

# City Manager's Report

December 11, 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...

### **Employee Recognition: Ray Slim:**

Ray Slim, Maintenance Worker in Housing, was recently named as "Maintenance Staff of the Year" by the Affordable Housing Management Association of the Pacific Southwest. The award ceremony was held during the virtual annual conference. Kurt Aldinger, the current president of AHMA-PSW, presented Ray with his award in the Siler Maintenance Shop and the video was played during the awards ceremony.

Well done, Mr. Slim. This is a well-deserved recognition, and your award here is a true compliment and reflection upon our organization.



### **New Airport Equipment**

The image below shows a multi-functional piece of equipment recently acquired. Currently it has a snow blower attachment on it. Staff is also able to install a broom on the front of equipment, which can be used in conditions involving 'dry snow', causing less damage to the runway.



## Sustainability Updates

### Commission Meetings

- Sustainability Commission: Next meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

### Climate Change

- Staff created data collection and guidance documents to collect information on IFRs that advance climate action, for the FY21-22 budget process.
- Staff met with the Climate Summit Youth Advisory Committee to discuss future work advising the City on the Climate Emergency work and general youth engagement.

### Partnerships

- Work continues on the E3 Program (Empower, Engage, Elevate). Cultivating relationships with Flagstaff Shelter Services and identifying other community partners.

### Open Space

- McMillan Mesa Natural Area rezone application. Status: In progress.
  - Neighborhood meetings scheduled for December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. & January 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
  - Legal survey for the property. Status: A scope of work was drafted and is under review.
  - McMillan Mesa cultural survey. Status: On hold until grant agreement is finalized; 45% complete.
- Picture Canyon Preserve reclaimed water release agreement. Status: On hold; 40% complete. Update: Waiting for legal review.
- Invasive plant management at Picture Canyon. Status: In progress - Invasive Plant Grant being implemented and completed.
- Invasive plant management at McMillan Mesa. Status: In progress, working with Arboretum of Flagstaff grant personnel to map the invasive plants in the Natural Area.
- Picture Canyon Working Group. Next meeting on December 9, 2020.
- Staff drafted the Mayor's Monarch Pledge (re-pledge) proclamation, which was read at the December 8, 2020 Council Meeting.

### Food Systems

- Staff advertised the open Sustainable Food Systems AmeriCorps VISTA position on social media.

### Solid Waste

- Staff participated in the Innovate Waste Challenge contestant interviews. The panel voted to award prize funding to Bee Well, a new startup making sustainably sourced hand sanitizer and other products.

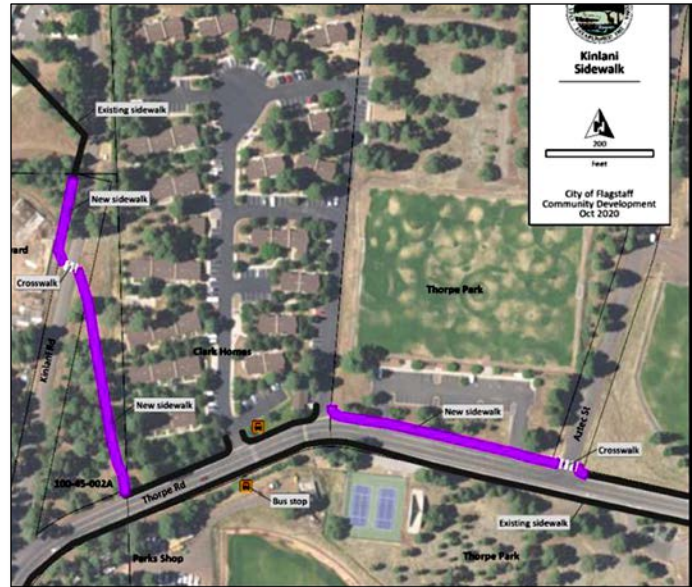
- Staff distributed approximately 1,000 tree cycling ornaments to Viola’s, Home Depot, Allen’s, and Warner’s to be distributed with Christmas trees. The ornaments provide information on how to properly dispose of the tree so that it can be mulched for use at the landfill.
- Staff finalized and distributed a City Council Report on Solid Waste’s Rate Increase Plan.

**MetroPlan - \$50K Grant Award – Kinlani Sidewalks:**

The City received a \$50,000 mini-grant from MetroPlan to construct the Kinlani sidewalk project!

The City will provide an equal match and will be built as part of next year’s sidewalk program. The project connects students living at the Flagstaff Bordertown Dormitory with Thorpe Park, Flagstaff High School and Mountain Line transit stops.

Thanks to MetroPlan for this great opportunity!



**Power Outage**

Rio Water Reclamation plant lost APS electrical power on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. The APS feed to the plant experienced a transformer failure resulting in a fire on the power pole. This caused the fire department and APS emergency services to be called to the plant. APS crews had the power restored by 11:00 a.m. and Rio plant staff had the plant back online and operating by 11:30 a.m. No injuries were reported, and the downtime of the plant was under two hours with no impact to Reclaim Water customers. Credit to Jim Huchel and his team in working so successfully with APS to get the plant back online.



