



Community Services Department
PO Box 27210
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DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Dated Material

DSNA President: Ian Fritz
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Vice President: Natasha Winnik
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Secretary: Lisa Scoblink

Treasurer: Sky Jacobs
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Newsletter: Kight Pruszyński
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Dunbar Coalition: Lisa Scoblink
792-6377

**Ward One,
Councilwoman Regina Romero**
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Dunbar/Spring Website:
<http://www.dunbarspring.org/>

Dunbar/Spring Email Listserv:
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring

Upcoming DSNA Meetings:
General meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar auditorium (325 W. 2nd St.).

Next meetings: May 18, June 15

Downtown Neighborhoods Meeting May 21st

Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to a meeting for all of the downtown neighborhoods. It will be held on Thursday May 21st at 6:30 in the Tucson High School cafeteria. This will be a good opportunity to meet some neighbors and to get some information from city staff concerning downtown projects such as the 4th Avenue Underpass, the Modern Streetcar, Infrastructure projects, Downtown Links and more. Please contact Karen Greene at 791-0395 if you have any questions about this meeting.

Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Home Tour

At the April neighborhood meeting, we discussed the idea of having a neighborhood home tour some time this fall. It would be just for the neighborhood with the idea to meet your neighbors and see inside some of our great houses and buildings in Dunbar Spring. Perhaps a nominal cost (\$5) could be charged as a fundraiser for the neighborhood. If you are interested in participating, either by showing your home or helping with historical research and organizing this event, please contact Karen Greene at 791-0395.

City of Tucson Launches Green Jobs Program

Tucson is formally launching a Green Jobs Program for the City and introducing the new *Tucson Green Job and Sustainable Community Coalition*. The coalition will function as a broad stakeholder group for informing and carrying forward the greening of Tucson's local workforce and economy.

The Green Jobs Pledge was created by the Green For All organization (www.greenforall.org) which states: "We believe that the national effort to curb global warming and oil dependence can simultaneously create well-paid green-collar job, safer streets and healthier communities."

The Apollo Alliance defines green-collar jobs as "well-paid, career track jobs that contribute directly to preserving or enhancing environmental quality."

Capitalizing on the injection of Federal stimulus funding, the City is working in partnership with business, labor, government, environmental and community organizations to create a diversity of programs and projects of ongoing benefit to the full community. With a focus on the commonly held interest in an expanded and more sustainable economy, the opportunity for this program and the green jobs coalition is a hopeful sign to a distressed economy. Visit Tucson's Green Jobs home page at: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/greenjobs>



Inviting Wildlife Back into Your Neighborhood: Hummingbirds

By Pamela Pelletier, Community Planner, Tumamoc: People & Habitats

Interested in seeing more wildlife and natural areas in urban areas and in your neighborhoods? Tumamoc: People & Habitats is pleased to begin offering this new community service. We can show you what to do if you wish to see your backyards alive with a wonderful assortment of birds, butterflies, and wildflowers. We use Reconciliation Ecology to help you redesign landscapes in which your everyday activities coexist with diverse wild species. It doesn't involve ripping out your existing plants or yards. It is simply adding specific plant species needed for food and shelter for a particular bird or butterfly species.

To create habitat for hummingbirds, specifically Anna's hummingbird or Black-chinned hummingbird, here are five easy steps:

1. Plant nectar plants. Nectar plants are characterized by their reddish color and tubular flower structure. Some popular and available choices are: sage; ocotillo; red yucca; honeysuckle; Baja fairyduster; and yellow bells. Try to have something blooming almost year-round. A reputable nursery will be able to help you select nectar plants.



2. Plant a diversity of landscapes. If you have natural desert habitat – keep it, and add some native and non-native arid plants. Some popular plants include cacti, ocotillo, bird of paradise, brittlebush, and various sage species.

Our search has shown that hummingbirds benefit from a more diverse plant habitat and the use of hummingbird feeders than just natural desert habitats alone. We do encourage the use of drought-tolerant and native and/or regionally-appropriate plant species – but again – you don't need to tear out any existing plants to create your new habitat!

