

City Manager's Report

January 16, 2020

Council and Colleagues, Greetings!

These reports will be included in the City Council packet for regularly scheduled Council meetings, excluding Work Session meetings. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. In no particular order ...

Director of the Year

The Leadership Team met on Monday January 13th for an expanded weekly meeting, with breakfast being provided courtesy of the City Manager and Deputy City Managers. The purpose of the event — the announcement of our Director of the Year for 2019. The award's namesake, Mary Jo Jenkins, was known for her integrity, honesty, professionalism, dedication, accountability, problem solving, and ethics. These traits are applied when selecting a recipient each year. After careful review of all the accomplishments of the numerous directors by the City Manager and the two Deputy City Managers, the 2019 recognition was given to Rick Tadder, Director of Management Services. The photo below shows our proud team and the deserved recipient ... he's the guy in the middle sporting the two-toned facial hair (no, not Shane ... the other guy). Congratulations Rick!



The following announcement summarizes some of the many notables for the Management Services Division in 2019. As an aside, these accomplishments, together with the accomplishments of other divisions, will be noted during the City Manager awards before the Council in the weeks ahead. Also, as an aside, the award will be expanded next year to include all members of the Leadership Team.



City of Flagstaff

News Release
Jan. 16, 2020
For Immediate Release

Director of the Year award

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz – The city of Flagstaff announces Management Services Director Rick Tadder as this year's recipient of the Mary Jo Jenkins' Outstanding Director of the Year award.

The award is given in honor of the late Mary Jo Jenkins, the city of Flagstaff's Management Services Director from 1987 – 2009. Jenkins was known as an exceptional leader with encyclopedic knowledge of the city's finances.

"Rick brings an emphasis on problem solving to Management Services and the city at large. Mary Jo's spirit lives on at the city of Flagstaff," said City Manager Greg Clifton. "Rick's leadership over the last year has been exceptional and he brought forward many updates to city policies and procedures, a number of which will save taxpayer money. We are grateful to Rick and his leadership."

Tadder was selected for his exemplary leadership during this past year. Under his leadership Management Services completed major upgrades to some of our most critical software programs (significant upgrades that includes payroll, work orders and fleet management), developed a Public Safety Pension and Retirement System (PSPRS) funding policy, received an outstanding debt rating from Standard and Poor's for the City (AA stable rating) and is in the process of securing debt financing that will save property tax payers over \$1 million.

"It's an honor to receive this award," said Tadder. "Mary Jo Jenkins was involved in my very first interview with the city, 25 years ago. She was an exceptional leader, a mentor and a major influence early in my career. I am humbled to receive the award named in her memory." Tadder added "I thank the City Manager's Office for this recognition. There are many great Directors at the city that I am privileged to work with and specifically like to thank the entire Management Service Team for their hard work and commitment to the organization."

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Up With People

We have had numerous meetings with the organizers and members of the advance team of *Up with People* regarding their visit to Flagstaff in early March.

In conjunction with Northern Arizona University, Coconino County, and Unisource Energy Services, the tour will include a week of performance and community service in the Flagstaff community. The City will be a financial partner in the amount of \$5K, out of budgeted appropriations. The Flagstaff visit will directly involve community work with *Launch Flagstaff* and other non-profit and local governmental entities.

“Up with People is building a more hopeful, trusting and peaceful world by empowering young people to be positive agents of change through action and the international language of music. Participants from 15 – 17 countries travel to a new destination each week and throughout this journey, they strive to impact communities through host family stays, cultural exchange and 1,000+ hours of community service generally impacting 2,500+ youth per week!”

The United Way

We have had recent meetings with Director Carol Dykes and others on her team with respect to the United Way, and the specifically the new focus upon youth. United Way is asking the City to have 10% – 15% of its annual contribution be allocated specifically toward youth programs. In conferring with the County, this targeted allocation has been approved at 7.5%. The suggested allocation is also being accompanied by a request for an additional \$15K to support one KinderCamp classroom. We would like to have Council feedback related to both requests. It is our understanding that the County is contributing \$25K toward this program.



New Recruits

Interviews are underway for Senior Executive Assistant and the Full-time Indigenous Coordinator positions. In-person interviews for both positions occurred on January 7th (Senior Executive Assistant) and January 9th (Indigenous Coordinator). The Mayor assisted in the former process, and three members of our Indigenous community (Steve Peru, Carmenlita Chief, and Joe Washington) assisted in the latter process. We had excellent candidates for both positions. News of the recruitment outcomes will be occurring shortly.



Miscellaneous Updates

Staff Updates

- Fire Chief Gaillard met with Greater Flagstaff Region Fire Chiefs to discuss a recruitment plan to replace the Regional Training Officer with a pending retirement in May 2020. Fire Automatic Aid partners participated in a cold water rescue training at Flag Ranch Golf Club.
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- Wildland Fire Management is taking advantage of suitable weather and site conditions with current burning of slash piles on Observatory Mesa near Hidden Hollow Road. The FWPP met on January 16th and discussed pending and future projects. Notably, updates were provided regarding pending hand-thinning projects conducted by the Conservation Corps (AZCC and ACE) in Schultz Creek. Additional thinning will be occurring by the City in Picture Canyon, and subject to bid procurement, in Dry Lake Hills, Schultz Tank, and Mt Elden Units on USFS property. Phase III work on Mormon Mtn was also discussed (more below).
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- Related, Wildland Fire Management attended a meeting with Department of Defense Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration program (REDI) to explore potential grant opportunities for the Phase III work at Mormon Mountain. Stay tuned. These are competitive grants, but the project, with its proximity to the Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station, may be a good candidate.
 - On the law enforcement side of things, Officer Zach Syers reported to NARTA police academy in Prescott this week as a Recruit Training Officer. Four Flagstaff Police Dispatchers left for three weeks of Dispatch Academy Training this week in Lake Havasu – Darlene Pendegraft, Surya Hall, Mindy Feldman, and Naomi Prentice. Sgt Hernandez assisted in securing \$8,500 grant funding from the Nancy Lieberman foundation that will support the Night Court initiatives. Police Training Coordinator, Lexi Pineda, attended a meeting with Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority to discuss mental health training scheduled for February 2020. The PD staff attended the La Plaza Vieja and Sunnyside block watch meetings. And one last but very important little tidbit, the 2019 calendar year finished with an overall decrease of 3% in crime!
 - Also on the subject of end-of-the-year notables, the Citizens Cemetery finished 2019 with 171 interments, 70 headstones, a 27,000 square foot expansion, and a pollinator

pilot project (especially noteworthy with the recent Monarch Pledge participation by the City).

- The Park's smart irrigation controllers and parts are being installed this week. The all-staff training occurred on January 15th. The new snow operations app will serve to map all routes and makes assignments for the hand crews.
- The annual membership drive at the Aquaplex has resulted in 359 memberships sold thus far. This drive continues through the end of this month and members can save up to 25% depending on the length of their membership.
- Sweeper crews are emphasizing cinder clean up in bike lanes and intersections. Cinders are heavy in most areas due to the continued ice control which requires multiple passes on most roadways.
- And this just in — the work to repair the leaky City Hall roof is planned for May through June. Related, we will soon be needing to find a new use for two dozen 5-gallon orange buckets. Proposals are being accepted.
- Parks & Recreation has been meeting with Dr. Marie Peoples since last fall on *Stronger as One* and has ordered ten signs. One sign will be installed at each of the recreation centers and the other five will be placed in park areas popular with youth. The signs should be received the end of February.
- The Winter Snow Play clean-up crew had nine volunteers who collected ten bags of litter in two hours. It appears visitors are using the dumpsters on site, too, which is greatly appreciated.

It was previously represented that the December retreat outcomes would be summarize in this report. Please bear with us as it will be included in the next report, due to content limitations (five pages is enough)! Onward and Upward!