

City Manager's Report

June 10, 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. Appended to this report you will find the May update from PROSE (new newsletter format!), the June update from Human Resources, and the June Newsletter from Housing.

HR Director

This is Kori Vogt (announced vote) and her son, Quin. She will begin as the City's new Human Resources & Risk Management Director on June 24th.

As noted in the CM Report in May, the city worked with The Keller Group recruitment firm to identify potential Director candidates. After considering 7 applicants and interviewing 5 of them, the City has selected Kori to join Team Flagstaff.

Kori has worked in HR for many years and has enjoyed growing her career through education and HR journeys in government, medical, academic and energy. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Great Falls and her master's degree through John F Kennedy University and have had the privilege of working in a few western states along the way. Kori is originally from Montana and has been in Arizona for several years.



Kori shared with us that she is excited to join the HR & RM team at the City of Flagstaff. She has a son, Quin, who recently graduated with his Bachelor's degree from both Davidson Honors College and the University of Montana. Together they have enjoyed his football years (from 3-12 grade!) and other school sporting and academic events. They also spend time together enjoying the outdoors, skiing, camping, hiking and fishing. Kori loves exploring places and meeting new people. She has a goal of visiting and exploring every US state in my future years. Kori is passionate about helping others, and gets great personal and professional gratification in teaching, assisting, connecting and growing others, guiding them to achieve their best self and reach their goals. She wanted to share a quote with us that guides her and she has shared this quote with Quin since his earliest years: 'Strive for excellence in everything you do, anything less is a disservice to yourself and others'

We look forward to having Kori join the team and her words, "let the journey begin"!

Police Chief

Sean Connolly has joined the team effective June 10th. Sean has served for over 30 years with the Phoenix Police Department and is currently the Operational Executive Assistant Police Chief for Phoenix PD. Prior to this role, he served as Assistant Police Chief, Police Commander, and Lieutenant for various divisions, bureaus and precincts within the Phoenix PD. Sean holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Arizona. Sean is also a graduate of the University of Arizona's Fundamentals of Governmental Leadership program and Georgetown University's School Justice Partnerships program.

"As someone who was born in Flagstaff and who absolutely loves everything about what the city has to offer, it is with an abundance of gratitude, humility, and excitement that I look forward to serving as Police Chief," said Sean. "The diversity of our community, combined with the skillsets and work ethics of all members of the Flagstaff Police Department and Team Flagstaff, will be the cornerstones of our success."



Welcome to Team Flagstaff Sean!

New Division Reporting Structure

With the Leadership Team now being at full strength, and on the heels of celebrating Joanne Keene's first anniversary with the city as Deputy City Manager, we have cause to make some revisions to the division reporting structure within our organization. The new structure, depicted below, will have the three of us in the CM Office (Shannon Anderson --Senior Deputy City Manager; Joanne Keene -- Deputy City Manager; and Greg Clifton -- City Manager) each overseeing five direct reports. The two significant changes include the oversight of Human Resources and Risk Management by Greg Clifton, and the oversight of the Sustainability Division by Joanne Keene.

Thanks to Heidi Derryberry for updating the attached graphic, which will be included in the Budget Book, forthcoming.



Bravo Fire

Courtesy of Wildland Fire Battalion Chief Oltrogge, the following update (from Friday June 7th) with photos. Thanks to our elected officials who visited the event.

The Northern AZ Type 3 made a lot of progress today. The fire has been completely lined, no forward progress today, and all containment lines held through a wind-test and high afternoon temperatures. The type 3 team will keep the fire through the weekend. Ground crews working with aviation resources through the morning put the containment in a great position.

A big thank you to Council members House and Matthews for joining Daniel and I for a field tour (pictures to follow). We had a great opportunity to interact with the Geronimo Hotshots on the fire line.



Airport Update

Airport staff recently attended the annual Jump Start air service attraction conference, where they met with representatives from Delta, Southwest, United, Alaska, American, and Breeze. During our meeting with American Airlines, we received information that American will be adding a seasonal route to LAX, operating weekly on Saturdays beginning October 12 through March. This addition is timed to accommodate tourism from Australia, aligning with the arrival of Qantas flights at LAX. American is also looking at adding additional flights to DFW.

