

City Manager's Report

May 15, 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...

Discussions with DBA

Re-Opening

The City and DBA have discussed the re-opening of many stores and restaurants in the downtown area, with focus upon safety and social distancing. Related, the City of Flagstaff and the Arizona Restaurant Association (ARA) have arranged an outreach to restaurateurs in Flagstaff to discuss strategies and lessons from colleagues across the state. There will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 21st, with representatives of the ARA to talk about new operating and safety guidelines.

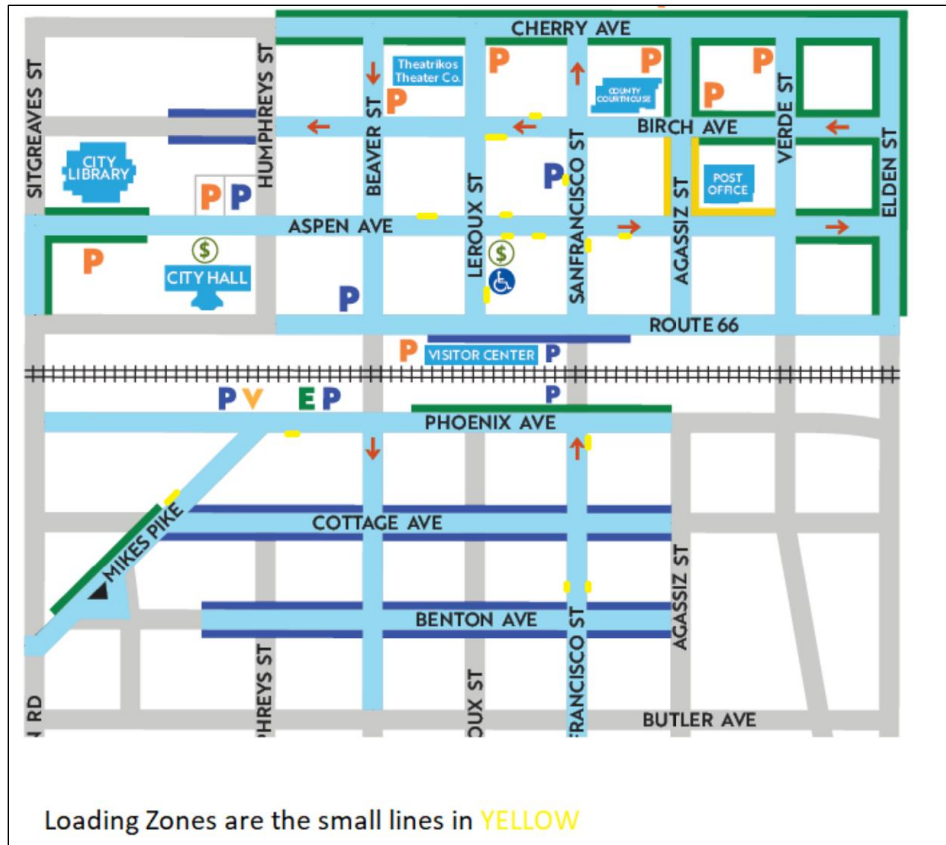
Parking

The parking kiosks will remain covered and parking will continue to be free. The City has assisted in establishing designated pick up parking areas to allow for continued use of pick up services. Most block faces have two sections separated by an alley. We tried to set up carry out zones toward the front of, or the back of block face sections and not in the middle. Many of the zones have only one space allocated. See 'Loading Zones' as delineated in yellow on the below map.

Restrooms

Public restrooms will be open by (and likely before) May 22nd. Scheduled cleaning and upkeep are being significantly enhanced, as noted in more detail in the Re-Entry Plan document attached.

Related, our Visitor Center will also see a modified opening on or before May 22nd, for restroom availability and for the purpose of responding to a rapidly increasing visitor base. Precautionary measures are being taken to ensure social distancing and CDC guidelines, including installation of a plexiglass panel and an outdoor kiosk.



