



Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



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Bonnie Medler

Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

APRIL 27, 2011

We had a full agenda today at Mayor & Council and didn't make it all the way through. What we did address will touch the lives of every taxpayer in the valley. You've got to engage the process since so much of what we do hits your pocketbook.

First I want to clarify a couple of misunderstandings related to the Streetcar "Stops" on which public art is going. You had sticker shock when you saw the amount of money being spent on the art pieces in a recent Arizona Daily Star article (over \$700K in total). What you need to know is that the level of funding is fixed by a city policy that was adopted in 2006. It stipulates that for Capital Projects, one percent of the project cost is allocated to public art. That money comes out of the project budget, not the general fund. This Mayor and Council is bound by that policy unless and until it is changed - a process that takes the votes of four Council Members. Another part of the story that needs a little clarity is the fact that none of the pieces will be approved until each has gone through a public vetting process, a process that includes members of the community as well as a selection committee formed by Tucson-Pima Art's Council (TPAC) for that purpose. No piece will be chosen sight unseen. And finally, why put them on only eight of the 17 stops? Because the stops are located very close to one another and the decision was made to enhance those locations anticipated to have the heaviest traffic. Yet, at the same time spread them throughout the route. If you would like to be a part of the review process, contact the Tucson Pima Arts Council and they'll get you involved.

One of the causes of the apparent low-level of trust that is sometimes expressed towards the City is the recent history of Rio Nuevo and the mismanagement of funds, much of which has been with capital building projects. We know the story of the underpass that escalated in cost from \$31M to over \$46M and the design and redesign, and redesign of a bridge project. Today we had a lengthy discussion of the Change Order process that is used for managing City construction projects. I believe the concern over scrutinizing costs is absolutely valid. What I do not believe is valid is to force department heads or project managers to seek Mayor & Council approval ahead of implementing change orders in their work. That level of micromanagement would, without question, cost the taxpayers millions of dollars in lost time and tie up staff preparing supporting documentation for our approval. Far too many decisions must be made in the field or within short timelines to allow for a lengthy approval process. But there must be accountability and clear roles of responsibility.



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

Today, the council came too close to setting in place unworkable and costly roadblocks to an efficient project management system, but ended up making it clear to staff that we want a fully transparent process in place in which there are clear points of accountability. We'll have more time on this subject in the near term.

City of Tucson workers are taking the equivalent of a 3.5% pay reduction as a result of 9 furlough days per year. The implementation of a furlough day policy must be tied to an identifiable budgetary need that can demonstrably show that all other options (within reason) have been employed prior to the furlough plan. If City management cannot show the furloughs are the last resort, the City is vulnerable to a lawsuit under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

So, furloughs are necessarily tied to the budget. In a totally apolitical world, an agency would adopt a structurally balanced budget that would allow for furloughs to be eliminated when the economics of the budget allowed for that to occur. Despite the fact that we have made deep cuts to the City budget, we have not made them at a level sufficient to be able to afford eliminating furloughs. Last fall, the Council cut over \$15M from public safety, a good start in the right direction of balancing our budget. And yet in February Mayor & Council adopted a budget framework that didn't go the rest of the way in terms of reaching a structurally balanced budget. Council wants to push over \$9M in debt forward, suggested a level of growth that does not match existing trends, did not have the political will to increase bus fares to the level recommended by our Citizen's Transit Task Force, and has said that we will cut zero dollars from the transit system. Add to that the fact that in the City Manager's proposed FY'12 budget, the general fund allocation for transit is increasing to just under \$40M. So we will get to the required budget cuts by default; that is, sign onto a framework that eliminates furloughs, and thereby force ourselves into adopting a balanced budget in order to afford them. I think that's backwards. In our homes we do not avoid paying our monthly credit card bill in order to fully fund our kids' allowances. We pay our bills first.

So today Council moved to endorse a framework by which furloughs will eventually be returned - based on cuts in wages, staffing or service, or some combination of those - as long as we maintain a 6% rainy day fund (our policy is a 17% reserve/rainy day fund). Note the word "endorse" does not equal "adopt." We did not adopt the plan today, but will wait until mid-fall when the finance director has the mid-year audit report in hand that will give us a better idea of where we stand financially. What is important for the public to know is that we cannot, by law, continue furlough days. What is important for us as Council to act on are sound fiscal principles, and to follow the words of Winston Churchill who said "we have run out of money and now we must think." No sacred cows, nothing off the table, and no sacrificing principle for short term gain. The FY'12 budget proposal we have in front of us does not return a penny towards road repair, no reinstatement of Back to Basics neighborhood redevelopment funds, maintains 17 pool closures, includes no money for important infrastructure repairs and upgrades - but the Council has identified transit as the one area that is exempt from any cuts what so ever. We're spending your money. Hold us accountable.



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)

Hold that thought about transit –

One piece of this budget issue that I find particularly troubling is that we continue to watch the general fund allocation going to the bus system, and yet nobody from City management has sat together with representatives from the RTA and Sun Tran, in the same room, at the same time to work on building efficiencies into the system. Fuel costs are rising, labor costs went up last year, maintenance and operations costs are escalating - the parties have got to come together with the combined goal of making the system more efficient. We cannot sit by and watch millions of dollars be allocated to a transit system that runs nearly 1/2 of its riders on a low-income fare, and the co-managing partners have not focused together on how to make the system work more efficiently. I applaud the Citizen's Transit Task Force members for volunteering their time and expertise in working for solutions. You deserve the same effort from the paid managers of the system.

