

City Manager's Report

February 22, 2024

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for Council Work Sessions. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the city organization. We have an update from Economic Vitality Division this time.

ACMA Conference

The City Manager's Office attended the Arizona City/County Manager's Association (ACMA) Winter Conference in Sedona in late January. Deputy City Manager Joanne Keene was asked to sit on a panel titled "Asking the Necessary Questions: How to Navigate Bond and Ballot Initiatives". Joanne joined Mary Goodman, Assistant Town Manager for Gilbert, Andrew McGuire with Gust Rosenfeld, Vicki Rios, Assistant City Manager for Glendale and Ryan Smith, Director of Communications and Government Relations for the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority.

The panel discussed the challenges local government leaders are facing to obtain funding to maintain infrastructure and existing assets, as well as building an ecosystem the community depends upon. The panel discussed bond initiatives and the role of city employees, the challenges of responding to a citizen-led initiative and the continuing impacts of markets pressures, cost escalation and the ever-increasing needs in local governments.

Also at the conference, NAU had its first participation for their Master of Public Administration program. See below photos.



NAU MPA Curriculum

And speaking of the ACMA conference and NAU's inaugural involvement with this institution, some exciting news. Our own Jessica Kittleson, Customer Service Manager, was part of the first student cohort to attend this conference on behalf of NAU! She was selected to attend based upon her application reviewed by NAU's MPA program faculty. See group photo of Jessica and her colleagues at the conference.



Visits from Delegates

Senator Kelly

It has been referenced already, but at the risk of restating, we had a couple of visits from delegates at both the Federal and State level recently. Senator Kelly was here to conduct a subcommittee hearing at City Hall, which occurred with great success. He followed that with a meeting with ECONA where numerous economic topics were discussed.



Rep. Cook

Arizona Representative Cook was in town last Friday (16th) to attend the Athena Awards and then tour the Hwy 180 culvert improvements afterward, with a consortium of city staff and elected officials. The tour went well. Rep. Cook was involved in the \$8.9M appropriation for the city's project last year.



Athena Award

The Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce provided another excellent celebration of the Athena Awards. For more than three decades, the Chamber has presented this wonderful event to honor local businesswomen who have achieved excellence in their field, served the community and assisted other women in the attainment of their goals. In 2023, the award was expanded to differentiate the unique challenges and achievements inherent to the public sector and private sector work respectively.

And this year's recipients included:

- Kate Wyatt, as Athena Young Professional. Kate has assisted the city with its human trafficking policies and CEASE training.
- Devonna McLaughlin, Athena Public Sector, Housing Solutions of Northern Arizona. Devonna chairs the city's Housing Commission and has significant involvement in many housing programs supported by the city.

- Lisa Lamberson, Athena Private Sector, Mountain Sports Flagstaff. Lisa also sits on the FDDB board and is an active supporter of events and programs occurring downtown.

We were fortunate to have Governor Hobbs attend and participate in a chat session focused upon many issues and topics addressing the State and the Flagstaff community. Some nice photos to follow:





Engineering Week

And this from our esteemed City Engineer, related to his contributions during National Engineer's Week:

Yesterday I spoke to Mr. Langmade's 7th grade engineering class in the morning. I talked about various types of engineering but focused on municipal engineering and all of the things that go on to get our roads, water lines, sewers, treatment plants, parks, fire stations, etc. built in the City of Flagstaff. The class was really engaged and asked great questions.

In the afternoon I went to Tynkertopia. I spoke to about 6 kids and I brought 2 wood truss bridge kits to make as an activity with them. This one was a little more hectic to try to get the kids to follow instructions on how to make the bridge and to give the glue enough time to drive. Overall it was a good experience and the kids had fun. Next time we will use "hot glue". 😊 Below are a few photos I took.

Mr. Langmade and his 7th grade engineering class!



And Bridges at Tynkertopia ...



That's all for now, Council. More updates in a couple weeks.