The airport also secured a letter of support from an airline that does not currently provide service at FLG for the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) Grant application, a first for FLG. This type of support is incredibly helpful as it shows the program deciders that we are making strong connections with our airline partners and that we are being seen as a viable destination.

Conversations with all airlines were positive, highlighting that northern Arizona is an underserved community. Staff remains hopeful that a second airline will commence service by summer 2025. More updates will follow as discussions continue.

Please enjoy our video. We created it to share with the airlines during the conference to give them an even better insight into the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport. Video to share:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xRAcUq-rCi3rB5Shln71PIRnP_7kylwh/view?usp=sharing

Housing

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Arizona Groundbreaking

Multiple city and county staff joined the community and Governor Hobbs in attending a groundbreaking ceremony for the 40-unit Starter Home development to be built by Habitat for Humanity of Northern Arizona. The project is the result of a partnership between Vintage Development Partners, Habitat, and the City, with many others donating their time, funds, and skills to the creation of these affordable units. The City has awarded \$397,398.00 in ARPA funds for civil infrastructure and land development costs to Habitat, as well as has reserved \$130K in incentive policy funds for the construction of the first 10 homes.



Health and Human Services Roundtable with Governor Hobbs

Housing staff had the opportunity to attend a small, invitation-only roundtable discussion on Health and Human Services with Governor Hobbs after the groundbreaking event for Habitat. Sarah Darr and Justyna Costa were among the ten community attendees, including representatives from the Foundation for Senior Living, Flagstaff Shelter Services, Coconino County Health and Human Services, Catholic Charities, and Housing Solutions. City staff shared information regarding the Rental Incentive Bond Program and recent awards to the Foundation for Senior Living, IPAH funding to Roers and Habitat, the LASS/CAP project, and the Council's recent action to allow housing in the Public Facilities zone with a conditional use permit. In addition to attending the groundbreaking and holding the roundtable discussion, the Governor also toured Flagstaff Shelter Services Crown project and the Flagstaff Family Food Center during her visit to Flagstaff.

Mary Jo Jenkins Leader of the Year:

Mary Jo Jenkins (picture below) joined the city in 1987 and served the organization for over 25 years. She was the model of ethics, integrity, and straight talk. As the Management Services Director, she enabled countless projects through her outstanding stewardship of public funds. Her untimely passing due to cancer in April 2009 was a tremendous loss for this organization both personally and professionally. We honor her by naming the annual award for Leader of the Year after her. This award is given to a Leader that has demonstrated those traits that Mary Jo exemplified while with the City: integrity, professionalism, dedication, accountability, problem solving, ethics and empowerment. The following Leaders have been the recipient of the Mary Jo Jenkins Leader of the Year Award:

2009 – Shannon Anderson, Human Resources
2010 – Brent Cooper, Police Department
2011 – Barbara Goodrich, Management Services
2012 – Erik Solberg, Public Works
2013 – Mark Landsiedel, Community Development
2014 – Kevin Treadway, Police Department
2015 – Brad Hill, Water Services
2016 – Heidi Hansen, Economic Vitality

2017 – Mark Gaillard, Fire Department
2018 – Andy Bertelsen, Public Works
2019 – Rick Tadder, Management Service
2020 – Rebecca Sayers, PROSE
2021 – Stacey Brechler-Knaggs, Grants, Contracts & Emergency Management
2022 – Brandi Suda, Finance

When asking a previous awardee Stacey Brechler-Knaggs about Mary Jo here is what she shared, "Mary Jo was a strong mentor and shared her outstanding knowledge and experience in municipal finance with many staff members. She had a passion for budgeting and helped the city through many annual budget cycles to maintain a strong and healthy budget to support various programs and projects throughout our community. She traveled around Arizona to train others in governmental budgeting. Mary Jo and I worked together for many years and often shared stories about our dogs and vacations ... she loved her chocolate labs and trips to the beach! I'm proud to be a recipient of the Mary Jo Jenkins award, it truly touched my heart when I received this award honoring a leader, mentor, and friend."

We are honored to recognize the 2023 Leader of the Year during the Council meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.