## **Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (CPWAC) Meeting**

At the December 4, 2020 meeting, Councilmember Austin Aslan was appointed Chair of CPWAC. Congratulations and thank you for your service! You can see the agenda for the meeting below.

As Co-Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, I will be working with the Co-Chair, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, to look at the draft legislative proposal related to Rural Management Areas that pertain to groundwater pumping. These meetings have commenced, and we will be vetting this matter internally for feedback. It was referenced by Councilmember Aslan at the last regular Council meeting. Also, thanks to Erin Young for her involvement with this and other related matters concerning the CPWAC. She serves on the Technical Advisory Committee.

The December 4<sup>th</sup> agenda is provided below for your information:

**Joint Meeting**  
**Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council**  
501 (c)(4)  
**Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership**  
501 (c)(3)  
**Friday, December 4, 2020**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**The meeting will be a Zoom virtual meeting due to COVID-19**

Go to the following link to join the meeting on your computer, no password is required:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6160099904>  
**Meeting ID: 616 009 9904**

You may also call in on the following number:  
**669-900-9128**  
**Meeting ID: 616 009 9904**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Mayor Coral Evans, Chair  
(5 min.)
- 2. Approval of Joint Meeting Minutes** - Meeting of October 30, 2020  
(2 min.)
- 3. Action Items**
  - a. Nomination and Election of CPWAC and CPWP Board Chair and Vice Chair (10 min.)
  - b. Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Rural Management Area Wording – Ron Doba (60 min.)
- 4. Non-Action Items** - None
- 5. Committee Reports**

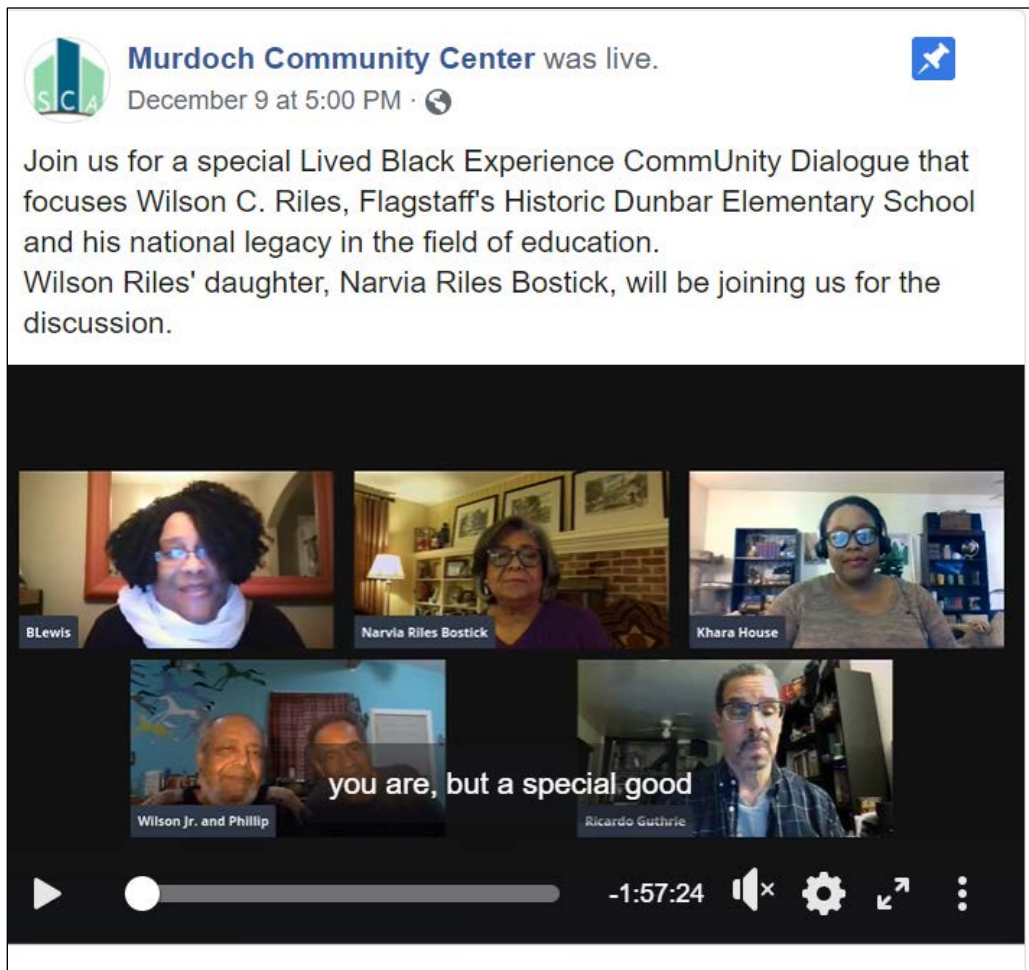
TAC Report – Ron Doba (5 min.)  
Government Affairs Report – Greg Clifton/Joanne Keene (5min.)  
Public Outreach Report – Tamara Lawless (5 min.)
- 6. Members Corner** – None
- 7. CPWP Member Roundtable** – (15 min.)

