



Department of Neighborhood Resources
 PO Box 27210
 Tucson AZ 85726-7210



November 2007

MESQUITE MILLING FIESTA & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Dunbar/Spring Community Garden ~ Saturday, November 17 ~ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fifth annual mesquite pancake breakfast starts at 9 a.m. and keeps going until everyone is full (or we run out of batter!). Prickly pear, mesquite, and maple syrups will accompany the pancakes. All ingredients will be organic. A \$3 donation is requested for the pancake breakfast. Live music will accompany the good food, and recipe books will be on hand for purchase. The hammermill will be available to grind your harvested mesquite pods into delicious, nutritious flour. A \$3 minimum donation (separate from pancake donation) is requested for milling. The event is hosted by, and is a fundraiser for, Desert Harvesters. Volunteers are still needed, so if you'd like to help out, contact Brad at 882-9443 or bradlank@gmail.com.

A hammermill is an industrial mill for making flour. The community hammermill was purchased exclusively for making mesquite flour, easily breaking up the mesquite pods and some of the hard seeds to produce quality flour. While not designed specifically for mesquite pods, it is the only tool that will make mesquite flour in large quantities, while also saving a lot of time compared to labor-intensive hand grinding or blender methods.

Dated Material

Additional Contacts:

TPD, Downtown Division
 Non-emergency 791-4444
 Anonymous reporting 88-CRIME

Ward One, Councilman Jose Ibarra
 791-4040 ~ jose.ibarra@tucsonaz.gov

Graffiti or Blight Reporting
 792-2489 ~ graffiti@tucsonaz.gov

Dunbar/Spring discussion group, calendar, phone book, and classifieds:

groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring

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NEIGHBORHOOD MESQUITE BARS from Brad Lancaster

We make these with mesquite flour ground from pods harvested from native mesquite trees planted along neighborhood streets during our annual tree plantings. Bees visited the same trees and made the honey. More mesquite recipes and cooking tips can be found at www.desertharvesters.org.



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1/2 cup organic backyard honey | 1 tablespoon baking powder |
| 1/3 cup water | 2 teaspoons cinnamon |
| 3 tablespoons organic butter | touch of nutmeg |
| 1 1/2 cup organic whole wheat flour | 1/2 cup organic nuts |
| 1 1/2 cup mesquite flour | 1/2 cup organic raisins |

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly grease two 8-inch square baking pans.

In a large saucepan, slowly heat honey, water, and butter until butter is melted and honey is liquid. Mix flour, mesquite meal, baking powder, and spices in a medium bowl. Add to honey mixture and stir until well combined. Stir in nuts and raisins.

Divide batter between pans and spread evenly. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Over-baking will make the bars very hard. When done a straw or toothpick will come out clean. Cool in pans; slice into bars.

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 meeting: November 19*

Board meetings are the first Wednesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. Please contact a board member for location.

DSNA Contacts:

President: Evaristo Ramirez
 622-7368 ~ evaristorb@yahoo.com

Vice President: Piper Weinberg
 624-7007 ~ piperweinberg@hotmail.com

Secretary: Ian Fritz
 628-4318 ~ sprocket@riseup.net

Treasurer: Sky Jacobs
 791-2913 ~ skyjacobs@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Jeff Simpson
 409-3780

DSNA Newsletter: Turtle
 628-4318 ~ mydogellen@greenbicycle.net



Did you know that the mesquite's root system is the deepest documented? A live root was once discovered in a copper mine more than 160 feet below the surface!

Mesquite, the most common small tree of the desert Southwest, is long-lived – probably a couple of centuries in favorable sites. Like many members of the legume family, mesquite restores nitrogen to the soil.

The sweet pods are a good source of calcium, manganese, iron, and zinc. The seeds within are 40 percent protein. Medical studies show that despite its sweetness, mesquite flour is extremely effective in controlling blood sugar levels in people with diabetes. Fibers in the seeds

and pods slow the absorption of nutrients, resulting in a flattened blood sugar curve, unlike the peaks from eating wheat, corn meal, and other common staples.

Mesquite pods have long been a dietary staple and made into tea, syrup, and ground meal called pinole. A favorite of bees and other insects, mesquite flowers produce a fragrant honey.

