



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



DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

August 2008



Finding Harmony, Knowledge, Love, and Wisdom Through Plants

by JD, Dunbar/Spring resident



Dated Material

- DSNA President:** Ian Fritz
628-4318 ✉ sprocket@riseup.net
- Vice President:** Natasha Winnik
327-1814 ✉ nateroma@juno.com
- Secretary:** Lorraine Stockdale
615-4959 ✉ msparker53@cox.net
- Treasurer:** Sky Jacobs
322-0285 ✉ skyjacobs@gmail.com
- Parliamentarian:** Jeff Simpson
409-3780
- Newsletter:** Turtle
628-4318 ✉ mydogellen@greenbicycle.net
- Dunbar Coalition:** Lisa Scoblink
792-6377
- Ward One, Councilwoman Regina Romero**
791-4040 ✉ regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov
- 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 meeting: August 18



photo by Sky Jacobs

Announcements

UPCOMING VOTE ON NEIGHBORHOOD BYLAWS: The Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association postponed the vote on its neighborhood bylaws to the August monthly meeting. You should receive a copy of the complete bylaws and proposed changes in advance of the meeting (by mail) for review. These changes are a product of a neighborhood “process” committee, which was formed in September 2006 and tasked with looking into ways to improve the decision-making process of the neighborhood association. A copy of the proposed changes can also be found on the community garden bulletin board at University and 11th Ave or in the files section of our neighborhood listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring/files/Bylaws>. Please contact Ian Fritz at 628-4318 with questions.

DOWNTOWN LINKS: Even though the City Council approved the Downtown Links road alignment in July, the process is far from over. The next Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be held Monday, August 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the main library’s lower level meeting room. The next phase will be to evaluate the design elements, and neighbor participation is always welcome.

Amongst us, in our neighborhood, is a world of plants to ponder that is familiar yet alien in many ways. This alienation may be caused by the very way science is intent on observing it. From the furthest reaches of the universe there are forces at work. At this very moment the Earth, through untiring efforts of plants, is undergoing a transformation. As we walk our streets, we may learn to bear witness to this unrecognized phenomena. A fuller understanding of the living plant requires we develop a more lively method of thinking. Science often neglects to study the forces which arrange the matter into shapes and therefore dissects the plant’s parts into root, stem, leaf, and flower. Botany may be likened to astronomy, for plants may be seen as the reflection of the starry skies.

A pictorial image may be applied using objective observation which opens up a view unfettered by preconceived notions. By learning to look at the plant in a receptive manner, we may begin to allow the plant to reveal itself to us. There are light-filled forces, a creative formative energy, which radiate upon the Earth from the Sun and planets. When this “light” reaches our Earth there is a reflection of that light, much like a light shining off an object – in our case a globe. After penetrating the surface, this light, as it reflects out of the Earth, builds itself out of earth matter. (All matter is condensed light.) The plant is the realized shape given to earth matter that has been impregnated with the qualities inherent in the varied light sources as it reflects outward. The plant is the actualized reflection of these incoming creative forces. This relationship of the universe and Earth is the true

parentage of the plant. The plant is composed of earth but shaped by the universe.

Further observation shows that the plant appears to spring up from the Earth. Notice a spiral configuration, which may be seen in all of life. Whether observing twining vines, the twist of tree bark or radiating branches there is the spiral image. We may trace the nodes of a plant upward to the flower. The node is where a branch or leaf sprouts forth. Nodes may be found in an alternate or opposite arrangement on the stem, yet always in a spiral formation. As the flowering stage is approached, the distance shortens between nodal locations. A climax of form presents itself as the inflorescence is studied. In a typical composite plant, the daisy, all the petals are tightly arranged in a spiral. The thoughtful reader will recall the fore note that such concepts need to be brought to life and “imaginatively” realized.

Working together with the spiral effect is an expansion/contraction which may be viewed as a breathing process. Beginning with a tightly contracted seed, the plant expands, breathing out the first leaf – or cotyledon. Breathing in, this contraction forms the stem. The next leaf is then formed with the expansion of the next breath and so on. The compacted matter of the stem can easily be compared to the soft form of the leaf. This breathing in and out, expanding and contracting, continues upward to the flower where many quickened climactic breaths form the whorl of many petals. A final expansion and contraction may be seen in the fruit and seed. The plant then experiences a period of “sleep” and then awakens to a new life.

continued inside...



MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF JULY 21, 2008

I. Call to order, sign-in, approval of minutes, and treasurer's report.
Motion to approve minutes from June approved unanimously. \$2,241 in account. \$700 approved for plaque for crossroads sign, \$100 for paint for bulletin board (not spent yet), \$200 donation from Ward 1 office for neighborhood block party in October.

II. Announcements – none.

III. Discussion

Stop Signs on University Bike Route

Ward 1 has talked with Ian about the idea of changing the 4-way stops at University and 9th Ave and University and 10th Ave to 4-way yields. Reality is bikes roll through signs, and we are requesting a change from the city. Other parts of the country have 4-way yields. This exists in West University at 7th Ave and 4th St.
 •Why not have them all the way through the neighborhood at traffic circles, especially all down 9th Ave?

•Get input from West University neighborhood near the 4-way yield.

•West University traffic circle is much bigger and streets are wider so cars are going faster there.

•Most cars will yield to bikes at these intersections.

•Idea of bike exempt sign? Seems like there will be strong resistance.

•Board members will talk with West University and get more feedback from the neighborhood.

Motion to propose 4-way yields at 9th and 10th Ave and University and get feedback from neighborhood and others and come back next month. Approved with 1 abstention.

Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant

Lori Aledcoa from Pima County is targeting the October bond committee meeting, so we have a few more months to bring this grant together. Jonathan Crowe passed around maps with traffic calming, street beautification, and water harvesting enhancements noted. For the water-harvesting pull-outs, the curb is rebuilt and pulled into the street a bit. This narrows the road so cars slow down as well as harvest water from rainstorms. The speed humps would have water-harvesting pull-outs on either side. There would be benches for public gathering spaces as well. The list of projects needs to be brought to the city for cost estimates.

•Water-harvesting pull-outs will have trees/shrubs planted in them. Chicanes are the formal name for these pull-outs.

•Need pedestrian crossing for railroad on Main. There are federal regulations on how this looks. It should tie in to existing sidewalks and crosswalks.

•Question about impact of additional 3rd rail line.

•ADA ramps on corners of curbs.

•Should there be a traffic circle at 1st Street and 10th Ave?

•More sidewalks?

•If there is a speed hump near a proposed traffic circle, we must pay for removal of speed hump.

•Some areas will have angle parking (helps narrow the street).

•What about building traffic circles lower to ground for water flow? On 1st St a flush circle would get scoured in a storm.

•How far away is water coming when it goes down 1st St? From the entire university area.

•Why doesn't 1st St have a lot of water-harvesting pull-outs?

•Turtle and Jeff and Natasha said they would help with the grant.

Acquisition of Queen Ave by Islamic Mosque

City Department of Real Estate sent a letter for sale of the alley between 11th and Queen north of Speedway up to Helen. The mosque would like to purchase this alley for safety purposes.

Downtown Links – next steps

Alignment 3-D was approved by the CAC on June 23 with a vote of 11-3. It was approved by Mayor and Council on July 8 by 6-0. Now it is in the design phase.

•Questions about federal money allocated in 2005 to deal with railroad crossings at 22nd, 9th Ave and 6th St, and Speedway. If using federal money, there are more stringent guidelines.

•In June, neighborhood asked for a series of mitigation projects if 3-D was approved. Letter delivered to Mayor and Council, CAC, and transportation department.

•Next CAC meeting is August 11th at 5:30 in main library's lower level meeting room.

•Question about how deck will work and whether road needs to start slope further back. Drawing shows deck being as wide as area of proposed railroad park.

•Nina Trasoff e-mail indicated road would be for moving traffic around downtown.

•Mileage will be signed for 30 mph.

•A subcommittee is forming to look at 3-D proposal and be a conduit for board and Ward 1 office. Committee needs a chair to call a meeting and get started.

•Concern about how neighborhood will communicate with Ward 1 office. In past, we were not overruled by Ward 1 office, especially where neighborhood is unified. Need to figure out what we should bother to get involved with vs. what we will get overruled on.

•Neighborhood relationship with Ward 1 office is shattered. If there is a hope for healing, board should meet with Regina. It would be nice if she initiated the meeting.