3. Plant trees. We strongly encourage planting regionally-appropriate, drought-tolerant trees. Options include various mesquite species, acacia species, palo verde and desert willows. Trees are needed for nesting sites and perching for hummingbirds. Trees for Tucson (<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/>

tft/) is a great resource for getting discounted trees. Not only will you be providing habitat for the hummingbirds (and many others!), but you will help cut energy costs at your home.

4. Hang 2-3 hummingbird feeders and keep them well maintained. Place them about 3-4 meters apart (~ 10 ft.). Try to keep them all visible simultaneously from different perching points in your yard.

5. It's also a good idea to fill feeders with two different sugar solutions: higher concentration (1 part sugar to 3 parts water) and lower concentration (1 part sugar to 4 parts water). But do not change a concentration of a feeder once you decide which concentration it will have.

When planting or adding new plants to your habitat, be sure to create both sun and shade areas in your hummingbird garden. Hummingbirds need a place in shade to perch as well as to build their nests. Make certain that there is always fresh water available for drinking as well as for bathing. A simple birdbath will do the trick.

It's that easy! Once you have your new habitat planted, sit back and enjoy the show! It won't take too long for the hummingbirds to find your oasis in the desert.

To learn more about other bird & butterfly species or to arrange a meeting for your Neighborhood Association or group, contact Pamela Pelletier, Community Planner at pamela@email.arizona.edu or 629-9455. Please also visit our website: www.tumamoc.org.



Minutes from DSNA General Membership Meeting of April 20, 2009



March Minutes Recapped

- **Two corrections made: 1) Announcements: first bullet was corrected to read: “Newsletter did not make it to the City of Tucson in a timely manner; some turnover occurring with this responsibility; and 2) Downtown Links Update...: the fifth item was replaced with “HDR working with the recommendations from the design plan.” Motion made to accept minutes as corrected; Unanimously approved.**

Treasurer’s Report

- \$1,116.08 available; additional funds are in the account but are allocated as follows: \$700 for Sign Sculpture at 9th and University; \$100 for the 9th Ave. bulletin board mural (Ian will check with City High regarding payment);

Announcements

- May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Tucson High in the cafeteria, downtown neighborhoods can get answers regarding downtown activities and projects; parking is available next to tennis courts; all downtown neighborhoods are invited; April 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Ward 6 office at 1st St. and Anderson Ave. will be an opportunity to meet with and give feedback to Albert Elias, the director of the Urban Planning Dept.;
- R & R Pizza has opened; located at the Sahara student housing complex; also, thanks to City High for the bulletin board mural at 9th and University;
- TPD: there were a couple of criminal damage and graffiti incidents this past month;
- TEP: President of DSNA, Ian Fritz, was contacted by TEP to do a walk around the neighborhood to look at redundant distribution lines; possibility that TEP will reduce some of that along with the other transmission line project; walk around is open to whoever wants to participate; Tuesday, April 28, 3:30 p.m. meet at the Tucson Substation at 11th Ave. and 4th St.;

Annual Report

Ian announced that the Annual Meeting is a time for an Annual Report, per Bylaws; Recap of issues dealt with over the last year:

- finalization of bylaw changes;
- worked on Downtown Links issues; held press conference to show opposition to the Downtown Links 3D Alignment; went door to door; lots of opposition voiced; Downtown Links was passed by CAC (11 to 3); passed by City Council (unanimous)
- RR Park closed by the City;
- DSNA input to design of Downtown Links, i.e., decking, underpass, closure of RR crossing to vehicles, etc.;
- Dunbar School changes occurred including dance school, barber school, and solar panels;
- DSNA submitted several requests for traffic improvements to the City DOT;
- DSNA requested 4-way yields at traffic circles that currently have 4-way stops;
- Requested restriping of Main Ave. requested due to increased traffic after the Drachman Circle changed;
- Block Party held in October;
- 6th Annual Mesquite Pancake Breakfast was held and was another big success;
- Crossroads sign at 9th and University was completed;