Misdemeanor Activity

Related to the comments above about increased activity in our downtown area, Council needs to be apprised that we have been seeing a significant increase in misdemeanor offenses around the community, and certainly in the downtown area. See below, from our Police Chief:

The Flagstaff Police Department has been experiencing activity in the field that suggests to us the transient/serial inebriant population on the streets of Flagstaff is much higher than normal. There may be a number of reasons for this such as increased services offered during this pandemic, natural migrations from geographical areas where infection rates are higher and booking and court policies inhibiting longer jail stays for those who have committed criminal activity. Pursuant to directives applicable to the Court system, non-violent misdemeanor offenders are not being incarcerated.

Some data that might help illustrate our notion that there is a higher population than years past and a higher occurrence of problems associated with the increased population include the following:

- 1.) *The Police Department has experienced a 47% increase in calls for service for Public Intoxicant related crime YTD in 2020 as compared to YTD in 2019.*

- 2.) *FPD Officers have made 305 more Public Intoxicant (PI) related contacts in 2020 YTD compared to 2019 YTD (Officers have made 1080 PI related contacts in 2020 as compared to 775 in the same time frame in 2019).*

Additionally, some data exposes the challenges of policing in an environment where misdemeanor in custody arrests are discouraged in order to protect the jail population and criminal justice professionals. Consider the following:

- 1.) *Our misdemeanor arrests (cite and release and summons) are down by 390 in comparison to 2019 YTD.*
- 2.) *Our repeat offender list (a list of individuals who have been arrested four or more times in 90 days) is currently at 19 individuals, far higher than normal.*
- 3.) *We have a list of ten individuals who have been arrested 3 or more times the last 30 days, one individual on that list has been arrested 6 times the last month.*

While many of these challenges cannot be easily fixed given the current environment, let me express that the police department has more resources on the street than years past. We are currently fully staffed in our patrol division. Our two school Resource Officers are on the street assisting with transient related issues and Woods Watch/camping patrols. We intend to enhance our presence out of the patrol car by increasing, if calls for service allows, our downtown walking beat (we have maintained two officers seven days a week downtown on foot patrol), as well as placing walking beat patrols occasionally in the Cedar Safeway parking area, Safeway North 89, and Park Santa Fe shopping center, where we continue to see very large populations of transients and respond to an inordinate number of Public Intoxicant related calls.

In discussing this with our Municipal Judge, Court Administrator, Prosecutor, Police Chief, and others, it is noted that the City is attempting to address this increase through additional Police resources in the community, as noted above, and Prosecution's work with the local mental health providers to provide necessary treatment for the mentally ill. The City is doing what it can.

Alliance Meeting

We resumed the Alliance meetings and had a very successful meeting, hosted by the City, on Friday, May 15th. It was well attended, and our Mayor presided. Representatives were present from the City, the County, NAU, CCC, FUSD, and Mountain Line:

- Coconino County: Supervisor Liz Archuleta, Jimmy Jayne, Marie Peoples, Joanne Keene
- City of Flagstaff: Mayor Coral Evans, Vice Mayor Adam Shimoni, Greg Clifton, Shannon Anderson, Shane Dille, Jessica Drum, Jack Fitchett
- NAIPTA: Heather Dalmolin, Kate Morley
- FUSD: Mike Penca, Scott Walmer, Anne Dunno
- NAU: Rita Cheng, Josh Maher
- CCC: Jami Van Ess

Mountain Line

Mountain Line is sanitizing busses and stops and keeping routes open and accessible. There are no service changes planned for FY21. Mountain Line is moving forward on capital plans that are funded with federal dollars. They are moving forward, consistent with the City Council's direction from the May 12th Work Session, with the Downtown Connection Center.

Northern Arizona University

NAU is still planning in-person classes for this Fall. Enrollment is of course declining, and its budgetary impact will be significant. Universities in more urban environments are positioned to do better than remote campuses such as NAU. The University saw a \$7M reduction from State funding and is targeting a 10-15% reduction in FY21 budget. There will be a final decision on staffing in the near future (No employees have been laid-off or furloughed at this point). Stay tuned on this...there will likely be more detailed information in July. Summer classes are occurring online. NAU is printing masks and face shields on 3D printers and donating PPE to the Navajo Nation and other community partners. The University is in partnership with TGEN to test faculty and students.

