

Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association meeting 9 November 2020 6 p.m.

Present: Mark & Barbara Homan, Joe & Stacey Plassman, Colby Henley (President), Julie Katsel (UA), Basil Chulak, Melody Peters & Jay Vosk, Evren Sonmez, Tom Veneklasen, Lee Marsh, Moira P, Laura Tabili

Steve Kozachik's firing: Mark Homan reported that Steve Kozachik was recently fired by UA, which appeared suspiciously like retaliation for Steve's outspoken criticism of the UA's inadequate response to the pandemic--particularly their refusal to insist students residing in off-campus housing, like the towers, be tested for Covid-19.

Mark Homan moved RHNA send a letter of protest to President Robbins, and attempt to enlist other neighborhoods in Ward 6 and CCRC.

Julie Katsel responded that 21 people were "laid off" by the Athletics Dept due to revenue shortfalls.

The NA [must have] msp that Mark would draft a letter to Robbins.

CCRC update: Moira reported UA visited several local RHNA properties including 1608 E 8th Street and 1347 E 8th Street.

Other topics discussed at CCRC included: Osiris Rex, UA rankings among public universities, testing in the community. Park Tucson and parking meters set aside for takeout food. Exxo and Tap & Bottle now have outdoor seating. The UA is terminating in-person instruction before Thanksgiving in hopes the students will not come back.

--A Livable Communities group has formed, focused on pruning trees.

--Unruly gatherings: Call 9-11 to get UA team for immediate action, or 282-3649 to get Julie Katsel. The Dean of Students is now directly involved in these, after 17 exciting events at Halloween.

--Free flu shots are available at Pima County clinics.

--Mission Library has been renamed in memory of Richard Elias.

Ward 6 update: Steve Kozachik reported 85719 Covid cases are rising due to Halloween partying.

6th/Campbell PAD: Colby reported the "official" neighborhood meeting with Scott Cummings, during which RHNA presented a counterproposal. Neighbors' concerns include: heights, uses, traffic and access, and lights. These issues remained unresolved by the meeting. Group dwellings are a particular sore spot, on which Cummings will not budge

RHNA will form a subcommittee with Sam Hughes, who are also interested. Our attorney Tim Kinney thinks Scott and his legal team are in over their heads.

Steve clarified that the COT still has discretion in the matter.

Mark reminded us that it is not our job to help Scott profit at our expense. The UA apparently submitted a letter of support, belying their pretense of disinterest.

Colby clarified that RHNA agree the corner is underutilized and could form a gateway to campus, but any changes ought to enhance rather than detract from the surroundings.

Evren reported that Colby met with Corky Poster and Anne Chaneka, Corky regarding affordable housing and Anne Chaneka regarding how much traffic the proposed development might generate.

Steve reported TDOT is finalizing a road diet for 6th Street east of Campbell, and increased traffic Scott's development would generate would mess this up.

Tom Veneklasen pointed out the vacancy rate for Sam Hughes Square hardly suggests demand for large-scale development nearby.

Evren suggests SHS may be improperly managed, having lost the gelato place and Grimaldi's.

Steve says the merchants left when the rent went up.

TEP towers & lines: Barbara Homan reported all neighborhoods opposed, but TEP manipulated the public process and steamrolled the opposition. [surprise! shock!] If forced to underground lines, they say they will charge the neighborhoods extra to pay for it. Next stop is the Corporation Commission in early January.

Steve pointed out TEP have failed to factor in the drop in property values resulting from uglifying the street, and how litigation costs might pay for undergrounding.

Melody asked why not solar, and Barbara responded TEP stifled any talk of this.

Sunshine Mile Overlay District: Evren reported on the October 5 meeting, of which the Bungalow Block was the focus. Corky Poster's firm is in charge of this segment. They discussed open space, affordable housing, and the Design Review Board.

Colby, Evren and Lee met with the COT team regarding the Park Avenue segment. Colby and LSA, Marc Fink and Broadway Coalition are still concerned about building heights, setbacks, etc re: the TUSD site.

Colby reported the updated Sunshine Mile District overlay did not incorporate the RHNA plan.

Treasurer's report: Rose Veneklasen (in absentia) time to pay dues!!

Respectfully submitted, Laura Tabili (I have no idea when we adjourned)

We were interrupted in the middle by a Zoombombing by Luis Marquez, iphone8, iphone12, iphone7, Cepeda? & Huaw?