- Annual tree planting; we now have about 1,150 trees in the neighborhood;
- County Grant submitted and approved for \$489,000; funding on hold due to budget constraints;
- Community Garden camper situation was dealt with;
- DSNA collaborated with Tucson Cares, a non-profit that provides Trap/Neuter/Return services, in an effort that resulted in alteration of 29 animals with more than \$1,000 remaining for future projects/needs
- Working with TEP on the 138kv power line issue

Elections

- Nobody voted in absentia; Vince participated as Acting Parliamentarian; responsible for appointing 2 individuals as election tellers; vote was done by ballot; length of time for positions held on the Board is one year; three consecutive terms is the limit; installation of officers occurs at the close of the Annual Meeting; Diana Rhoads and Natasha Winnik volunteered as election tellers; Sky nominated to Treasurer’s position; Ian nominated to President’s position; Natasha nominated to Vice-President’s position; Lisa Scoblink nominated to Secretary’s position; Vince nominated to Parliamentarian position; all nominees accepted; ballots collected; **Election Results: Ian Fritz – President; Natasha Winnik – Vice-President; Lisa Scoblink – Secretary; Sky Jacobs – Treasurer; Vince Pawlowski – Parliamentarian;** Gail Toomey offered to assist with minute taking; Vince mentioned he may not be able to fulfill term if he finds employment out of town;

Home Tour and Annual Meeting Potluck Discussion

- Home Tour: Karen Greene would like the neighborhood to have more fun as a neighborhood; Armory Park had a home tour and the funds went for a program for meals for low income residents; another neighborhood had an “internal” tour for residents only; Karen is willing to do research on the history of participating homes; meeting attendants were in support of the idea; there will be more about this in the Newsletter;
- Annual Meeting Potluck: Karen suggested that we have a potluck at the Annual Meetings; have the meeting agenda be simply elections and the rest of the time will be spent socializing/eating; this would be fun for the neighborhood; something to look forward to next year; possibly to be held in the Community Garden; **approved for the 2010 Annual Meeting;**

TEP 138kv Transmission Line

- Attendee requested some history; general update given; Open House held at Richey Elementary School with TEP representatives presenting graphics, maps, etc. of proposed plan; feedback forms were passed out; Ian passed some around to DSNA meeting attendees; no route for transmission lines has been chosen yet; TEP was just gathering information regarding need and the study area; a proposal for routes will be at the next community information meeting; Ian asked questions regarding line placement; TEP says burial of lines is about 10 times more costly than above ground lines; buried lines will magnify electromagnetic field; Ian Johnson shared information he has gathered; burying takes about 6 feet of concrete on both sides of lines; he has drafted a Position Statement for the neighborhood; draft passed around; also passed out photos of the type of poles being proposed; the Position Statement includes language about the neighborhood’s disapproval of the lines being placed in residential areas;