Water Services

The City's Water Services division will receive over \$1 million dollars for water resources systems modeling and efficiency projects. Here are a few details about those four projects:

- 1) \$80,000 towards the Integrated groundwater-surface water computer model project to help the City better understand surface water recharge and groundwater movement. This model will be useful for calibrating surface water runoff conditions to locations around the city where water seeps into the ground, where water recharges shallow aquifers or feeds spring flows, and the volume and locations where water moves downward to the deeper C-aquifer where the City draws its groundwater.
- 2) \$60,000 for Water Resources Upper Lake Mary Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program supporting study research at Northern Arizona University on how forest restoration impacts water resources within the Upper Lake Mary Watershed. The study will measure the effectiveness of restoration to increase water yields within forest maintenance activities.
- 3) \$136,000 for the Water Resources and Conservation Nonrevenue Water Auditing Program to determine where water losses are occurring. The audit will result in a prioritized list of system improvements based on a return on investment in water delivery and water production cost savings. This effort contributes towards water conservation and utility efficiency goals.
- 4) \$750,000 to accelerate the Radio Read Meter Replacement Program to replace older, less efficient customer water meters with higher-accuracy meters that have leak detection capabilities.

Public Works

- Electric Vehicle charging stations being installed at three locations within the Public Works campus.
- It just looks newer! City Hall and Library boilers have been replaced. Before and after pictures of the Library.



- Majority of Fleet Services personnel attended electric and hybrid vehicle training on charging technologies, diagnostic techniques, and safety concerns for discharging and working on vehicles.
- Staff have been attending training at the Solid Waste Expo and the Government Fleet Conferences.
- Commercial Collection crews have been working hard to keep our community clean by addressing overloaded cans that are common this time of year.
- Solid Waste could use the community's help in making sure bulky items are placed in an accessible area and are acceptable bulk items. When there are several piles out of compliance or in hardly accessible areas it puts the crew behind schedule. Check out program details here <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/948/Bulk-Trash>. We appreciate your support!
- This just in: we are officially out of snow season. The signs & marking, concrete, street repair, and sweepers are in full swing and doing a great job. Thanks to team for keeping our city looking great!
- Facilities was busy during the Aquaplex closure with repairing any broken or malfunctioning equipment, replaced the pools heat exchange, replaced the pools slide pad, replaced broken radials and grates for the gutters, the locks on the cabanas now indicate vacant or occupied, and the party room flooring was replaced with a new slip resistant waterproof membrane. The Facilities team also did work at Jay Lively getting the concrete and cooling glycol lines repaired for the sheet of ice. This work by Facilities keeps our community assets looking great and functioning for the community benefit. Way to go!
- The two new Type 3 Fire Trucks have been received by Fleet getting all of the requested equipment installed so these units will be ready for operations. Fleet Services also received two of the new Electric Chevy Silverado Trucks that are being titled and registered.



- Streets supported Water Services in building out some access roads at Red Gap Ranch. Thanks to the team for reprioritizing their work to make this happen!
- Public Works welcomed a new Project Manager, Cole Maurer, and Solid Waste employee, Hans Weiderholt, to the team. Welcome aboard to Cole and Hans!
- Facilities received the completed Facilities Condition Reports and will begin sharing the information throughout the organization to talk through future investments needed to maintain City facilities.
- The City Manager's office had the opportunity to participate in the Public Works appreciation event and let the staff know how much we appreciate their dedication to the organization and the community. Sincere appreciation to the entire Public Works team and the great work they do each day to make the city better!





- Thursday night Facilities worked after hours to ensure City Hall, Public Works and USGS has some of the handlers turned off to eliminate smoke coming in the building with the Bravo Fire underway. Thank you for helping keep the work environment and City facilities comfortable!
- Lilly Price and Kathy Vigorito, our administrative specialist working hard on voucher week, providing excellent customer service for county and city residents. Always with a smile, 300+ customers no problem. Great job Ladies!



Police Department

- Several Police Department members took part in the torch run fundraiser for special Olympics and assisted with Night Court (playing Basketball) at the Hal Jensen Recreation Center.
- Sgt. Rintala attended the Youth Day celebration at the Flagstaff Mall, presented how to avoid scams targeting the public to a local church and Summer Safety Stranger Danger presentation to Puente de Hozho School.
- The Police Department held a coffee with a cop outreach event at the Bluffs senior living Center and Lt. Hernandez and Sgt. Rintala presented a fraud prevention class.
- Three Officers attended a multiple day training on investigating Human Trafficking.
- The Police Department was recognized by community member, Agi Dyer Purse, for their efforts in locating her husband and their family dog. She has begun a volunteer support group for the Flagstaff Law Enforcement Officers to give back.
- The Police Department has implemented a new victim notification program called Spider-Tech. It will notify if the Officer has been delayed, notifies of certain outcomes, and automatically generates and provides the case number. After the call for service has been completed the technology also offers a survey to measure their satisfaction with the

Flagstaff Dispatch Center and responding Officers. The Department is excited about the efficiency created and the ability to provide better communication to customers.