**Police Chief**

At the time of this writing, we are conducting interviews on the successful candidates for this very important position. Many thanks to the several panels and community discussions that have helped inform this decision. Stay tuned, and thanks to our candidates for their interest in serving the Flagstaff community.

**Wilson C. Riles Tribute and Discussion**

The snipped image below depicts the virtual public forum that occurred on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a very informational and moving discussion. The dedication of WC Riles name to the previously named Agassiz Street was very well received by the family members and by the community as a whole.



### **Alliance Meeting**

The City will be hosting the next meeting, involving officials from the City, County, FUSD, CCC, NAU, and NAIPTA. We are targeting January 15, 2020 which is the last Friday before the legislative session begins. The legislative priorities item was requested by other members of the Alliance and the January meeting has typically included a discussion of legislative priorities so that the group can coordinate before the legislature goes into session. We are amending the agenda to include a broader discussion of COVID impacts so that the group has sufficient time to discuss (full agenda forthcoming). Stay tuned.

### **Beautification of Utility Boxes**

Realizing that this particular project has been presented to the Council recently, it continues to see positive outcomes and we thought that it would be appropriate to provide this update, especially for the benefit of our newly elected officials.

The call to create canvases from Traffic Signal Cabinets across the city was formally initiated by Flagstaff resident, Gaylene Soper. A pilot project was supported by the City's Beautification and Public Art Commission (BPAC, a body made up of Flagstaff community members). Here are key components and updates to the project:

- The 2020 complete project (see images below) is a pilot project. The feedback thus far is overwhelmingly positive. Staff will conduct a public survey on the project through a comment card for additional feedback.
- Beautification, Arts and Sciences staff created a community selection panel for each location for the pilot to evaluate the proposals. This exemplifies the program's new direction to include more voices and specialized expertise for projects.
- We anticipate moving forward with 3-4 more traffic signal cabinet locations next year and the following, if supported by the public and BPAC.
- Locations are planned to be spread throughout the city.
- The anticipated project cost is \$10,000/year for installing at 3-4 sites.
- Funding for this project is through a portion of the BBB (Bed, Board and Beverage) tax earmarked for Arts and Sciences and Beautification projects, protected by ordinance and reaffirmed by Flagstaff voters for these purposes.
- Vinyl wrap is easily maintained, is removable, and has been demonstrated as safe technology to use on signal and utility cabinets. It includes a graffiti-proof coating. Wraps are anticipated to last for a minimum of three years.

Please enjoy the following images and artist backgrounds.

INSTALLED PILOT PROJECT WRAPS: BUTLER AND SAN FRANCISCO, ARTIST ADAM NASH



Local artist Adam Nash was inspired by this opportunity to take something that people overlook, drive by or even dislike and transform it into a piece of art that “inspires, brings joy and improves the community.” The artist was also inspired by the mission of the City, to protect and enhance the quality of life for all, as well as the beauty and strong history of the city. He writes that what really sets this community apart is the “wonder of the surrounding natural environment” and that is “what draws us all together here.” The artist relied heavily on nature for the design, in particular the sunflowers that line roadways and spread across fields in Flagstaff in the summer months. These inspirations resulted in a color palette inspired by these natural elements, while the mosaic pattern adds a sense of “stability, uniqueness and depth.” The box on the right also has a quote not shown in the pictures, it is a Maori proverb that reads ““Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.”



Christy Moeller noted that the location for these boxes is largely devoid of color, so was inspired to create a very bold and vibrant piece. It is called “Here Comes the Sun.” She writes, “the sun is such a major element in our lives as Arizonans,” and “every day we are blessed with an abundance of sunlight and clear blue skies, but (the sun) can also become destructive and impossible to control.” The artist represents the sun as a “brightly colored woman, accented with geometric shapes and colors such as gold, turquoise and coral, that are indicative of Arizona.” Christy describes the woman’s expression as ambiguous, much like our sun, with a watchful, protective eye and an air of defiance. The crown resembles our state flag.

The large star on the crown and the orbiting planets were added after community panel input to relate to the proximity to ‘Innovation Mesa’ and the relationship to space research here in Flagstaff.

**Thank you!**

That is all for now, Council. On behalf of the entire staff, I want to take the opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the exiting Councilmembers and Mayor. Thank you for your service to the Flagstaff community. We look forward to the leadership of the new Council and Mayor.

*In this business of community service,  
there is no start, and there is no end.  
It is a continuous journey ...  
our charge is to leave a good mark along the way.*

Onward and upward ...