Coconino County

The County is preparing for sandbag placement and rejuvenation in June, prior to the monsoon season. The budget process will be concluded next month. The County has not received funding from the CARES Act at this point. The County is utilizing a long recovery model to guide its budgeting, and thus far has been able to avoid furloughs. Its revenue projections are premised upon a significant decline at the end of this fiscal year, similar to that of the City, and through the entire FY21, with recovery projected in FY22.

Flagstaff Unified School District

FUSD is continuing to move forward with its construction projects. The District is replacing lighting with LEDs and replacing the athletic field at Flag High. There are also renovations and a new two-story wing at Mt. Elden Middle School. Temporary employees have been let go, i.e. substitute teachers. The District has received \$2.5M in CARES Act funding. There are no reductions in staffing. FUSD is continuing to provide meals to students.

Coconino Community College

CCC is drafting its five-year strategic plan. Its reaccreditation visit will occur in the near future. CCC is seeing a five percent enrollment decline currently and is estimating a ten percent enrollment decline for FY21. Several new programs will not move forward this year but are on a temporary hold. CCC is working to create a space to welcome students back and maintain social distancing and proper sanitation levels. They received \$1M in stimulus funding. They are also preparing for in-person classes in August.

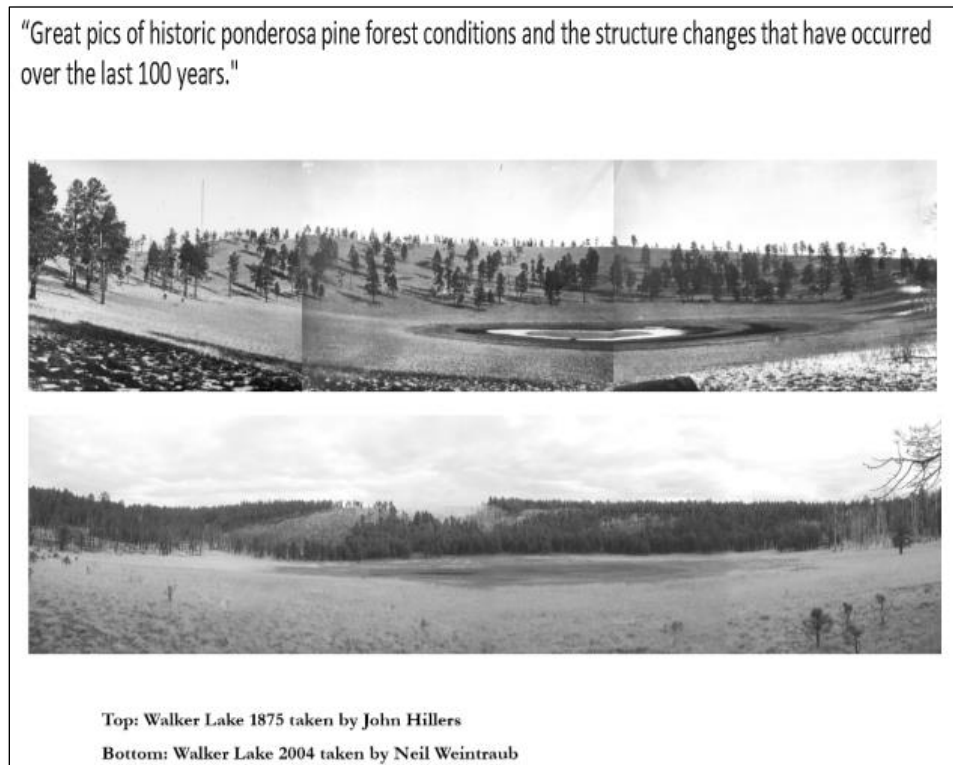
These are some of the notable takeaways. We will schedule the next Alliance meeting for early July, prior to Council's recess.

Misc. Department Updates

Fire Department

FFD is seeing an average of 2.48 COVID-19 related calls per 24-hour shift.

