

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Christal Ferree



Bonnie Medler



Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

MAY 18, 2011

Before getting into the meat of this week's Council meeting, I need to offer a correction to last week's newsletter. Attached is a link to the table I sent out that described the budget cuts/increases relative to our core services. Last week's link contained some typos. I apologize for not having taken the time to more closely scrutinize what went out.

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/Budget1.pdf>

In addition, as you know there is a bit of a divide on the Council in terms of whether or not we're going to reallocate any dollars from the General Fund subsidy that goes to Sun Tran for the purpose of road repair. The Assistant City Manager has told us that if we invest \$1.8M earmarked for that purpose, we could assign a crew to year-round work on street maintenance. Attached is a map of the City that shows the condition of roads across the valley. It is striking and speaks to the need for this Mayor and Council to address this very important safety issue.

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/RPPC.pdf>

Finally, before getting into the Council agenda I want to share with you an opportunity that exists for local businesses to avail themselves of SBA loans. The Microbusiness Advancement Center (MAC) hosts the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). This is a program through which clients of MAC improve their capacity to borrow and increase their success rate of loan approvals. In the first six months of this year, the SBA funded loans totaling nearly \$340M in Arizona. If you are an individual entrepreneur who has a vision and lacks the financial backing to kick start its realization, contact MAC at 620-1241 and ask about how they might be able to assist you in applying for the funds you need. Capital is increasingly being made available to qualified borrowers. The MAC / SBDC can help walk you through the process and in fact enhance your ability to obtain the dollars you're after.

In the past couple of weeks, I have been able to report to you some good news examples of development filling arterial locations and developers working in conjunction with surrounding neighborhoods to take into consideration their concerns. Tonight we passed another example of such a building project. It will be the remodeling of Broadway Village at the corner of Broadway and Country Club. The Village was the first shopping center ever built in Tucson, dating back to the late 1930's. This week we passed a development plan that will include preservation of



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

two existing buildings, adding two more, and taking into consideration concerns raised over noise, traffic, light and parking issues. El Encanto, Colonia Solana, and Sam Hughes Neighborhood Associations each spoke in favor of the project. The work will soon begin, which means jobs as well as reactivating that corner with appropriate development. I'm thankful to all of the parties who were involved.

Also in the economic development area, we heard a very comprehensive report today by Joe Snell and David Welsh from Tucson Regional Economic Opportunity (TREO). The emphasis of today's discussion was how we create cluster development around the Aerospace and Defense sector here in Tucson and the surrounding region. We have the basic framework to catalyze success in that area; Raytheon, the University of Arizona, DMAFB, the UA Science, and Tech Park are all up and running and viable. We can build on those existing successes, and the Board of Directors and Chairman's Circle members who form the nucleus of TREO's advisory group is key. The private sector, academia, research and public sector are all represented on those Boards. The high-paying jobs targeted by their marketing efforts will be critical not only to our pulling out from the current recession but for our continued economic health in the years to come.

Another item we discussed that relates to the economy is the progress in the design of the Streetcar. Since Day One of my serving on the Council, I have voiced concerns over several elements of this project. I have also voiced specific steps the City must take if the Streetcar is going to be anything other than another financial drain on our General Fund. **Some numbers:**

- Project cost estimate is now \$196M
- Current funding shortfall is now \$23M (with an additional \$3M due from a private developer who may not have that capacity by the time we need the funding.)
- Projected cost to operate is just under \$3M per year.
- Projected ridership is 4,000 per day (that's 400 per hour over a 10 hour operating day.)

Run the math and you'll see that if the fares are the same as what exist on Sun Tran, if we draw 4,000 riders per day, and if the ratio of low-income to full-fare riders is the same as that experienced by Sun Tran, we'll lose over \$4,000 per day in operations, alone. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we must be about the task of zoning and readying parcels along the corridor or the General Fund will suffer even more deeply than the already escalating \$40M per year that Sun Tran costs. Various elements of the project are still being designed. That may be good news if costs come in below what our projected budget numbers are. However, that dynamic could also work against us. With that in mind, I will continue to push for the most efficient project management we can provide for the Streetcar - location of new funding sources and the development of private sector projects along the arterials of the corridor.

