



Office of Integrated Planning
PO Box 27210
Tucson AZ 85726-7210

DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD



DSNA Elections to be Held at Annual Meeting on April 27, 2015

Officers of the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association are elected each April to hold office for a term of one year. Neighborhood residents and property owners are encouraged to participate by running for office and by voting in the elections. The neighborhood board plays a vital role in keeping us on top of important issues, securing funding for neighborhood projects, and acting as a voice for our neighborhood. See Dunbar/Spring's bylaws: dunbarspring.org/node/29.

Dated Material

- DSNA President:** Sky Jacobs
(520) 322-0285 ✉ skyjacobs@gmail.com
- Vice President:** Harrison Smith
(520) 661-6082 ✉ harrisonts@gmail.com
- Secretary:** Karen Greene
(520) 791-0395 ✉ kgreene5050@yahoo.com
- Treasurer:** Gail Toomey
gailtoomey@yahoo.com
- Parliamentarian:** Vince Pawlowski
(520) 400-7517 ✉ pawlowski@ultrasw.com
- Newsletter:** Sky Jacobs, Lorinda Paca
- Dunbar Coalition:** Lisa Scoblink
(520) 861-6377 ✉ lisascoblink@yahoo.com
- Ward One, Councilwoman Regina Romero**
(520) 791-4040 ✉ regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov
- Dunbar/Spring Online:**
dunbarspring.org
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring
- DSNA Meetings:**
General meetings are held the third Monday of each month (4th Mon. in Jan.) from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar School (325 W 2nd St).



The **President** shall act for and in behalf of the membership of the Association, contingent upon the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association's voted approval of that action; shall appoint special committees necessary for the operation of the business of the Association, and shall act as official spokesperson of the Association. The President shall only implement the voted-upon decisions of the Association.

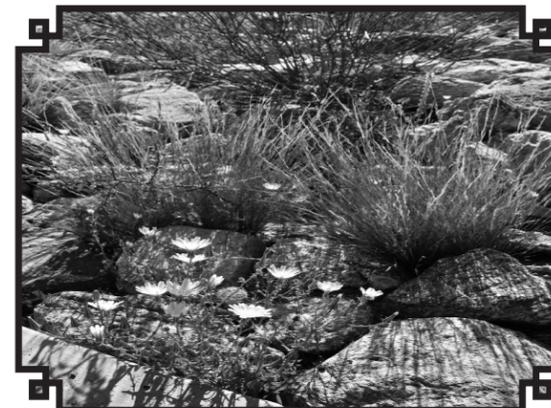
The **Vice President** shall, in the absence of the President, assume all of the duties of that office.

The **Secretary** shall keep a permanent record of all the Monthly Meetings and special meetings' minutes, and all legal documents and legal transactions of the Association. The Secretary shall transcribe the minutes of each Monthly Meeting, including all actions taken by the Association and the content of any discussion, and shall transfer one copy to the President, one copy to the Community Garden bulletin board, and one copy to the Newsletter editor, who will include them in the newsletter. The Secretary will post the minutes on the listserv or Internet-accessible media in use at the time. Copies shall be transferred as herein described within seven (7) calendar days of the respective meeting

occurrence. The Secretary shall also conduct absentee voting, as described in Article IV of the Association bylaws.

The **Treasurer** shall have general charge and supervision of the books, financial records, and bank accounts of the Association. The Treasurer shall present a current financial report of all receipts and disbursements at each Monthly Meeting and at the Annual Meeting.

The **Parliamentarian** shall be familiar with general parliamentary procedures of Robert Rules of Order. The Parliamentarian shall aid in the orderly conduct of all meetings; ensure the adherence to bylaws of the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association; provide direction when the Association requests changes of the rules or existing procedures; enforce and correct parliamentary procedures; answer point information addressed through the chair; appoint teller to count votes at all elections; and oversee Association elections. If the Parliamentarian is on the ballot, a moderator shall be appointed from Voting Members. The Parliamentarian shall determine whether a motion in question is in conflict with a standing decision and requires a vote to rescind.



If you are unable to attend the April 27 meeting, you can still vote by submitting your vote in person to the Secretary. From the bylaws: "Any Voting Member unable to attend the Annual Meeting to vote for officers may vote in absentia by contacting the Secretary at least three (3) days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken. The vote with the Secretary must be made in person. The Secretary will accept a vote for each office. The Member's name (printed), signature, and address must be provided."

Disclaimer: The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Office of Integrated Planning and all other offices neither agrees nor disagrees with the views expressed or implied in this communication or any referenced websites and are not therefore responsible. The distribution requester is solely responsible.

Neighborhood Walkability Assessment

Walkability is key to a friendly, happy, and healthy neighborhood. For this reason, in 2014 the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood participated in a study of walkability in and along the edges of our neighborhood. The Living Streets Alliance produced an extensive report on assets and issues effecting walkability in the neighborhood. The full report is available at: www.dunbarspring.org/walkability

Neighborhood residents who participated in the walkability assessment generally had a preference for unpaved walking paths (as opposed to paved sidewalks) on neighborhood streets. People found shade key to an inviting environment. Some participants found it safe and convenient to walk in the roadway, while others believed that it was important to provide a continuous and navigable network of walking paths for those who prefer to walk off the roadway, particularly people with children, strollers, and pets.

Participants noted that obstructions such as rocks, plantings, parked cars, and overhanging/overgrown vegetation made it more challenging to stay off the roadway at times. Gravel used as substrate by several homeowners (most likely as a well-intentioned improvement idea) resulted in a non-walking-friendly surface at several spots and made it completely inaccessible for wheelchairs and baby strollers.

Recommendation 1 from report to the City of Tucson Department of Transportation: For neighborhoods interested in walking paths, investigate providing an ADA accessible alternative to conventional concrete sidewalks made from materials such as compacted soil or crushed stone. As funding becomes available, complete the neighborhood walking path network by filling in the gaps to create a safe, comfortable, and accessible pedestrian environment.

Recommendation 2 from report to the Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Association: Where obstructions are present, approach property owners to initiate a conversation about removing rocks and gravel, trimming overgrown vegetation, and parking cars on the street. Highlight that on-street parking can also help bring down speeds by narrowing the street.

What you should do:

Homeowners are responsible, and indeed legally liable, for rights-of-way in front of their homes. Please take a day to assess your right-of-way for issues and work to fix them.

Common issues:

- Blockage by large rocks, walls, garbage cans, garbage/brush and bulky items for extended periods, or other items. Fix: remove items.
- Branches from trees or shrubs encroaching on the walking area. Fix: carefully prune appropriate branches (consult a knowledgeable neighbor or professional on proper pruning technique to prevent harming important shade trees or wildlife habitat).
- Substrate such as gravel or sand and other soft surfaces that make it difficult or impossible for a wheelchair or stroller to navigate. Our native soil will pack down to an appropriately hard substrate in almost all cases. Sometimes shoveling dirt near planted areas to the main path can help make a solid and even substrate, while creating water harvesting basins to support vegetation. Fix: remove offending material or use native soil to create a solid and walkable surface.
- Overgrowth of weeds, grass, or even trees and shrubs coming up on their own in the pathway. Fix: remove weeds or other plants growing in the walking path of the right-of-way. Also when planting vegetation consider where the primary path is and give appropriate space for future size of the tree or shrub.
- Uneven or bumpy soil surface in walking area. Fix: use a shovel to smooth out the pathway.
- Cracked or very uneven sidewalk. Fix: repair sidewalk (believe it or not, this is actually the responsibility of the homeowner).

Generally rights-of-way in our neighborhood are 20 feet wide, sometimes less. Some, like the south part of Queen and Perry, have no rights-of-way at all.

Ideally and by City code, pathways should be 5 feet wide and 7 feet tall. The path can be anywhere in the right-of-way, but what often works best is leaving 10+ feet along the street for water harvesting basin and vegetation. The next 5 or more feet should be the pathway and the remaining 5 or less feet can be for more trees or shrubs, if there is space.

If you need assistance in clearing your right-of-way, ask a neighbor in person or via our neighborhood email listserv (sign up at www.dunbarspring.org). Occasional work parties could prioritize problem areas.



by Claire Zugmeyer

I know many of us do a lot to save water. Conserve2Enhance (C2E) is a simple program that helps you “put your water conservation efforts to work for the environment”, including the environment in our own neighborhood. The Tucson C2E program links your water conservation to riparian restoration projects in the Tucson area. To date over \$55,000 has been spent on seven community led riparian and urban wash enhancement projects.

As a neighborhood, Dunbar/Spring can apply for C2E grants for rainwater harvesting along streets that serve as our water courses to restore the wash-like qualities of shade, flood attenuation, stormwater quality improvements, and habitat.

We have considered applying in the past, and may do so in the future. When we get more neighbors signed up as conservation participants, it reflects our engagement in grant applications and improves our chances for obtaining grants.

You can join the program by signing up on the C2E website. Simply register your Tucson Water account number (ask your landlord for the number if you are renting) and the website will track the results of your water conservation efforts, offer tips on saving water, and much more. You can elect to donate some of your financial savings to the C2E fund. You can also donate through your Tucson Water bill by writing in your donation amount in the “open space/riparian” box on your bill. We have nearly nearly 1000 people that are either tracking their water savings with the dashboard or donating funds through their water bill. Join the Tucson C2E community today!
conserve2enhance.org/Tucson

Non-native mesquites and our water harvesting basins and traffic circles

Most traffic circles and chicanes in the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood have been quite beautiful lately with plants leafing out and annuals and perennials showing off their colorful blooms. However, a number have been invaded by several aggressive, non-native species. By far the worst offender is non-native (south American) mesquites, which sprout readily and grow in high numbers. These plants often choke out all other species and are difficult to remove. 1st Street and a few other areas have been especially hard hit. Several neighbors have been working to remove them, but work is difficult. Bermuda grass is another tenacious species that can completely take over water harvesting basins and is nearly impossible to remove once established. Its dense growth will generally prevent any spring wildflowers. If you have energy please remove these species when you see them. Please always choose to plant native mesquites, the non-hybrid velvet mesquite or screwbean mesquite.