FFD & SFMD were recently ranked as the national leader in *Ready, Set, Go* staff and volunteer hours reported for career Fire Departments. *Ready, Set, Go* hours included Rx ops, thinning ops, firewood giveaways, community events, and Firewise assessments <https://twitter.com/RSGProgram>. Speaking of forest thinning, check out the below photos:



The custom Velocity Pumper arrived on May 1st and is in staging for painting (image shown below).





Crew 1 is assisting Sustainability with accomplishing their field operations by posting signs, regarding information for Stage 2 fire restrictions, at major trailheads throughout city open space areas (see image at left).

Jerolyn Byrne was a guest of Peter Bruce on KAFF radio, speaking about, and answering a comprehensive set of questions related to community preparedness and the implementation of restrictions. Listen to her interview:

https://chirb.it/xhL5t6?fbclid=IwAR0XNxCL4bun7bzaSE8_DMUWVz41F1q4k6mZkttgzlWt_smU7bERdFIN8.

Eric Brown leaves us with 27 years of service. In retirement, he plans to still be actively engaged in Wildfire Response. He is currently qualified as a Division Supervisor and a Safety Officer Trainee. Eric is known as a standup guy who is widely respected across the region and among the command staff. He will be missed.



Police Department

Chief Treadway delivered the commencement speech at the NARTA Police Academy Graduation on Friday, May 8th.

FPD is receiving an increased amount of complaints (47% increase) regarding transient/public intoxicant problems in town. These complaints will likely increase as businesses continue to open.

Sgt. Hernandez coordinated with the 100 Club who came to Flagstaff to make a donation of PPE equipment and cleaning supplies to the FPD. You can see Photos on the Police Department's Facebook page.

FPD Selective Enforcement Squad Officers were out on woods watch all week again and removed two truckloads of property from abandoned camps in the forest. They have also started fly overs with DPS when they are available.

Public Works

A major update to the content of the Streets - Snow Operations sections of the City's website is underway. Construction is progressing on the City's public EV charging station located in the west parking lot adjacent to City Hall. Construction began on May 4th and is expected to take three weeks to complete. The City Hall lobby roof repairs are moving forward with materials on order. Woohoo!

Recently one of two 40-ton air conditioning condensing units at the Library suffered a catastrophic failure when a copper fitting in the unit cracked open, prompting a shut-down by Facilities staff. Replacement compressors are on order for installation the week of May 18th. The Library will be operational on the secondary unit during this time.

Solid Waste Bulky Pick-Up is on schedule. The crews are working Saturdays due to increase in the number of set-outs. Streets Operators have been grading and improving dirt alleys in the downtown area.

Counter Personnel Support projects for the installation of personal hygiene barriers are underway at City Hall with the design and procurement of materials for plexiglass shields. Primary focus will be the Customer Service, Community Development Plans and Permits, Entry Reception Desk, and the Management Services counters. Planning and layouts for social distancing marking and signage is are being performed for procurement of materials. Other desk access for HR and recreation centers will be added following the initial installations.

Community Development

Both Water Services and Community Development staff have formulated now protocol related to water shutoffs (for capital projects and private developments) during the pandemic. Their efforts are greatly appreciated. The new protocol, which will be sent to Council in a CCR in the near future, enhances notification and ensures that those in need of water have access to it during shutoff periods. Also, attached is a monthly update on capital projects, which are moving right along. Enjoy!

Management Services

We have had frequent and regular meetings with the Stifel Team, City Finance Team, and management to discuss the pending Certificates of Participation (COPs) related to our refinance of the unfunded pension liability. The meetings have been very productive. Stay tuned.

The Budget Team continues to meet numerous times weekly and will be advancing to the Council some revenue projections on May 26th. This will be an important update, with an action item to follow, related to the City's Recession Plan.

Airport



We recently took delivery of the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) truck. Consistent with the City's "Tobacco Free Work Place" policy, cigars were not handed out. The new truck will go into service tentatively the last week of May, with a commissioning ceremony to take place hopefully this summer.