- An amazing story here. Angie Eberhardt and Lexi Pineda received a found urn with unidentified remains and letters from a Charles Plitt. Angie and Lexi dedicated the better part of a year attempting to contact the owner of the property. They conducted additional research which identified Charles Willis Plitt who was a Major who served in World War II and the Korean conflict as a pilot in the U.S. Airforce. They learned his family was buried in Vacaville-Elmira Cemetery in California and his remains are being sent there to be reunited with his wife and son. Thanks to Angie and Lexi for their dedication in finding Major Plitt's final resting place. Picture of Major Plitt below.



Fire Department

- The Fire Department received 6 StormStick gross decontamination devices through the Arizona 100 Club Safety Enhancement Stipend. These sticks help decontaminate Fire personnel from the toxins that create occupational cancers before they remove their personal protective equipment.
- The Fire Department provided fire extinguisher training for NACA.



- Picture of the successful walnut prescribed burn.



- FFD sponsored a Firefighter recruitment event with CCC, FFD, Highland Fire Department, and volunteers from House of Jacks at the CCC Lone Tree Campus. They had several participants interested to learn more about the profession.



- Department personnel trained on tree rescues and ladder operations.
- Wildland Fire Management staff hosted the Arizona Forward’s Emerging Leaders to tour Observatory Mesa and presentations from the City’s Neil Champman and Jenny Neimann, County Flood Control District Jay Smith and Heather Dalmolin with Mountain Line. Arizona Forward’s mission is to bring business and civic leaders together to promote cooperative efforts and improve the environmental sustainability and economic vitality of the state and local regions.
- A shout out to the Discover Flagstaff team and the Community Risk Reduction Forest Health team for the launch of the “Be Fire Aware” programming. There was a debut on Channel 3 that reached 30,000 people who are part of Flagstaff’s drive market. AZ Family amplified the messaging and an AZ Republic insert will reach 200,000 people in the metro-Phoenix area. Thanks for helping our visitor be more fire aware!
- Congratulations to Matt Smyers who was recognized as a NAPEBT Wellness Leader! Matt manages the PT program at the Fire Department and is committed to ensuring firefighters have access to the tools and resources they need to ensure total wellness and longevity in their career. Way to go Matt!
- It that time of year when the city experiences several wildfire starts and the FFD personnel have been actively fighting those fires to keep our community safe. Thank you!

Continuing to Build Relationships

On May 15, Mayor Daggett, Councilmember Sweet, City Attorney Sterling Solomon, Deputy City Manager Joanne Keene and Coordinator for Indigenous Initiatives Rose Toehe met with the Chairman and Council members of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The team also toured the tribal community and discussed issues of mutual interest. We continue to expand our outreach to our tribal partners, and I cannot recognize Rose Toehe enough for the work she is doing build and foster relationships. Shown below is Team Flagstaff with Tribal Chairman Roland Maldonado.



Flinn-Brown Fellows!

Congratulations to Vice Mayor Aslan and Councilmember Matthews for their selection as Flinn-Brown Fellows for the 2024 cohort! Read the announcement here:

[Meet the 2024 Flinn-Brown Fellows | Flinn Foundation](#)

Community Development

Below are some updates from our Community Development Department:

- Plans Examiner Tiffany Thomas hosted the Grand Canyon Chapter Meeting at the City of Flagstaff the week of May 20th. It was an overall great meeting and approximately 40 people were in attendance.
- Code Compliance purchased a new Ecoblaster pressure washer for the Graffiti Buster program. The previous model is at end of life and it allows for removal of paint from natural and historic surfaces.
- The Building Safety & Code Compliance section is reaching out to various organizations, developers, registrants, and contractors throughout the community advertising open seats on the Building and Fire Board of Appeals. There are currently six open seats.
- Building and permitting activity remains ahead of last year's pace. Through April 2024 the team processed **636** permits, compared to **546** in 2023, valued at nearly \$71.5 million, compared to over \$49 million in 2023.
- Housing staff attended a Climate Resilience Leaders workshop to present on the topic of Resilient Housing. The Climate Resilience Leaders are a group of volunteer ambassadors from different neighborhoods interested in learning foundation skills to build neighborhood resilience. The presentation focused on how intertwined the goals of the Carbon Neutrality Plan and the 10-Year Housing Plan are and work together when feasible to promote carbon neutrality, climate resilience, and housing affordability. Housing staff shared some of the

resources and programs that are offered to the community regarding affordable rental programs, homeownership programs, landlord/tenant, and fair housing.