other items included are health implications – possible link to leukemia, miscarriages, Lou Gehrig’s Disease; safety is another factor; property values will decrease 14% on average; counted about 100 houses on the currently proposed route; in essence, homeowners will be subsidizing this project; Position Paper suggests alternate routes – some possibilities are: frontage road and along the rail line; sign-up sheet passed for those who want to follow this project; possibility of an additional listserve specific to this Position Paper; created a website called www.dunbarspring.org; check it for more information; Position Statement possibly will be submitted to the Corporation Commission; report is on the www.dunbarspring.org website; resident requested language regarding opposition to any additional power at all be included in the Report; she felt the open house was manipulative; Ian offered to request a different format for the next meeting; another attendee asked Diane Rhoads what Ward One’s position is on this; she replied that Councilperson Romero has not taken a position; attendee continued: if DS comes up with a Position Paper, what support can DS get from Ward One? Diana will present the Statement to Councilperson Romero; Ian Johnson suggested that copies of the TEP comment form be passed out to friends and family; resident stated he believes this will be a formidable project to deal with; doesn’t trust TEP; DS needs to continue building on our input; suggested a committee be started with a liaison and connections with other neighborhoods in the area; this will be a political battle; we need to deepen research; go to Ward One to discuss after strategies collected; people need to go to TEP planning meetings; TEP will go to great lengths to get what they want; we need to work for publicity; take this seriously; very destructive to the neighborhood; he is happy to participate in the political strategies; another resident agrees with this; asked who oversees TEP; we need to make it clear that this will be destructive of neighborhoods; asked if there has been anything in the newspaper; need a lot of public outcry; TEP is a for-profit business, so no “boss”; however, the Arizona Corporation Commission has to approve this project; we should think about who at the Corp.Comm. we can talk to; resident believes we can request a hearing with the Corp.Comm. in Tucson v. Phoenix; links to AZ Corp. Comm. on www.dunbarspring.org website; Ian Johnson wants residents to spread the word to friends, etc. regarding the survey which can be found on this website; it’s important to work together with other neighborhoods; AZ CC will listen better if more neighborhoods are together on this; Ward One would be willing to help; meeting with Ward One is important; need to unify the neighborhood and be sure to include the residents at the Northwest section; **Motion: DSNA opposes any plan on the part of TEP to run high voltage transmission lines through the Dunbar Spring Neighborhood or any other residential neighborhoods; Seconded; Motion Carried Unanimously;** discussion regarding formation of subcommittee; Ian Johnson willing to serve as chairperson; Position Statement discussed; project schedule: TEP plans to submit proposal for lines placement to the Arizona Corporation Commission in August or September of 2009; prior to that, 2 more community input meetings and two open houses; **Motion: Support position statement presented today as work in progress and empower the committee to move forward with the Statement and make minor edits knowing it will be brought back to the Association (Motion tabled); Motion: Approve the Position Paper as is;** discussion: Add “This is not for eyes of the press? Take draft of Position Paper to other neighborhoods for feedback for next month; **2nd Motion withdrawn;** decided to give it a month to review for the next meeting; committee formed; meeting next month regarding this issue to be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday the 27th, at the Ward One Office; Diana will check for availability of space at Ward One Office;

- **Motion: Table “Closure of 5th St. RRX” Agenda item**

to the May meeting; 14 approved; 1 opposed; 1 abstained; Motion Carried;

Replacement of Basketball Rim

- Current one has been there for about 10 years; cost is about \$95; garden will pay ½; **Motion: Garden will pay ½ and DSNA will pay ½ (up to \$50) of cost to replace the new rim at the basketball court at the Dunbar Project; Motion Carried Unanimously;**

Reports

- o Community Garden: Lease fees due for May; there are a couple of new gardeners;
- o DNARC: Richard Mayes of West University and Karen Green of Dunbar Spring are co-chairs; Karen just requested that we attend the May 21 meeting at Tucson High (see above);
- o Dunbar Coalition: Architects completed design phase for the last portion of the building remodel; permit received in 2/2009; construction could begin in 7/2009; possible sidewalks with donor names put into squares; lots of graffiti occurred recently; scholarship on Dunbar website closed 3/20/2009; facility booked solid for months; security requirements for events to be increased.

138-kV Electrical Transmission Line

Tucson Electric Power is planning to run a big 138-kV electrical transmission line (that’s how the big the ones along the Santa Cruz are) from St. Mary’s to Grant, and we’re pretty sure they’re going to propose that it’s run right through Dunbar/Spring, Barrio Blue Moon, and the Yaqui reservation and right next to 100+ houses. There are other routes they could take that would go past very few or even no houses, but they’re a little bit more annoying/costly for TEP, so they’re probably not going to go for it.



Neighbors in the affected areas are mobilizing a campaign to keep these huge power lines out of everyone’s back yards and put them in more appropriate, less residential areas (like along the frontage road).

Please show your support for keeping high voltage transmission lines away from homes by looking at our website: <http://www.safepowerlines.org/>, and if you’re willing, signing our petition: <http://www.safepowerlines.org/our-petition/>.