

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Meeting

Friday, March 9, 2018
8:00 A.M.

Pima Animal Care Center
4000 N. Silverbell
Tucson, Arizona

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

Tom Dunn, Chair
Carolyn Campbell, ViceChair
Joe Boogaart
Ed Buster
Gary Davidson
Curt Lueck
David Lyons
Ted Prezelski
Joyce Powers
Patty Richardson
Chris Sheafe
John Sundt
Greg Wexler

Committee Members Absent

Brian Flagg
Joyce Garland
Rene Gastelum
Kelly Gomez
Michael Lund
Wade McLean
Ted Schmidt
Dan Sullivan
James Ward
Tom Warne

Staff that Addressed the Committee

Pima County:
Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator
Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator
Ana Olivares, Transportation Director
Eric Shepp, Deputy Director, Regional
Flood Control District
Nicole Fyffe, Assist. to County Administrator

MOTIONS

MOTION: Chris Sheafe moved, seconded by Curt Lueck, to accept the bond program update. Motion approved 13-0.

MOTION: Gary Davidson moved, seconded by Patty Richardson, to approve the March 3, 2017 meeting summary. Motion approved 13-0.

MOTION: Gary Davidson moved, seconded by Patty Richardson, to approve the recommended amendments to the 1997 General Obligation bond ordinances. Motion approved 12-0, with 1 abstention.

MOTION: Chris Sheafe moved, seconded by Curt Lueck, to approve the recommended amendments to the 2004 General Obligation bond ordinance. Motion approved 13-0.

MOTION: David Lyons moved, seconded by Chris Sheafe, to approve the recommended amendments to the 1997 HURF bond ordinance. Motion approved 12-0, with 1 abstention.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 8:05 a.m.

2. Semi-Annual Bond Program Update for 1997, 2004 and 2014 Bond Programs

Per the County's Truth in Bonding Code, materials were provided to the Committee regarding the status of the 1997, 2004 and 2014 bond programs. This included a written report from the City of Tucson. These materials are also available on the County's website. Nicole Fyffe, Assistant to the County Administrator, reported on the status of bonds sales, and remaining projects, which include affordable housing and neighborhood reinvestment projects, a landfill project, a flood control project and phase 2 of the Pima Animal Care Center.

Chris Sheafe asked about the interest rate for the bond sale. Ms. Fyffe responded that the 2017 general obligation bond sales was at just over 2 percent, which is why the County chose to sell the remaining general obligation bonds at that time.

Joe Boogaart asked about the reduction in other funding as shown in the proposed bond ordinance amendments and who controlled those other non-bond funds. Ana Olivares, Transportation Director, explained that the other funds that will no longer be necessary for those projects, are controlled to some extent by regional entities external to the County, with the Board of Supervisors only controlling the other funds proposed for County projects.

Vice-Chair Campbell asked about the proposed amendment to DOT-23, Thornydale - Cortaro Farms Road to Linda Vista Blvd., and whether the County would have to comply with the Cortaro Mitigation Plan. Ms. Olivares responded that there is not enough funding to do the full expansion without waiting many years for other funding to materialize. Mr. Huckelberry explained that the pavement repair and paving of shoulders would not trigger the Cortaro Mitigation Plan.

Gary Davidson asked about DOT-44, Orange Grove Road - Thornydale to Oracle Roads, and specifically about the segments of the road that have not been widened. Ms. Olivares acknowledged that those segments would remain, stated that the actual traffic counts are lower than the prior projections, and that the Department would continue to monitor the traffic volumes.

Chris Sheafe asked why Tanque Verde Road was completed, versus Thornydale Road, when it appears Thornydale has heavier traffic volumes. Mr. Huckelberry responded that reduced HURF revenues led to the need to prioritize projects, and that those projects not identified to receive RTA funds, such as Thornydale, would have to wait. Chris also asked about the County's recent bidding experience as his offsite development costs have been coming in 40 percent higher than estimated. Mr. Huckelberry responded that the County's most recent bids for road repair projects both came in less than estimated, but that the estimated and the bids occurred close together.