Graduate Parade May 29th

Staff has been working with Flagstaff Unified School District and others regarding a parade celebration of our graduating high school students, respecting the social distancing and CDC guidelines. Details regarding this are outlined below, courtesy of Rebecca Sayers and Haley Willstead with our Parks and Rec Team.

The parade will occur on 4th Street. Traffic cones will be placed at 6:00 a.m. along 4th Street, 6th Ave, 5th Ave, Cedar Ave, and Linda Vista Rd, and signage will be in place by 8:00 a.m. The Flagstaff Police Department has been working directly with FUSD to accommodate the parade and ensure all intersections have a manned vehicle, additionally there will be officers patrolling the parade route.

The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. with cars driving south on 4th Street, stopping to get a diploma case, and u-turning back up 4th Street to exit the parade route. Students will not be permitted to drive themselves; each vehicle will be operated by a parent or guardian.

The parade is scheduled to end at approximately 5:00 p.m. with the possibility of extending closures beyond their time frame if need be. Traffic control is scheduled to be pulled at 6:00 p.m. but will remain in place until all graduates and staff have safely exited the parade route.

The City has approved the permit. Special event staff will send out a contact list and press release on Wednesday, May 27th to notify the public of road closures. Additional signage will be posted at the North and South ends of 4th street earlier in the week to notify the public.

Life Saving Heroics

On Saturday May 2nd, Officer Kim and Officer Holland responded to a local motel for a male juvenile not breathing and unresponsive. They arrived before medics, and after assessing the individual, administered CPR as well as a dose of NARCAN. Evidence at the scene suggested the juvenile had overdosed on heroine. The administration of the drug resulted in immediate positive effects. Medics arrived and assumed care, and the juvenile was transported to FMC and is expected to make a full recovery. The juvenile was said to be in town due to family (who live elsewhere) testing positive for COVID19.

This past Monday, May 11th, Officers Blair and Johnston responded to an apartment complex on Yaqui for a male subject with a medical issue. Upon arrival, they found a male unconscious and unresponsive, with no pulse and not breathing. The officers began CPR, and based on evidence at the scene, administered two doses of NARCAN. Following the second dose, the male regained consciousness, and began breathing on his own prior to the arrival of medical personnel.

We believe this is the fourth individual saved by officers administering NARCAN in the past few months. The FPD is proud of the efforts of these officers in upholding our mission of preserving life and will be considering both for the FPD Lifesaving award.

GCTV

The award-winning series continues, with cameo appearances by our Police Chief and Fire Chief. For your viewing pleasure:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L-uZc_5KIGREwk9_AdCisyKvZLF51qgH/view

Recovery Roundtables

The City's Recovery Roundtable (RR) has officially launched! In the inaugural feature on May 14th, City staff discussed the City's Economic Response and Recovery Plan and answered questions from members of the public. The RR will be posted on Tuesday and Thursday of each week and is posted on the City's website and Facebook page. Major props to Jessica Drum and her team for orchestrating these videos. The following are the scheduled topics:

- May 19th: **City of Flagstaff phased reentry approach** (Greg and/or Shannon)
- May 21st: **Flagstaff Parks and Recreation overview and holiday tourism** (Amy and Mayor and Councilmember)
- May 26th: **Lobbying efforts and grant funding** (Sarah Langely and SBK)
- May 28th: **Business Expansion and Retention Policy and Adaptive Reuse** (John Saltonstall)
- June 2nd: **Food availability** (Dylan Lenzen) (This discussion will highlight resources for receiving food assistance, donating to food distribution centers, community gardens, gardening education resources, etc).
- June 4th: **Waste management** (Dylan Lenzen) (This discussion will include proper disposal and recycling of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs), reducing food waste, and recycling.

Re-Entry Plan

We have been busy planning our re-entry strategies for City facilities. The attached Plan shows the overall approach, while our individual Divisions and Sections are endeavoring to put together their respective plans consistent with the over arching strategies noted in the attached. It is still in draft form.

We have assembled a Re-Entry Team to help put all this together and oversee implementation scheduling, etc. The Team consists of several members from the Manager's Office and Leadership staff. Shannon Anderson will be leading the effort going forward.