•From Diana R. (Ward 1 aide): Regina respects neighborhoods and wants them to be active, but she will make final decisions. She says this to all neighborhoods, not just ours.

•Regina could have voted with us and be the only no vote.

•Regina owes an explanation to neighborhood for her actions. It was a slap in the face for her to 2nd the motion to approve for the 3-D proposal.

...continued from front page

The plant is a living being, full of life force, which forms its varied shapes. The nearness or distance of planetary bodies play a real role in everything associated with individual plant species. The plant kingdom is a hieroglyph of the sky. The plant is a microcosm of the Earth. The Earth is also a living, breathing being. The summer expansion of plant growth is the planet's outward breath. It is a time when the Earth is asleep. Awakened with a mighty breath inward the plants are withdrawn into the Earth which signifies winter's arrival. The expanding and contracting of the Earth's breath necessarily includes a time which falls between the in and out breathing. We recognize and celebrate this as the fall and spring equinox. The Earth follows the sun as it bores its spiraling course through the universe. It is by instilling life within these concepts, we approach a threshold where a higher sense may be awakened.

The plant kingdom is busy at a monumental task. It is in the fiery nature of the colorful flower that one observes how Earth matter is being "spiritualized" by the plant. It is as if the entire Earth's surface is on fire. The plant is transforming earth matter into light. Through the flowering process, the plant, being a reflected image of these radiating forces, transforms what was once matter and sends back into space a spiritualized form of matter. We may see the purified golden pollen particles adrift in the air as the last remnants of matter remaining, the rest having been rendered invisible.



By observing, receiving, and responding to the plant kingdom, we may better enable ourselves to find harmony with the world around us, for everything works in this same way. Working with these concepts stimulates deep and penetrating thoughts which may lead to powerful revelations. Correlations are found in all facets of life. We are all united in this effort of transforming our planet. Plants, as teachers, stand by the wayside offering their assistance.

Captured within the tree's gesture is a picture of the creative formative forces at work. The tree alone, with its network of branches, presents a picture depicting time: past, present, and with this insight, the future. It is a picture of time standing still, and by viewing it as such, time may be transcended. It is from understanding this concept of the true nature of the plant that we may better understand the world, ourselves, and each other.

Just as the plant kingdom has its objective of transforming the Earth's matter into that of light, we too have this same objective.

For us, it is to imbue all we see and do with love. Imbuing all knowledge with love transforms knowledge into wisdom. Our knowledge is meaningless if

not imbued with love. Just as the plant is light formed matter, so too are we. In all our daily matters of life, we must learn to radiate from ourselves this love-light for our Earth. By so doing, we do our part in transforming this earth planet into something much more.

By observing and learning from plants we all shall, together, transform the Earth and allow it to realize its full and true potential, that of becoming a star! Daily, in our lovely wonderful admiration of all that surrounds us, we are witness to the birth of this star.

•No need for mayor and council to always have 6-0 votes. Regina can vote against projects, knowing the rest of council will approve. There's a concern if this is the pattern for the 1st 6 months in office, what will happen in the next 3 1/2 years?

•CAC and council voted and valued other interests rather than West University and Dunbar/Spring.

•Many people had clear, specific questions about the project. We were assured we would get answers but we did not. Concern about access to information. Concern about accountability for this project.

•How will we get downtown during this project? Pay attention to access during construction during design process.

Ratification of Bylaws

Passed around potential changes to bylaws. Petition with 50 signatures and announcement of intended vote happened in June

at the meeting and in June newsletter. By old by-laws, the changes need to be sent to all residents at least 10 days before the vote. Ward 1 office will help with mailing.

•Concerns about needing 2/3 to approve votes.

•Vote to be held at August meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

Dunbar Coalition – 300 people for open house, solar awning is up, annual golf tournament netted \$11,000. Next meeting in new board room, August 19, 5:30.

Block captains – Contact Piper if you want to join 624-7007. Conduits for neighbors and neighborhood association.

Block Party – October 18, 9-2. Partner with Friendship Mission Baptist Church. Put up a table for your business or organization. Music, meet and greet, food. Next planning meeting August 2, 6:00 at church 11th Ave and 2nd St. More help needed.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER POSITION AVAILABLE: Interested in volunteering to put together the Dunbar/Spring newsletter? Please contact Turtle for more info. at 628-4318 or mydogellen@greenbicycle.net.