

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

MARCH 23, 2011

A Message from Steve

One of the more interesting parts of serving you on the council is the variety of topics in which we get involved. So many of them have a significant impact on the daily lives of Tucson residents, and in fact on the lives of region-wide residents. That was true again of our agenda for Tuesday.

An item that many of us on council have been bringing back again and again surrounds the whole issue of how we can kick-start private sector development in the city. That is the ultimate key to our pulling ourselves up out of these slow economic times. On Tuesday, we again received an update from the City Manager's office on some of the tools we are putting in place, and some that are already in place to incentivize private sector successes. Some involve waivers, deferrals or credits back to employers. Some involve easing some of the building standards (setbacks, loading, and parking.) Some are restricted to certain areas of the city (downtown core being the most identifiable.) It should not be assumed that each of these items will be a 'fit' for any particular business trying to relocate, or open a new store in Tucson. One size does not fit all, and it is going to be the challenge for the City Manager's office to engage potential clients, walk them through the evolving list of incentives and find those that are the best fit, not over promising, and not leaving options on the table that might have turned the deal. Today's was a good update - more to come in the days ahead as this list of options gets put into final form.

The City Clerk gave an informative presentation on the impact of an all mail election process. There are equipment, staffing and venue specific issues that are making the current hybrid system (we allow both mail and in person voting) costly to conduct. There are marginal cost savings from running elections on an all-mail ballot process. Audit processes would need to be changed, and yet there is already a good framework in place from which to build a larger, secure audit procedure. However, we are talking about making a significant change in the manner in which people cast their ballots. For that reason, we have scheduled for April 5th a public hearing to allow members of the electorate an opportunity to come to M&C chambers (City Hall, 255 W. Alameda) and let their voices be heard on this important issue. The meeting will begin just after 5:30 p.m. If you



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance

791-3154

Planning and
Development

Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus

Hotline

243-7999

Environment

Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish

628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

have a strong position on this topic, make plans to come in and present your case. My gut tells me not to mess with peoples' franchise, but my head recognizes the potential savings over time if we were to adopt this change. Come on the 5th and let us know what you're preferences are.

I anticipate a vote on the topic that night.

We had a good, albeit brief update on the Streetcar. Contracts are being let, bids for some of the capital is now in hand, and the project appears to be moving along at the right pace. With that in mind, I had three general areas of concern:

- a) Project timeline slippage
- b) Project budget
- c) Project coordination

With respect to "a", the city confirms that, while there may be slippage in some areas, the overall project plan is in effect and at this time all targets are going to be met.

With respect to "b", we have secured both RTA and Federal funding for the project.

There are still the two outstanding issues with which I am concerned related to funding: unfunded parts of the overall project, and the issue of long term Operations and Maintenance for the project once it's operating. The good news is that some initial bids came in \$3M below the budgeted amounts. Dirt will start to turn this summer so we need to get our arms around these funding and budget issues prior to that. Another huge item related to the streetcar that I will continue to harp on is the project phasing so that important events such as the 4th Avenue Street Fair and some downtown parades will be not be negatively impacted by a failure to plan the project schedule in advance. Staff is working diligently to make sure those hic-ups don't occur.

There is a Senior Housing Group (SHG) project that is scheduled to break ground later this year. It is being Master Planned locally by Gadsden LLC. The city and county also have roles to play in this project. On Tuesday, we spent the better part of an hour reviewing the project, its challenges and its potential. It is a complicated and lengthy Development Agreement, one that I am not satisfied reflects the best interests for the community. So, on Tuesday, we voted to give an extension of a land sale portion of the agreement in order to allow all parties to finish their work, and in the process to assist SHG in accessing some grant money. The vote also included the commitment by the City Manager to open the current Development Agreement and renegotiate it in a way that serves the community well. At the very least I want to see any credited money offered as incentives to Gadsden to be reinvested into the project, not taken as profit by the LLC. I also want to see the Development Agreement contain much more specific language that identifies the "who", "what", "when", and "what if they don't get it done", answers to each critical path item in the project. The project can be a good start for west end development. But it has to be managed well or we stand the chance of it simply being yet another in the long line of Rio Nuevo black eyes the city has endured. The M&C



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404

Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Bob Walkup
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

will stay tuned to how the work moves along.

Parking regulations were altered during Tuesday's meeting. Two weeks ago a series of new parking rules was presented to us, and in that same meeting some bicycle parking language was offered. Given that that was the first time any of us had seen the bike parking item, we continued the item until last Tuesday. I stated at the time that I felt the bike parking rules were too restrictive and burdensome on businesses. They included an In-Lieu fee for businesses who could not meet the new code requirements, sheltered parking in some cases, downtown and 4th Avenue rules, and more. During the interim, members of the Bicycle Advisory Council met with city staff and others to come to a solution. Going into the meeting I had expected to hear complaints from the business community about the standards being considered. Instead, there were four people who spoke on behalf of the private sector in favor of the new rules. There were none who came out in opposition to the new regulations. Given that consensus, I voted with the rest of M&C to adopt the new rules. I still feel the new rules will create some problems for a limited number of business start-ups. But the people who drew up the changes heard loudly and clearly that what we began with was too restrictive. The new rules were adopted unanimously, not only by council, but by every person who was sitting in council chambers during the public hearing. To be counted, you've got to be present.

