



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



DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

# 13th Annual Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Tree Planting

By Brad Lancaster & Nicole Koch

## Dated Material

- DSNA President:** Ian Fritz  
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- 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  
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- 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: September 15



photo by Sky Jacobs

## Announcements

**DUNBAR BARBER ACADEMY NOW OPEN:** Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. you can now visit the Dunbar Barber Academy located in the Dunbar School at 325 W. 2nd St. The Academy currently has seven students, and there is space available for seven more if interested. Otherwise, haircuts are available for the neighborhood and the general public. A regular student haircut costs \$5, seniors pay \$3, and on Wednesdays, all haircuts are only \$2. Walk-ins are welcome after 10 a.m. The Dunbar Barber Academy is really excited to be a part of the Dunbar School, to use this opportunity to contribute something positive to the community, and to soak up the atmosphere alive with memories of those who attended school there. Hosted by the Dunbar Coalition, the Dunbar Barber Academy can be reached at 624-0131.

**UPCOMING AT THE SEPTEMBER DSNA MEETING:** There will be a brief presentation on the current status of the Downtown Links roadway and the urban design process as well as a discussion on the project's impacts to the neighborhood at the September monthly DSNA meeting. Come let your voice be heard!



**When:** Sunday, October 5th at 7 a.m.  
**Where:** Meet at 828 N. Queen Ave. for a demonstration and to head out from there.  
**Who:** Anyone in Dunbar/Spring can purchase these low cost trees and have them installed by volunteer neighbors.

**Come help us plant** native shade trees within water-

harvesting earthworks in neighbors' yards and along the neighborhood streets. The idea is to plant food-producing, flood-controlling, wildlife habitat-producing, beautiful, air and water-filtering, living air conditioners. Mature shade trees on the east, west, and north sides of a home can reduce summer temperatures around the building by up to 20 degrees Fahrenheit compared to homes without such shade trees. In addition, street trees shading up to 75 percent of the street's surface can cool summer neighborhood temperatures by up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Using street runoff to irrigate the street trees, we also reduce water consumption as we reduce downstream flooding. Thus far this annual event has resulted in more than 1,100 trees being planted in our neighborhood – *let's keep going!*

The fall is the best time to plant native shade trees as they will have all winter and spring to send their roots deep into the soil to get established before the dry heat of summer hits again. Anyone (homeowner, business owner, or renter) can order these low-water-use, five-gallon trees through our neighborhood tree planting program and Trees for Tucson

for just \$6 each! That's a great deal because in the nursery they will cost at least \$20 each.

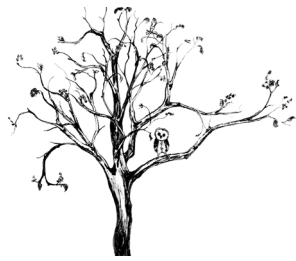
There are two parts of the program (and two separate order forms). The first is for property trees. Each address can order up to two trees to be planted on private property. The second is for trees planted along the street in the public right-of-way. The only street tree limit is that the trees you order must be able to fit in the public right-of-way in front of or beside your property (with no trees placed closer than 20 feet apart).

Order forms are available at two locations in the neighborhood: 813 N. 9th Ave. (Lancaster residence, forms on porch) and 526 N. 9th Ave. (Originate showroom, during business hours). These locations are also the drop-off sites for completed forms and checks. A list of native trees you can choose from is on each of the order forms. More information on all the trees can be found under "native tree list" at [www.desertharvesters.org](http://www.desertharvesters.org).

**WE MUST HAVE COMPLETED ORDER FORMS AND PAYMENT RECEIVED BY September 24th.** Tree planting day is **Sunday, October 5, starting at 7 a.m.** at 828 N. Queen Ave. with a tree planting and passive water-harvesting demonstration while it's nice and cool.

**Tree delivery is free**, and neighborhood volunteers take care of the permitting process for the trees planted along the street. No permit is necessary to plant trees on private property. Call Bluestake (1-800-782-5348) to mark all underground utilities (for free) before you dig any holes.

Help is usually available in planting the trees if you are not able (and of course we're always looking for volunteers to help plant). Join neighborhood tree planters to help someone else, then the group will help you with your trees. This is a great opportunity to beautify the neighborhood, get to know your neighbors, and establish some living air conditioners at the same time! Contact Nicole at 982-4103 or [nicole@tfssolar.com](mailto:nicole@tfssolar.com) with questions or to volunteer.



## MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2008

I. Call to Order, sign-in, approval of July 2008 minutes. Treasurer's Report: \$2,466 in account; Outgoing - \$700 for 9th /University structure; \$100 for 9th/University bulletin board mural; \$200 for October block festival.