More about your money. On Tuesday we identified the need for a \$40M bond package, the proceeds from which will go to fund water system related projects. The Water Director, Andy Quigley correctly pointed out this week that you cannot operate a



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)

delivery system that is as vast as ours on a cash-only basis. So, some level of bond offering is needed. Yet whatever package finally emerges from this process must minimize excess float and represent actual needs, not “wants,” with regard to our ability to continue to deliver a quality product to your homes. Readers of this newsletter will also recall that I have advocated for the City to return to the RTA Board and restart discussions about who pays the costs of utility relocations associated with RTA projects. While the City certainly can not compel shifting those costs back over to the RTA (where they began), at Mayor and Council I asked that staff at least work with the RTA Board to identify a water-related project that will benefit the whole region while at the same time we try to work out the “cost shift” deal. Of the \$40M package, approximately \$9M is directly related to RTA work. I asked that RTA take at least a one-year hiatus on the cost shift and absorb this year's costs in its own \$150M bond package. If the City can identify a \$9M water project in the immediate future that benefits the entire region, we'll have the debt capacity built into the bond package we adopted last night to handle the new project. The keys are finding a mutually needed project for the approximate \$9M cost for line relocations and then convincing a majority of the RTA Board to reconsider the utility work cost shift for at least this year while we continue to discuss the issue in the months ahead.

Finally, we began to discuss our Strategic Work Plan today. That is a series of projects we will have identified as being ones in which we choose to commit staff time and resources. Some are long-term in nature, others are more urgent.

They include projects such as:

- The interoperable communications network being put in place for public safety
- The modern streetcar
- Changes in how we maintain financial records
- Upgrading of the City software
- Creation of a downtown entertainment district
- Various construction projects
- Programs dealing with more efficient governance processes, and more

The project list has evolved from a series of dialogues with staff, Council offices and most importantly, from your own input. We are challenged financially, but developing the framework will allow us to focus energies and dollars on what has been described as priority work. In the days ahead, I will list each of the projects and provide you with a brief description of each one - and I will invite your input as to the need for each. For now, we're adopting a planning document. How we triage the possible projects into orders of importance will be an important next step.

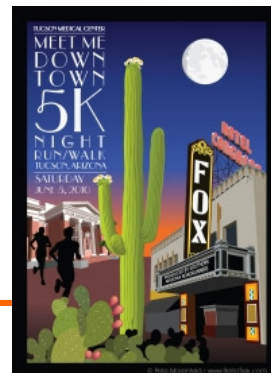
Sincerely,

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

TMC Meet Me Downtown 5k Night Run/Walk

Race, run, jog, stroll, amble—do whatever you want, but come on down and celebrate what makes Tucson great! Join Southern Arizona Roadrunners on Saturday night, June 4, 2011 for a fast and fun 5k that winds through Downtown neighborhoods. Their goal is to help revitalize Downtown Tucson, so come on down and enjoy an early summer Saturday night. Last year, over 1500 folks attended—it'll be bigger and better this year! Meet Me Downtown is more than a race—a family-friendly and adult-friendly block party that raises funds for local organizations. For more information please visit:

<http://www.azroadrunners.org/races/detail/mmd>



The Loft

Come enjoy ten films that will screen in Tucson June 5-9 at The Loft at 3233 E. Speedway as a part of the Sundance Film Festival. Please call The Loft Cinema at 322-5638 or visit the attached link

<http://www.sundance.org/filmforward/destination/arizona/>

Twilight Third Thursdays at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Thursday, May 19, 2011

Join the Gardens this summer for steamy evenings filled with glorious visuals and vocals. At twilight each *Third Thursday* Tucson Botanical Gardens will host dynamite local talent in the visual and performing arts. Let your thirst be quenched by a cool cocktail as you peruse the gardens. This week the gardens will host Vicky Strome, Intimate Details, and the Kevin Pakulis Band. The event runs from 5 to 8 p.m. and admission is \$8 for adults. There will also be a cash bar and food vendors. For additional information please visit:

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/events/twilight-third-thursdays/>



Tucson Botanical Gardens

Free Event Showcases Student's Artwork

Finding Voice is a literacy and visual arts program in Tucson dedicated to helping refugee and immigrant youth in English Language Development classes at Catalina Magnet High School develop their literacy skills by researching, photographing, writing, and speaking out about critical social issues in their lives and communities.

Students involved in this program will share their efforts with the community at a free event this Thursday, May 19th at 6:30pm at Catalina Magnet High School Auditorium, 3645 E. Pima Street (Between Country Club & Alvernon). The evening will be filled with poetry, photography, community action stories, music, dance, and food celebrating Catalina's diverse student body, who are working to build a positive, equitable and action oriented community through their art, advocacy and voice. The youth hail from Burundi, Bhutan, Nepal, Ivory Coast, Iraq, Kenya, Serbia, Somalia, Tanzania, Russia, Ethiopia, Congo, Marshall Islands, Sudan, Liberia, Rwanda, Mexico, and many more countries.

Finding Voice will also premiere twelve 4' x 6' banners featuring the students' writing and photographs that will be exhibited beginning June 1st at the Park Place Mall for several months. Check out their website for additional info. <http://www.findingvoiceproject.org/>

Finding Voice is thankful to the Ward 6 office, General Growth Management, Fast Signs, Tucson Pima Arts Council, and Design4Kids for making these banners and Mall exhibit a reality.