

# City Manager's Report

March 13, 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 provide some miscellaneous staff updates, followed by an update with talking points related to our safety pension liability (thanks to contributors Sarah Langley, Rick Tadder, Brandi Suda).

## **Staff Updates**

### Budget Team

The Budget Team has concluded, temporarily, its Division Budget meetings after a two-week stint. Divisions have been apprised of the General Fund shortfalls in the draft 2020-21 Budget and tasked with the responsibility of further reducing the proposed expenditures. Stay tuned.

### Sustainability

Staff provided comments on solar feasibility and compliance with the Regional Plan's energy goals for the Flag at Fourth rezoning case. The City Hall EV Charging Stations construction schedule has been delayed, due to changes to the design to allow for improved ADA accessibility. Staff will provide an updated construction schedule once the designs have been finalized.

Staff facilitated the final HEE101 Workshop for the 2019-20 winter season at Hal Jensen Recreation Center. The final workshop served nine residents. For the season (starting with the October 2019 Workshop) the program was facilitated seven times and served 72 residents.

The Sustainability Section was awarded a Food Systems VISTA who will focus on engagement related to community gardens and food waste reduction efforts. Additionally, twelve open space stewards have signed up for 2020-21. With respect to solid waste diversion, staff members are collaborating with Courts administration to create a recycling infrastructure plan at the new City Courthouse. Also, please mark your calendars for the Earth festivities:

- Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> -- Albert at Bookman's Storytime: Earth Day Theme
- Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> -- Drag Queen Storytime Does Earth Day with Albert
- Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, -- Earth Day Celebration at Bushmaster Park (11am to 2pm)
- Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> -- Earth Day Cleanup (9 am to 10am, neighborhoods surrounding Bushmaster Park)
- Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> -- Earth Day Butterfly Garden Installation (10 am to 11 am at Bushmaster Park)
- Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> -- Drop Off Day, Dump the Drugs, Shred A Thon (10am to 2pm at Flag PD).

### Community Development

Regarding the Rt 66 / Rio de Flag Bridge Utility Relocation Project, our Project Manager is working with the PIO and variable message boards have gone up soon indicating lane impacts during spring break, from March 13th to March 23rd. A press release was distributed indicating that the contractor will implement an ADOT approved traffic control plan/setup that will allow a single lane closure to north and west bound traffic while the work occurs in Rt. 66. The duration of the traffic control/setup is from 8pm on March 13th to 5am on March 23rd.

Similarly, we have installed variable message boards on Linda Vista, occupying each side of the project site, advising of the pending construction projects and resulting detours. Doorknob hangers have been distributed to the affected neighborhoods advising of reduced water pressures.

### Information Technology

Help Desk recently installed a new Conference Room availability screen outside of CR-Staff. It will glow green if a conference room is available or glow red if it's unavailable. Should an individual attempt to enter the room while the device is red, there will be a low-voltage shock transmitted through the door handle. We'd appreciate any feedback on the device.



### Fire

Carl Nelson of American Conservation Experience (ACE) presented on the City, ACE, and USFS partnership that was instrumental in Phase II Dry Lake Hills operations at the Public Lands Alliance annual conference in DC. The presentation was well-received.

Two FFD shifts trained with Unisource employees this week at their facility on Butler Avenue. The training centered on gas emergencies and on gas line systems in place in the community. The training offered an opportunity for Unisource and fire crews to interact in a non-emergency environment. Three fire personnel attended a week-long Active Violence Rescue Task Force train the trainer course this week in Camp Navajo with law enforcement agencies within the region.

### Public Works

Streets crews have been out working on sign repairs and addressing pavement issues as a result of the recent rain event.

Hal Jensen Recreation Center hosted *Up with People* for a deep clean of the facility. *Up with People* also hosted three workshops (World Class Dance, Team Building Olympics and Take Stand) for the youth at the Center (image of the group with Crystal Warden)



### Human Resources

Staff has been training City personnel on the new applicant tracking software. City applicants will have a new and improved experience through NEOGov.

### Public Affairs

The new section is now complete, with the arrival of Jason Cook who now joins Shawn Johnson. Jason's position at Management Services has been backfilled by Tara Love. The arrangement appears to be working quite well. We feel that we have the right employees in place to serve the many important functions, and we are moving forward.



### Police

March 4<sup>th</sup> was the opening session of the Spring Citizens Academy and there are 27 new attendees. FPD held a promotional ceremony on March 4<sup>th</sup> and Collin Seay was promoted to Lieutenant, Kevin Sapp to Sergeant, Ben Beebe, Mike Oliver and Dustin Eberhardt to Corporal and Sara Byerrum to Dispatch Supervisor. It was a well-attended ceremony. A big congratulations to all!



### **Unfunded Safety Pension Liability**

A consortium of us visited the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System offices this week, followed by a working lunch with our financial consultant, Stifel Financial. The two offices are near each other in Phoenix, enabling a quick but very meaningful visit. Much information was obtained. A list of talking points related to the unfunded liability is attached to this report. It is intended to be factual and informative. There will be a more detailed presentation forthcoming that will involve a greater dive into the details and strategies to consider for paying down the debt. There may be some very timely opportunities here with the current bond market. Mike Townsend has graciously agreed to come to Flagstaff to assist us in presenting to you, as well as Mark Reader, Managing Director with Stifel Financial.



The following talking points are intended to be succinct factual items to assist you in addressing questions related to this very complex topic, as it has garnered much attention in recent weeks. It is also central issue in our ongoing budget discussions, of course.

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