### II. Announcements

2008 National Park(ing) Day on September 19 – Find a parking spot, reserve a meter, build your own park – call Marylou at Parkwise (791-5071) or Carmen at U of A (621-3710) or email jmblylock@yahoo.com; Turtle still looking for volunteer(s) to take over DSNA Newsletter; City High still working on mural design for east side of 9th/University bulletin board.

### III. Discussion

#### **TEP Presentation** – Sharon Foltz, representing TEP

Tucson Electric Power is improving Tucson Substation located in Dunbar/Spring, one of the oldest in their service territory. Their service includes area up to Grant, west of freeway, U of A area, downtown. Demand growing; substation needs repairs. TEP has capital funds to modernize and increase load to make more efficient; they want to work with Dunbar/Spring regarding design, landscaping, and solid wall. They wish to acquire section of 11th Ave. south of 5th St. from City. It will become private road for shared use between TEP and Axle Transmission; no public access and will give more flexibility for TEP. We have until August 26 to notify our thoughts/opinions to City. TEP offered monthly updates and meetings should the sale transpire. Once sale is decided and current/future demands are known, there will be better detail re: roll-out. Once construction starts, it will be quick; construction to occur during the week and on weekends but not at night. Structure might not be higher, should be cleaner and more organized, and maybe even lower profile. Dunbar/Spring would need to use Queen for southern access. TEP has had problems with homeless encampments and fire hazards but willing to look at possible limited public access weighed with concern about risk.

- Resident described concerns re: floodplain, U of A expansion, Downtown Links roadway – all on south side of Dunbar/Spring.
- What will noise of substation be like after completion? A: TEP couldn't promise but hopefully quieter; solid wall should help.
- Dunbar/Spring resident asked if voltage will increase and expressed concerns re: safety and environmental impact.
- Data has shown that high tension powerlines can cause health problems.
- Dunbar/Spring resident voiced opinion re: not wanting further reduction of open space in Dunbar/Spring.
- TEP says they are the second largest producer of solar power in the world and have rebates available for certain appliances. The Corp. Commission has prevented some proposed conservation program.
- Suggested Dunbar/Spring form a committee to discuss this and give feedback by the "hard" deadline (could be a few weeks later than August 26 "soft" deadline). Volunteers: Emily Yetman (she

will also check with her neighbors), Ian Fritz, Vince Pawlowski. •TEP said to check their website for conservation programs.

**Right-of-Way Acquisitions** (10th & Perry Ave., south of 5th St.) Whistlestop, LLC and Dunbar Depot, LLC (Nancy Bender and Carl White) are interested in purchasing city property and neighborhood can give comments on this potential sale to the City. Unsure of square footage; would be a phased sale depending on Downtown Links. They want to assemble and redevelop for row houses and retail. Housing/retail would essentially border 3d alignment.

- Dunbar/Spring resident asked what opinion Bender and White have of 3d. A: As far as we know, they are for it.
- Dunbar/Spring resident suggested one-third affordable housing.
- Dunbar/Spring resident concerned about City's non-responsive history. Are these done-deals, anyway?
- Resident wonders if we have a position; we are responding to the City's Real Estate Division; final decision by M & C.
- Dunbar/Spring resident wants proactive solutions.
- City staff said these only go to M & C if property is worth more than \$25,000.
- City is anxious to sell these types of parcels.
- In general, Dunbar/Spring members present at meeting voiced opposition.

**Motion to authorize Dunbar/Spring board to write a letter to City regarding opposition to sale of parcels until a presentation has been made, including our opposition to privatization of common land in Dunbar/Spring. Approved with 1 Abstention. Another Motion that a similar letter be written regarding TEP issue. Motion passed.**

**Warehouse Arts Management Organization** – Susan Gamble Susan read WAMO's mission and discussed their goals, past and related activities. They are working on four goals and have come a long way. Invited Dunbar/Spring, El Presidio, Iron Horse, West University, and stakeholders (artists) to next open house on September 10. They will present implementation plan along with developers. Questions and comments will be welcome to be incorporated into their plans when moving forward. Open house to be held at the Dunbar Auditorium, Wednesday, September 10 from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m.

#### **Bylaw Ratification**

Copies of changes passed around and were mailed to all of Dunbar/Spring. Notice of vote also given, and 50 signatures obtained from residents. Changes to be effective on the date of the next DSNA meeting (September 15). Two-thirds majority vote required to pass. Must also be submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Resources to check compliance and to approve. **Motion proposed to accept Dunbar/Spring bylaws as adjusted and rewritten. 21 approved, 0 opposed, 1 Abstention. Motion Passed.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER POSITION AVAILABLE:** Interested in volunteering to put together the Dunbar/Spring newsletter? Basic responsibilities include acquiring content (including monthly meeting minutes), laying out the newsletter, and forwarding it to the City once a month in PDF format. Time commitment varies each month but averages four to eight hours. Please contact Turtle for more information at 628-4318 or mydogellen@greenbicycle.net.

