermusic.org/festival-series.html>

Ongoing

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St

<http://hotelcongress.com>

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd

<http://www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm>

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org>

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd

February 7, 2015– January 31 2016, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

'**Meet the Trilobites - Arizona's First Inhabitants**' - Long before the dinosaurs ruled the earth, the trilobites ruled the seas. Ancient relatives of lobsters and horseshoe crabs, trilobites flourished in the warm seas that covered much of Arizona millions of years ago.

Meet the Trilobites – Arizona's First Inhabitants, the new exhibit at the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, features world-class trilobite fossils from around the globe. Come travel back in time and discover the wondrous world of trilobites!

<http://www.uamineralmuseum.org/>

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave

<http://www.arizonatheatre.org/>

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave

www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St (north entrance on Toole)

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Hotel Congress Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight trains passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday, year round.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org>

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childernsmuseumtucson.org

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd

November 9, 2013, through July 2015, “Curtis Reframed: The Arizona Portfolios.”

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu