

City Manager's Report

February 28, 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. This report will focus on two recent business visits: Clearwater, Florida ("Safe Harbor"), and BNSF headquarters (thanks to contributors Sarah Darr and Shane Dille). It will also include other updates.

Safe Harbor Facility

There will be a more detailed and collaborative debrief of this site visit when the City Council and the County Board of Supervisors meet on March 23rd. This reporting will therefore be a bit abbreviated.

In short, the purpose of the visit was to participate in a site tour of a post-arrest, diversion facility owned and operated by the County Sheriff in Pinellas County, Florida. The facility uses a model that keeps misdemeanor street offenders, consisting largely of homeless and mentally ill individuals, out of the court system and county jails – a process which consumes significant public resources and does very little to help the people involved. Instead of judicial prosecution and incarceration, this facility offers behavioral assessment, treatment, and shelter, at a fraction of the cost. It is heavily used, and it is well operated. From the website: "Pinellas Safe Harbor is a cost-effective shelter and service headquarters for homeless people involved in the criminal justice system in Pinellas County. It is also a portal for our inmates re-entering the community from the Pinellas County Jail (PCJ)."

From what we learned, Safe Harbor has been quite successful in terms of reducing costs and resources, while providing meaningful assistance to the homeless population. It has been well accepted by the surrounding communities there. Whether such a model would reflect our values here in the Flagstaff community is not something that I can readily answer, but there will need to be significant public dialogue on the topic. Suffice it to note that we need to be thinking of other approaches to this social issue.

The consortium that traveled to Florida included City officials, County officials, law enforcement, representatives of our housing programs, and representatives of our court system. It was a one-day visit with travel on both ends. Some bullet points to summarize the facility and various outcomes from our tour:

- Pinellas County, Florida, has population of about 1 million people. It comprises about 600 square miles, consisting of several municipalities, and is largely urbanized. The tourism industry is a significant economic driver year-round. The homeless population has

fluctuated ... point-in-time counts three years ago revealed about 2,700 homeless people. Anecdotal information indicates that the homeless population has been slightly declining in recent years.

- The Pinellas County Sheriff initiated the facility in 2011 and budgeted for the funding to operate the project with the main focus being jail diversion. The central purpose for the project was to lower the prosecution and jail costs incurred by the County, largely attributed to misdemeanor offenses within the homeless population. The facility is a converted jail that is no longer being used for detention.
- In terms of cost reduction within the criminal justice system, the facility has successfully reduced these costs. In the Sheriff's estimation, the annual cost for operating the facility remains about \$1.8M per year vs. over \$3M per year that would otherwise be needed for prosecution and incarceration. These are approximate numbers, and it is noted that there are numerous contributing services organizations, churches, and local governments to help offset the costs.
- Safe Harbor serves multiple jurisdictions with jail diversion and shelter, operates with a daily population in the 360 range, with a capacity to accommodate 470 persons.
- Staff of the facility are employed by the Sheriff's office, including civilian case workers and other staff. While law enforcement has a presence within the facility, it does not appear as a law enforcement institution, but rather a shelter facility with behavioral assessment and treatment staff. Notably, a non-profit entity has built a full-service health center adjacent to Safe Harbor.
- Multiple community partners, including the faith-based community and social service providers, deliver services on-site, as noted above. There is clearly a strong and cooperative relationship between law enforcement and social services.
- Community policing officers from the Sheriff's Office work in the surrounding areas and neighborhoods.
- Part of the diversion effort is a "Local Ordinance Violation Dismissal Program." Through a partnership with the Florida State Attorney, local justice services, judges, and law enforcement, misdemeanor offenders who have committed local ordinance violation will perform community service in lieu of paying a fine. Upon completion of the community service, the charge is then dismissed.



The visit was very informative, and the tour was well orchestrated. Details and perspectives will be shared on March 23rd, as well as possible next steps in the exploration of this model as a possible strategy for the Flagstaff community. Stay tuned.

BNSF Visit

This trip to BNSF Headquarters in Fort Worth, which occurred over one day on Thursday, February 27th, originated from a meeting with BNSF leadership last October. BNSF reps responded to an invitation by the City to meet to discuss the critical path for our Rio de Flag project and how BNSF's assistance and partnership were absolutely critical if the community was to benefit from a completed project in a timeframe established by the funding cycle of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Stakes are significant for both the City and BNSF, with at times competing missions, but both entities are united in embracing the benefit of having the project completed.



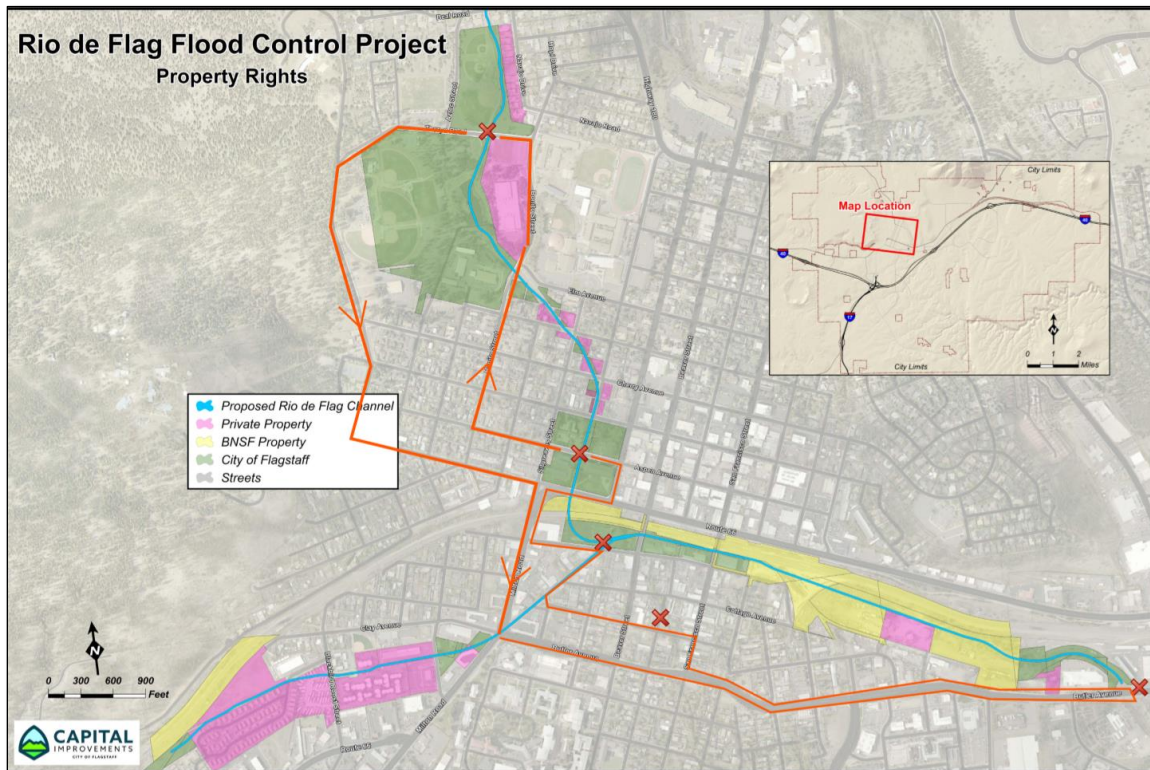
Since the meeting in October, significant progress has occurred in advancing items on the project's critical path, i.e. development of a solution to the super-structure under BNSF's tracks just north of the City's Phoenix Ave. lot; and performing soil testing of BNSF's properties along the project's route. A joint-agency technical working group charged in December to develop a recommended strategy to build the superstructure and the outcomes of this working group is expected to be presented in March. The visit with BNSF was very positive and has only confirmed their continued interest to see the Rio de

Flag project realized. As an interested stakeholder, BNSF is working with the City & USACE in a coordinated way to see the execution of a Construction & Maintenance Agreement for Phase 1 (Lower Reach) by USACE's timeline of July 2020.



Rio De Flag Treatment Facility

Quick note here on the visit by our Delegates on Friday, February 21st, and thanks to those involved in orchestrating a successful tour (bus provided via Mountain Line). The tour was short but very informative and gave Congressman Tom O'Halleran and Senator Krysten Sinema a good 'lay of the land' on the RDF project. The weather cooperated. Thanks to Trevor Henry (who structured the tour), and the CD Team. The whirlwind tour followed the route shown below.



Staff Updates

Budget Team

The Budget Team has been conducting Division Budget meetings all week, and we will continue next week. It has been rigorous. Please excuse the interruptions in our scheduling as we endeavor to complete this internal process. Related, Rick Tadder, Brandi Suda, and I will take a trip to Phoenix in two weeks to meet with Mike Townsend, where we will discuss the unfunded pension liability.

Human Resources

Human Resources is working on a reorganization. It will largely track with changes at the management level, with an eye toward less verticality in the organizational structure.

Public Works

A concrete crew is working downtown grinding concrete for displaced sidewalk panels and removing concrete tree rings that have become a tripping hazard. This crew is resetting pavers in many locations as well. Sweeper crews are providing additional neighborhood service this week. The feedback has been positive.

Design consultants are preparing three draft concept plans for the Pulliam Airport overflow parking lot. Council will be apprised in the near future ... stay tuned.

Fleet Services and Flagstaff PD received the first three hybrid patrol vehicles in the City. These vehicles will reduce fuel consumption which off-sets the increased cost of the vehicle. Very cool!

Solid Waste is delivering two loads of residential recycling to the Waste Management Flagstaff Ranch Road transfer stations ... Waste Management will be completing an audit for the City at no charge. The audit will include material types, volumes, and contamination levels. Assessing the recycling stream will provide further detail on how we should progress moving forward with public education and assign potential value to the material collected. Related, our contractor at the landfill is beginning the annual process of shipping out approximately 800 tons of metal for recycling.



Parks staff is planning to add a pollinator space to Bushmaster park. Parks delivered materials (mostly pine needles) from the cemetery, to NAU for the compost IGA pilot program. See previous Manager's Report (11/27/19) regarding this composting facility and the positive results we are seeing regarding pine needle composting.

Fire

Flagstaff Fire Department joined Big Brothers and Big Sisters annual bowling fundraiser to support kids within our community. Flagstaff Fire personnel raised \$1,375 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and had fun doing so, notwithstanding all the gutter balls.



Flagstaff Fire responded to Northland Preparatory School for report of possible chemical spill in chemistry class. The room was cleared by the Hazmat Team and the eight students were treated and released. The FFD also responded to a vehicle collision with an electric transformer that created a chain reaction of power surges causing false alarms for some City businesses. Fire personnel investigated those businesses and reset the alarm systems.

Police

Flagstaff PD met with Stronger as One, Interfaith Council on Immigration Concerns, La Plaza Vieja Block Watch, Sunnyside Neighborhood Block Watch, Downtown Business Alliance (on deterring crime), Salvation Army Board, Boys and Girls Club Board, and Veteran's Services during the past two weeks. These meetings were conducted in the interest of community partnership. PD's continued focus upon recruitment led to participation in the NAU job fair, hosting of Law Enforcement career day at Northland Preparatory Academy, and continued planning for the next High School law enforcement recruitment fair for Flagstaff and Coconino High Schools.

Economic Vitality

The CCR for Economic Development Toolkit in the works. At the March 3rd meeting, Debbie Johnson, Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) Director, will be on hand to do the recognition of the ADOT Scenic Sign Reveal, which includes the Mayor receiving a sign (the Mayor may need to make some space on her office walls)! Also looming ahead for future Council meetings: Downtown Parking Municipal Court and DBA Visioning Plan (March 3rd); Flowers and Planters Update re Downtown and Southside (March 17th); Library Update and Hours of Operations (March 24th); Business Listening Tour (March 31st); and the Airport 32-acre parcel – Coffman & Associates on hand to discuss options (April 7th).

That's all for now. Upward and onward...