#### **Stop vs. Yield Signs at Traffic Circles**

Some Dunbar/Spring residents wanting all stop signs at traffic circles on 9th Ave. and on University Blvd. bike routes to be converted to yield signs. Ian reviewed Dunbar/Spring listserv discussion: 30 comments from 19 different neighbors; 12 pro; six against; 12 neutral w/ other suggestions. West University listserv: 4 pro. Bicycle Advisory Committee: 1 comment. Reasons for and against as well as new suggestions were read. There would be no cost to neighborhood.

- Dunbar/Spring resident warned that ticketing accelerates when school sessions start.
- Dunbar/Spring resident concerned about safety at night; this could be potential risk for pedestrians, etc.
- In Portland, intersections have stop signs at main intersections only. None at other intersections.
- Possibility of testing at one intersection? if so, how would testing be gauged? Would City agree?
- BICAS in favor.
- Traffic fine = \$250 for roll throughs.
- Dunbar/Spring resident, who is a transportation planner, mentioned that four-way yields always used at traffic circles in Pima County based on research, history, and safety.
- Portland is a leader in alternative transportation and uses four-way yields.
- Currently there is a conversation with Ward One and Dept. of Transportation Bike Coordinator regarding a TOCAN at Main/University. Grant put together; chances are poor due to cost. Possible HAWK? Residents really prefer TOCAN. **Motion that if all necessary signatures obtained, four-way yields will replace stop signs at all traffic circles on 9th Ave. and on University Blvd. 16 approved, 4 opposed, 1 Abstention. Motion Passed.**

#### **Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant Update**

Grant writing process has started. County is ready for presentation to voting authority for funding. Need cost estimates from TDOT. List of individual projects being compiled. Encouraged to request \$250,000 instead of \$500,000 in order to increase possibility of funding. Grant to include traffic calming, public art, street beautification, rainwater harvesting, a couple of sidewalk sections, and chicanes (narrow streets w/ protruding curb areas). All public right-of-ways owned by the City. Additional project to repaint 9th/University mural and new mural at 11th/University. List of projects came from neighborhood surveys and will be presented to Dunbar/Spring before final. Still need 60 percent buy-in from local residents. Deadline = September or October. Brad Lancaster and Karen Greene working on it w/ Jonathan Crowe. Add Main/University traffic mitigation? More coming next month.

#### **Ward One Communication Issues**

Neighborhood has felt that when dealing with Ward One office our concerns are either not being heard or are being pushed aside. Downtown Links vote was upsetting within Dunbar/Spring; this

concern was expressed to Ward One with no response from the council office. Discussed possibility of requesting a different aide as a solution. This must be a Dunbar/Spring vote, not just a board decision. Two issues clarified: communication and breakdown of trust with Ward One.

- Concerns regarding current aide; suggested that the board and a small group meet with Regina regarding expression and review of process.
- Converge common interests; where do our interests match or conflict with each other?
- Suggested a letter to Ward One regarding our feelings.
- Communication with other potential aides suggested before requesting any changes.
- Dunbar/Spring resident stated that it is most important that we be in line with Regina; politics are at play here.
- Need to be clear regarding what the board wants to ask for from Ward One; clear communication to Ward office by aide is also very important.

**Motion that the board actively seek communication with all three other aides; board to decide which one to represent DSNA and then bring that request to Regina. 3 Abstentions. Motion Passed.**

#### IV. Committee Reports

**Community Garden** – Happy 10th Birthday! Seeds of Change donation order is still on hold. Great monsoons this year. Thanks to the person who cut the Bermuda grass on the easements. Realize that the homeless need space, and our garden seems to be filling their needs. Susan will sometimes plant flowers and check on the water systems, but she does not have time to host a campground for adult men.

**Dunbar Coalition** – Beefing up security. Bid in December for Historic Dunbar School portion of building. Need volunteers for events (e.g., open/close, etc.). Possibility of storing Dunbar/Spring archives at this facility.

**Block Captains** – Need to meet and determine what are next steps. Volunteers welcome; this is an easy job.

**Block Festival** – Saturday, October 18. Coalition of Dunbar/Spring neighbors and Friendship Missionary Church. Bike safety instruction; local business tables will be represented. Will possibly distribute a community resource guide.

**Downtown Links** – Moving into the urban design phase. Series of meetings to discuss what we want to see. Citizens warehouse and deck area to be discussed at hands-on workshop on August 25. Dunbar/Spring wants to form a task force to represent our desires. We need to be vocal. Drainage, downtown access, and bikes/pedestrian access are issues. Downtown Links wants to come to present at our September DSNA meeting. Dunbar/Spring needs to stay close to this process; we need to affect all we've outlined. **Motion to form an official Downtown Links Task Force as part of DSNA to work on the urban design issues. Unanimous approval. Motion Passed.**