Spanish name(s): **mezquite, algarobba**; Tohono and Hia c-ed O'odham: **kui**; Akimel O'odham: **kui chepelk**; Yeome: **hu'upa**



MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2007



I. Call to order and introductions – 29 in attendance

•November agenda items – Plaque for crossroads sign. If neighbors have other items of business please contact a board member.

II. Approval of Minutes – Read by Ian Fritz

***Motion* to approve minutes.** 12 approve/0 opposed/0 abstain.

III. Dunbar Coalition Architecture Presentation – Corky Poster

- Gave brief history of the site and the school building.
- Dunbar Coalition purchased building from TUSD. Since work began in 1995, the community garden, playground, basketball court, and parking lot have been installed/modified. The building has been stabilized, and first story renovations are nearly complete.
- Proposing to separate addition from original building to create two separate buildings.
- Plan to install sunken courtyard on south side of east building.
- New board room will be completed in the next couple of months; neighborhood association will be able to meet there.
- Looking for \$1.5 million in funding to finish second floor.

Discussion

- When will classes and other functions of the building be in operation? A: First floor of west building is almost complete. Will need occupancy permit and then things will get going.
- Who will operate the charter school? A: Will be partnering with the Urban League's Early Childhood Learning Program (K-5).
- What's up with the power at the basketball court? A: TEP says we have power after the 11th Avenue electric lines went down, but lights don't come on. Will be hiring an electrician to look at situation.
- When will the grand opening be? A: Likely after the first of January.
- Dunbar Coalition has been working on an agreement to display exhibits from the planned museum at the historical society.
- Building will have a rooftop photovoltaic array (four sets of panels).

IV. Guest Speakers

Adrian Guevera – TPD:

- New officer in the neighborhood. He is happy to work in and with neighborhood and answer any questions or receive feedback.
- If we post hours at the garden, does the sign need a prosecution clause? A: No, hours are sufficient.
- Neighbors wishing to recover stolen items if burglarized should consider putting their driver's license number on any valuables.

Regina Romero – Ward I City Council candidate:

- Has worked with Dunbar/Spring in past through county reinvestment program. Believes in coalitions, safe and secure neighborhoods, investing in seniors, children and youth. Hopes to work with neighborhood in the future.
- What is your position on the One West/Stone and Speedway issue? A: Believe in having affordable/workforce housing in developments. The city has been giving out parcels of land to developers without requiring affordable housing be in the plans... this is a mistake. She wants to see infill projects work but to also be inline with neighborhood conditions. City needs to have an infill strategy.
- Would you support housing for the homeless? A: Yes
- What is your position on Prop. 200? A: Voting no. It would leave a hole in the budget.

John Kromko – Proposition 200:

- Politicians are unwilling to take action to limit growth, because it is a taboo issue and they would be attacked. So we can do with a ballot initiative what they won't.
- The garbage tax is a shift in taxation from rich to poor. There will be no budget shortage. Last year's city budget was \$26 million less, without concurrent growth in the past year. Where were the laid off police and firefighters? Opponents are lying and using scare tactics.
- Opponents say toilet-to-tap is already illegal, but water officials are not saying this. Direct delivery is illegal, but a similar situation with CAP water would not be (recharging effluent and pumping water out only 30 feet away). Pharmaceuticals, estrogens, and birth control cannot be removed with current processes.
- Opponents say proposition will increase sprawl. This is not true. Subdivisions/companies can't drill in service area of Tucson Water. Only individuals can. Outside of service area, wells would need to be proven to have a 100-year supply.

V. Discussion on Proposed Changes to Neighborhood Bylaws

- Recommendations are not all or nothing. Neighbors can pick items they want and nix others.
- Will discuss for a couple of months and hopefully vote in December.

1. Adoption of Robert's Rules

- This has been the default procedure but is not formally in bylaws.
- Straw poll to gauge support. Many in favor.

2. Two-Thirds Majority

- Are a minimum number of people needed at a meeting? A: Current bylaws state seven is a quorum. No suggestion to change this.
- Robert's Rules has mechanisms in place for slowing a vote, such as requiring a two-thirds majority. Why not use that? A: Committee felt it would be better to make the decision ahead of time instead of leaving it up the chair of the meeting.
- Straw poll to gauge support. Many in favor.

