



Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

MAY 4, 2011

On February 15th, the Council gave to the City Manager a framework from which to work in forming our FY'12 budget. Since that time I have made a couple of efforts to suggest ways to modify that framework that I feel reflect a more fiscally prudent approach to our current financial condition. Today during our budget discussion I again suggested some new directions. To summarize:

1. Do not adopt a budget that assumes we're rolling \$9.5M in debt forward. Deal with at least a portion of it now.
2. Do not adopt a budget that assumes zero revenues from land sales. We mitigate the extent to which we have to reduce services to the taxpayers by every dollar we budget in for land sale proceeds.
3. Identify and protect core services, but leave no area of the budget untouched when it comes to forcing efficiencies into operations.
4. Transit has been held out from any budget reductions. In fact, the General Fund allocations going to support Sun Tran have risen now to nearly \$40M. We cannot afford to continue dealing with transit as if that department had a blank check.

We held our first public hearing on the budget tonight. There will be another one on May 24th and then Council will vote to implement our FY'12 budget. If you want your voice to be heard and considered, come and speak at our council meetings. If you're silent, you have no chance for being persuasive.

Today I gave to Mayor and Council a handout that walks through my thinking process in terms of some recommendations I'd like to see implemented with respect to transit. Go to this link

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/Budget.pdf> if you'd like to see what I handed out. I invited the rest of the council to look over my list and begin a dialogue as to how we might be able to work together on some of them. Read it over. The process isn't quite finished, so if you have input, please feel free to share it with us.

One final thought on the budget. Imagine Greater Tucson (IGT) has been holding community forums and gathering input from residents as to what they value most in our City.



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

Nine general categories were identified:

1. Business and the economy
2. Cultural diversity and regional character
3. Governance and leadership
4. Natural resources and outdoor recreation
5. Landuse and urban design
6. Transportation
7. Public safety
8. K-12
9. UA

First, I applaud IGT for the time and effort they're putting into this process. I would encourage you to get engaged in their work while it's still in the formative stages. As to how it relates to the budget, I look at their list and see wisdom in us remembering that it reflects your voice and it is your money we're spending. I will work towards building a budget that, to the extent our financial participation bears on any of those categories, reflects the values contained in the Imagine Greater Tucson initial findings.

In addition to the budget, I asked for our Parks Director to come and share with us the various factors involved in activating more uses at Hi Corbett Field. As I'm sure you know, we have lost (temporarily, I'm convinced) any professional baseball at the field. With that, P&R staff has supplemented those lost baseball games with a variety of other events some sporting and others not. Coming away from the discussion, a few things are clear:

First, we cannot book events in the field all year around. The field needs time to renew itself after months of consistent use. In Arizona, overseeding needs to take place in the early fall, which effectively takes the facility out of commission for at least 2 months.

Second, it costs time, money and personnel to transition the facility from one type of use to another (for example, from baseball to soccer.) While those costs can be passed along to prospective tenants, the frequency in which we have to incorporate transitioning into our facility management plan will necessarily impact the rates we have to charge for use of the field.

Third, we have neighborhoods in very close proximity to the stadium, so any use we attract must be conducted in a way that respects the private property rights of those in whose backyard the field lies. Over the years, protocols have developed that need to be considered when planning and booking events.

It is my belief that the Parks Director and staff do a very good job of running the facility (and the department in general). The council needs to honor their professional commitment to managing our public parks facilities, while at the same time reserve the right to bring prospects and ideas forward for their consideration. We will continue that process in the next couple of weeks as we begin to formulate a comprehensive Work Plan that will more than likely include some direction to staff as to what we hope to see



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)

in terms of Hi Corbett uses.

We also received a good briefing from a few different departments related to the progress of the Streetcar project. Last week I touched on the public art component of the Streetcar. This week it is important to look at elements involved with production and how we're zoning parcels along the route.

The RTA and COT have jointly decided to use "T" Rail for the track system we'll be employing. The upsides to that decision are that we save a few million dollars and that it's available for delivery as soon as we can get started. The downside is that the gap in the pavement created by the rail is larger than the existing system. That gap creates a safety hazard for bicyclists. So, DOT management is working towards remedies that will mitigate the potential for accidents on bikes associated with the tracks.

One area of the project that I'm particularly concerned about is related to utilities. I was assured by our DOT director that issues such as stray currents (electrical current that can escape one utility and cause premature corrosion in adjacent utility lines), and old water lines, which need to be pressure tested before tracks go down on top of them, are each being addressed.

Another area that I believe is absolutely critical to making this project make any financial sense at all is how we are going to use it to develop transit oriented projects along the corridor. To that end, the PDS Director described for us how they're about to engage stakeholders along the corridor in meetings to discuss things such as:

- The width of the development on each side of the route,
- How to protect historically sensitive neighborhoods while at the same time encouraging appropriate development,
- The timing of charrettes geared towards moving the planning and implementation of a development plan forward.

We have some very recent examples of arterial development (The District Housing on the old YMCA site and two new student housing projects located at the entryway to downtown off from 4th Avenue), which should be considered as templates for moving forward with more infill ahead of the first tracks being laid.

I would like to include in this newsletter a note of personal thanks to Governor Brewer for having vetoed 29 bills that came her way from the legislature at the end of this session. That is twice the number she vetoed last term, and I believe it reflects her commitment to honoring local control and to protecting the fiscal security of cities and towns across the State. I am convinced that we will not be spared the need to keep a close watch on what sorts of bills are proposed when the legislature reconvenes. Yet it is good to know that at least in the Executive Office at the Capital, we have an advocate who has listened to your voices, those 900+ who participated in our on-line petition and others, who have independently let it be known that we don't need the State Legislature meddling in how we conduct business in our locales.

Finally, on a point of personal importance, my 27 year old little girl is getting married this Saturday. She has found a wonderful young man who does the #1 thing a dad wants from his son-in-law; he treats her with respect. I want to take this opportunity to wish them both a long and happy life together. For you young parents, my only advice is “don't blink.” As soon as you do, you'll realize that it has all flown past in a blur. Treasure each moment with your loved ones.

Sorry for the sappy ending, but you dads of daughters know what this is about.

Sincerely,



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

May 8 – Mother's Day Concert

Six Decades of “Music Under the Stars” starts this Sunday! Tucson Pops Orchestra will start at 7:00 PM at DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center, Reid Park –Special Guest Artist is Tucson Girls Chorus. For more information on this **free concert** in the park, please visit: <http://www.tucsonpops.org/>



First Fridays 4th Annual Fashion Show

Tucson Young Professional's First Fridays and Tucson Fashion Group presents: Passport – A World of Style. Friday, May 6th, 2011. View fashion collections from your favorite local designers at the historic Fox Theatre. Mention you are attending First Fridays to receive the 10% discount valid for any food purchased from 5pm to 8pm on Friday May 6th. Participating restaurants include: Casa Vicente, Downtown Kitchen, 47 Scott, On a Roll Sushi, A Steak in the Neighborhood, El Charro and Cushing Street Bar & Restaurant. The Fashion Show will start at 8:00 and end at 11 p.m. There is a \$25 fee for general admission. For more information or to pay a head please visit: <http://typfirstfridays.com/>

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.

Please register online at: www.imaginegreatertucson.org

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.

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>

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)