Finally, we appoint members from the community to a variety of Boards, Committees and Commissions. My co-worker in the ward office, Donovan Durband, put together the following job listing related to one very important appointment that we're actively recruiting. "We are looking to fill a vacancy on the Transit Task Force, which is an important advisory body to the City of Tucson. The TTF has provided valuable guidance on the Sun Tran fare structure and other operational aspects of our local transit operations, and will continue to do so as we move into yet another difficult budget year for the City. We are looking for an individual who is fair, thoughtful, and open to seeking solutions to the challenges of running an efficient, user-friendly transit system during a time of great budget stress. The task force meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Downtown. If you are interested in serving, please contact us at the Ward 6 office with a letter of interest at ward6@tucsonaz.gov, including some information on your background, and any relevant knowledge or experience you have in this area."

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6

Transit Task Force

We are looking to fill a vacancy on the Transit Task Force, which is an important advisory body to the City of Tucson. The TTF has provided valuable guidance on the Sun Tran fare structure and other operational aspects of our local transit operations, and will continue to do so as we move into yet another difficult budget year for the City. We are looking for an individual who is fair, thoughtful, and open to seeking solutions to the challenges of running an efficient, user-friendly transit system during a time of great budget stress. The task force meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm Downtown. If you are interested in serving, please contact us at the Ward 6 office with a letter of interest, including some information on your background, and any relevant knowledge or experience you have in this area. Please send your letter of intent to ward6@tucsonaz.gov.

PROPOSED TRANSIT FARE INCREASE PUBLIC MEETINGS

The City of Tucson Department of Transportation will host six open houses for public review and comment on the proposed transit fare increase. Representatives from the City of Tucson, Sun Tran, and Sun Van will be available to answer questions and concerns regarding the proposed increase.

The open houses are scheduled as follows:

- **Saturday, March 26, 2011 – 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Ward 1 Office, 940 W. Alameda**
- **Monday, March 28, 2011 – Noon to 1:30 p.m., Randolph Recreation Center, 200 S. Alvernon**
- **Monday, March 28, 2011 – 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, 101 W. Irvington**
- **Wednesday, March 30, 2011 – 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., TPD westside substation, 1310 W. Miracle Mile**
- **Wednesday, March 30, 2011 – 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m., Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana**
- **Thursday, March 31, 2011 – 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Ward 2 Office, 7575 E. Speedway**

If you need more information and are not able to attend an open house, please contact Public Information Officer, Michael Graham, at 791-4371.

Requests for reasonable accommodation should be made to Jeri Ward at 520-791-4371 at least five days in advance of the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TDD number is (520) 791-2639.

The community is cordially invited to a public art reception featuring the works of Tucson Hebrew Academy Students

Wednesday, March 30, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E. 1st Street. For additional information visit:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/3-23-11%20THA%20flyer.pdf>

Student's artwork will be on display March 30 - May 10



Garden District Neighborhood Association Annual Yard Sale

When: Saturday March 26, **Where:** The location is 4460 E. Pima St. Time: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
For questions or to secure a space to sell, please contact Lois at 325-7611.

Watershed Management Group just won YouTube's 2011 Nonprofit Video Award for Best Thrifty Video for our tippy tap video "It's in Your Hands"! The video, produced by WMG India staff, was featured on the YouTube homepage and can be viewed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdpd3roZjYw>

Tippy taps are a life-saving device. 1,000 children die each day in India because of diarrhea, and nearly half of those deaths can be prevented with handwashing with soap - an option not readily available in many rural communities. Tippy taps are a simple, low-tech device that anyone can assemble. They use hardly any water and help sanitize hands to save lives. To find out more, visit www.tippytap.org.

Annual UA Mortar Board Neighborhood Clean-up

Mark your calendar for Sat., March 26 and we are looking for volunteers. This is your chance to join community members beautify our Tucson Neighborhoods. For more information visit <http://www.mortarboardarizona.org/cleanupcrew>

2nd Annual Festival En El Barrio Viejo

Come see what still stands in Barrio Viejo neighborhood on Saturday, March 26 as the neighborhood hosts the Calexico's annual KXCI 91.3 fundraiser.

http://www.rialtotheatre.com/news/archives/2011/02/final_lineup_an.html

"Tucson Has Heart" Mementos Available for Purchase

Posters and postcards with the helicopter-level view of the "Tucson Has Heart" formation are now available at all Tucson Quik Mart stores. On February 13, Tucsonans came together to form the outline of a giant red heart in the outfield of Hi Corbett Field, and a helicopter captured a colorful image which is now memorialized on posters and postcards. Posters are \$10, and postcards are 10 for \$10, with all proceeds benefiting victims of the January 8 shootings. Pick up your keepsake from this special event, and support a great cause!