Let me end on an up note. In January of 2010, in one of my first losing votes, Mayor & Council voted to increase Real Estate fees, one of which is called a Temporary Revocable Easement (TRE). That is a non-refundable fee you pay to have the City review an application for you to build on city property. The fee went from \$200 to \$5,000 in that vote. Here is a real life example: a person builds a carport that extends 10" into the city right-of-way. He is told that he can buy that sliver of ground @ \$350, but in order to apply for that right, he needs to pay the \$5K TRE fee - without any assurance that even if he makes the application, it will be granted. So I am pleased to report that tonight, a year too late, we gave staff direction to draft an ordinance that allows the Real Estate Director the authority to reduce or eliminate the TRE from purchases of property in which there is a disproportionate value between the property and the fee. One small step for mankind...

I want to introduce you all to our newest team member, Bonnie Medler. I'm happy to say that I stole her from Oro Valley. She brings a wonderful skill set to the office, as well as a demeanor that will give you all a lift when you meet her. Here's Bonnie: [Hello, my name is Bonnie Medler and I am very excited to be working with the Ward 6 Council Office and with Councilmember Kozachik. I have a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Arizona. Before coming to the City of Tucson, I had been interning with the Town of Oro Valley's Economic Development Department for over a year and a half. I am so excited to use my skills and knowledge to help the people, neighborhoods, and businesses of Ward 6 thrive and prosper.](#)

Sincerely,

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

Helluvagoodtime Funraiser – A No Speeches party to support science and literacy education in Arizona Schools via Champions for Change

Jane Poynter and Taber MacCallum's Warehouse - 831 E. 17th St. (across the street from the 17th St. Market) \$20 minimum donation, Saturday, April 30th, 6:30

Music, dancing food, drink - come enjoy and support literacy education. RSVP at 271-8686

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/photo.php?fbid=1949174764807&set=o.205844842770606&type=1>

First Thursday Art Walk

The First Thursday Art Walk is a monthly event to promote local art including sculpture, paintings, crafts, glass art, furniture art, culinary art, media art, and the performing art. You will find performances and art outside and inside merchant venues. Please pick up a map at Pasco Kitchen & Lounge, Red Velvet Cupcakery, Auld Dubliner, or Gentle Ben's for a list of artists and venues. Main Gate Square is located between Park & Euclid on University Boulevard and between 2nd & 4th on Park Avenue and features 31 restaurants & cafes and over 25 shops and salons.

Dates: May 5, 2011, Time: 5-8 PM, Place Main Gate Square-On University Boulevard between Park & Euclid, Price: Free & Open to the Public, Contact: Jane McCollum [520-622-8613](tel:520-622-8613)

Earth Day Festival at the Children's Museum

Saturday, April 30th 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. Free Admission

<http://www.childrensmuseumtucson.org/component/content/article/1-events/110-earth-day->

Tucson Fashion Week

Tucson Fashion Week Spring 2011 is taking over downtown! This spectacular four-day event is a celebration of the best fashion design, retail and art our city has to offer. Taking place Wednesday, April 27 to Saturday, April 30, it will be full of edgy parties, incredible fashion shows, a premier lineup of music from local bands and deejays, fabulous networking opportunities with local designers, hairstylists, makeup artists, photographers and much more. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit this year's selected beneficiaries, the Old Pueblo Children's Academy and Skrappy's Youth Center. For additional information visit:

<http://www.tucsonfashionweek.net/>

Tucson Clean and Beautiful – Adopt-a-Park and Public Areas Program

Tucson Clean and Beautiful is seeking community volunteers to adopt parks, streets, washes, and other available public areas on an ongoing basis. Volunteer groups are asked to commit to monthly cleanups, at least twice a month for parks and at least once a month for streets and washes. In return, groups are recognized with a sign and a ceremony at their adopted site. Community organizations and businesses with a minimum of 5 interested members can apply for adopting a site. Many types of community groups are eligible, including civic associations, schools, neighborhood associations, religious groups, military groups, and scout groups. Tucson Clean and Beautiful welcomes volunteer groups of all ages and will help select an appropriate site.

To become a part of Tucson Clean and Beautiful's environmental stewardship efforts and for more information visit www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org, email adoptapark@tucsonaz.gov or call 791-3109.

Common Ground Awards Nominations Sought

Metropolitan Pima Alliance is seeking applicants for its seventh annual Common Ground Awards ceremony! MPA's Common Ground Awards recognizes community leaders, projects, and events with successful collaboration for the overall benefit of the community. **This event places special emphasis on collaboration that is atypical and falls outside of the normal day-to-day processes.** Whether it is land development, economic development, or community development, it is pertinent for all parties to find common ground and the Board-selected winners are bestowed their Common Ground Award at this annual banquet ceremony attended by hundreds.

Process: 1) Nominations will be received until **June 24th**.

Here is the link: <http://mpaaz.org/nomination-form>

Your voice is important to Imagine Greater Tucson and is essential to the future of our region.

Imagine Greater Tucson invites neighbors, employers and employees, educators, environmentalists, nonprofits, government leaders and cultural interests to attend one of the three upcoming scenario-building workshops.

Wednesday, May 18

Tucson Convention Center
260 S. Church Ave.
Copper Ballroom
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Workshop: 6-8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24

Hilton El Conquistador Resort
10000 N. Oracle Road
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Workshop: 6-8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25

Diamond Center
I-19 and Pima Mine Road
Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Workshop: 6-8:15 p.m.

Please register online at: www.imaginegreatertucson.org