- Housing Staff welcomed intern Aidan Rutledge in May. Aidan is currently a junior at NAU and is interested in municipal Housing work. Staff are excited to have an extra pair of hands around the office and to teach Aidan as much as possible during his time at the city.
- Congratulation to Wesley Welch who has been promoted to a Senior Planner!

Miscellaneous Updates

Safe Streets and Roads for All

We received some good news in the last couple of weeks that MetroPlan was awarded a \$2,140,000 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to create a comprehensive Safe Streets Master Plan, a crucial initiative aimed at improving road safety and reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries across the region. The project will develop Complete Streets Guidelines, propose necessary amendments to existing codes and standards, and create detailed future conditions roadway mapping for the region for MetroPlan's member agencies: the City of Flagstaff, Mountain Line, Coconino County and ADOT. The planning process will include robust public engagement.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this happen!

Fremont Street Project

And speaking of MetroPlan, some here were involved in the effort on Saturday, May 18, or a colorful celebration on North Fremont Blvd., at Cheshire Park. This temporary demonstration project is intended to gauge how art can improve safety by reducing vehicle speeds and shortening the crossing for pedestrians. The project was initiated by and for the neighbors of the Cheshire community, and performed with partnerships of MetroPlan, the City of Flagstaff, Creative Flagstaff, the Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy (FALA), and funded through the very first Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative Grant.



PROSE

In addition to the monthly update that will be provided at the Council meeting, a couple of photos below showing signs that summer is indeed upon us. Props to the hardworking team at PROSE for making it all happen!





Federal Appropriations

In my previous report, we shared the itinerary and several photos from this year's Washington DC trip in April. Just copying an email excerpt here, from our lobbyist Bob Holmes dated Friday June 7th, with some positive news. Stay tuned for additional updates on potential funding for these projects.

Team Flagstaff:

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We received three projects – Airport Drainage Improvements, Amtrak platform improvements and La Plaza Vieja – in THUD requests.

We received the biochar request under Energy and Water and Fanning Wash under Homeland Security. The biochar request is under Interior as well, which is where I think it fits best.

Five projects is a great start. It is important to note that this doesn't guarantee the City funding. We still have to work these requests though the process that will likely continue until next year, but again this is an incredible foundation to build from.

Congratulations to team for the incredible work! Have a great weekend!

Bob

Bob Holmes

Founder and Managing Partner

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Meetings & Events

CPWAC

Last meeting occurred on Friday, May 31. There was an excellent presentation related to spring environments and geology within the Grand Canyon. Joanne Keene will be stepping into my role as Chair for the Government Affairs Committee. This is a role that she has fulfilled in prior years.

CJCC

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th. Shannon Anderson, with her involvement with public safety, will be transitioning into my role as city management member of the larger group as well as the Executive Committee.

Coconino Scroll

We had a wonderful tour of the art project at the airport, with great narrative by the artists and members of our Beautification Team. Thanks to the elected officials who were also attendant. The below excerpt from our own Jana Weldon, Program Manager:

The Coconino Scroll is a densely illustrated cut metal steel (rusted Corten) and colored-glass fence, composed of interwoven images that celebrate the history, environment, and culture of Flagstaff and its surroundings. The artwork places an emphasis on sharing surprising and little-known stories, representing the rich cultural diversity of the area. An accompanying series of 25 cast bronze plaques, circular medallion "Footnotes", are sited beside the sidewalk next to the fence. These provide brief background text about the adjacent fence section's images and stories, in addition to recapturing striking imagery from the fence. A vast array of community members contributed to the stories captured by the artist team of Pete Goldlust and Melanie Germond.



With that, Council, this report is concluded. Again, three updates are attached for your review. Thank you.