3. Voter Registration

- Does this include owners? A: Yes. Needs to be clarified in wording. Not only for residents.
- Suggestion to announce or publicize at meetings so people don't assume they can just vote.
- Doesn't address issue of long-term residents who don't come to meetings but should be included.
- Suggestion that residents of more than 15 years should be exempt.
- Registration does not require proof of residency, only your word that you live in the neighborhood.
- Suggestion that registration include oath (promise of residency).
- Feeling that this would alienate some, would like further discussion.
- Suggestion to repost recommendations to listserv.
- Discussion on purpose of alternative proposal: It would keep a voting roster that could be checked but would not make voting any more difficult than it already is.

4. Voting Age

- Would lower membership requirement to 16 years old.
- Straw poll to gauge support. Many in favor.

BICAS Art Auction & Fundraiser



BICAS invites you to attend its 12th annual Art Auction fundraiser and celebration. Featured art includes sculptures, paintings, functional crafts, jewelry, and more – all made from recycled bicycle parts or with bicycle themes. Final silent bids are called at 9 p.m. sharp. Come early to join in the festivities with music, entertainment, and food. All proceeds benefit BICAS (Bicycle Inter-Community Action & Salvage) in its year-round dedication toward recycling, education, and art. For more information, call 628-7950 or visit www.bicas.org.

Sunday, November 18

6 to 9 p.m.

at ArtFare

51 S. 6th Ave.

(across from the Ronstadt Center)

5. Pecuniary Interest

- Committee should take a hard look at this recommendation. Brings up difficult to define requirements.
- Hard to quantify making lots of money. Hard to define direct monetary interest.
- Possibly a non-issue if we have two-thirds majority vote.
- Maybe define a dollar value person would gain?
- One West was controversial because they claimed they got four votes since properties were owned separately.
- Possible slippery slope. Someone who owns 10 properties might stand to gain even if they're not involved directly.

VI. Board Evaluations – Piper

- Board would like people to give feedback to help it serve the neighborhood better. Will have evaluations available for people to anonymously fill out at meetings and submit.

VII. Community Garden/Bathrooms

- Board is still trying to get someone from the parks department to come to talk about bathrooms at Estevan Park.
- The church close to the garden has a port-o-potty.
- Post a sign in garden directing people to it?
- Need to talk with Holy Family about it.
- Suggestion to post signs with address/hours/no facilities.
- Composting toilet? Would be very expensive; some people are opposed to having a toilet in the garden.
- Discussion tabled until more information is obtained on Holy Family's position.

VIII. Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant Survey

- Due to delayed mailing and DNR lag time, survey may not reach county by deadline. Should we still spend money on return stamps?
- Yes, return stamps get back more surveys. Little investment for possible big return.

- DNR lag time is not set in stone; they can get things through more quickly if needed.
- Agreement that survey should be sent out as planned.

IX. Committee Reports

- Garden:** Celebration/cleanup coming up on October 20.
- Dunbar Coalition:** Pig roast and goat barbecue on October 21. Juneteenth might be one day instead of two next year due to lack of participation. Seven million dollar grant from HUD is going toward low-income housing near 36th and Kino, breaking ground this month.
- Downtown Links:** OJ factory at Sixth Street and Ninth Avenue will be demolished, so will Sangin building. Vacant lot referred to as railroad park will likely be affected by cul-de-sac formation at bottom of Ninth Avenue. Report back on Steinfeld Warehouse yielded three possibilities for roadway.
- Eight feet off the wall – \$1.5 to \$1.7 million for roadway construction plus cost of completely retrofitting Steinfeld (very expensive, exact cost unknown).
- 18 feet off the wall – Similar roadway cost, partial retrofits to Steinfeld and half of Citizen's (BICAS) building would be demolished.
- 30 feet off the wall – Cheaper roadway (\$300,000 to 370,000), limited retrofit to Steinfeld, and complete demolition of Citizen's building.
- Four options were proposed for a new drainage alignment. Call Natasha Winnik for more details 327-1814.

X. Announcements

- Proposed neighborhood movie night:** Projected movies at the Dunbar auditorium or another space? Contact Varo with ideas for movies or location 622-7368
- El Mirador Committee:** Still looking for volunteers to sit on a joint committee with representatives from the El Presidio neighborhood to consult on the final planning stages of the development at Franklin and Ninth Avenue. Please contact a board member if you are interested.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the neighborhood tree planting and community garden work party!