Ted Prezelski asked how much consideration is given to projected land uses when developing traffic projections? Mr. Huckelberry and Curt Lueck, who's expertise is in transportation planning, responded that projecting traffic volumes and traffic modeling is still a very imprecise science, especially since road projects tend to have such a long lead time.

Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on the status of the Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) bond project, which was initially recommended by the Bond Advisory Committee in early 2014. Phase 1, which is the bulk of the new facility, was completed this past December and Phase 2 is scheduled for completion in July. Phase 2 will provide more shelter space for animals. The total project is currently estimated to come in under budget by about \$1 million, and has been completed without increasing operating costs. Maricopa County staff recently visited the new facility and met with Director Kristen Auerbach, because the facility is now known as one of the greatest in the country and our Director is known for being extraordinary in her field.

Chairman Dunn asked when the temporary animal tent will be taken down. Ms. Leshar responded that the tent will be taken down when Phase 2 is complete.

Vice-Chair Campbell thanked Ms. Leshar and her staff for everything, recognized the change in cultural that has occurred, and asked how this could have occurred while maintaining operating costs. Ms. Leshar responded that the new facility design was much more efficient than the old, outdated facility, and that Friends of PACC has succeeded in generating significant external funding for PACC. The live release rate has increased dramatically to 94 percent and the number of animals coming in to PACC has declined 25 percent from 24,000 to about 18,000 a year, with credit to the substantial increase in spay and neuters.

MOTION: Chris Sheafe moved, seconded by Curt Lueck, to accept the bond program update. Motion approved 13-0.

3. Approval of the March 3, 2017 Meeting Summary

MOTION: Gary Davidson moved, seconded by Patty Richardson, to approve the March 3, 2017 meeting summary. Motion approved 13-0.

4. Amendments to the 1997 and 2004 General Obligation Bond Ordinances, and 1997 HURF Ordinance

Per the County's Truth in Bonding Code, the Committee received a written staff report describing when bond ordinance amendments are necessary, the public review process associated with amending the ordinances, and details concerning the projects that would be impacted by this round of bond ordinance amendments. Ms. Fyffe summarized these at the meeting.

MOTION: Gary Davidson moved, seconded by Patty Richardson, to approve the recommended amendments to the 1997 General Obligation bond ordinances. Motion approved 12-0, with 1 abstention.

In response to questions from Chris Sheafe and Gary Davidson about how the District prioritization the proposed El Rio project over other flood control needs, Eric Shepp, Deputy Director for Pima County's Regional Flood Control District, responded that the City's El Rio project would benefit a neighborhood of residences that have repeatedly been flooded in comparison to road flooding issues elsewhere or a football field's drainage issues.

MOTION: Chris Sheafe moved, seconded by Curt Lueck, to approve the recommended amendments to the 2004 General Obligation bond ordinance. Motion approved 13-0.

Ms. Olivares presented the proposed 1997 HURF bond ordinance amendments, some of which were discussed earlier in the meeting.

MOTION: David Lyons moved, seconded by Chris Sheafe, to approve the recommended amendments to the 1997 HURF bond ordinance. Motion approved 12-0, with 1 abstention.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will likely be scheduled in September. Mr. Huckelberry offered to provide the following: an update in the County's bond ratings and debt profile, including the bar chart requested by Mr. Davidson, recommendations from the Sales Tax Advisory Committee, and updates on State Legislative bills related to transportation revenues that seem to have a chance for success.

Vice-Chair Campbell asked whether SB1147, the bill that would provide an additional half-cent sales tax for the RTA, specifies a date for the election. Mr. Huckelberry responded no. Mr. Lyons asked if the State Legislature is considering increasing the gas tax. Mr. Huckelberry responded no.

Ms. Fyffe was asked to explain the statement in the agenda with regard to September possibly being the last committee meeting. Ms. Fyffe responded that the majority of bond projects will be complete by then, with the exception of the transportation projects and a landfill project, and the Bond Advisory Committee could chose to delegate their review responsibilities for those final projects to the newly formed Transportation Advisory Committee and the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee. Chairman Dunn requested direction from the Board of Supervisors on the status of the Bond Advisory Committee. Vice-chair Campbell added that the Committee could instead begin to work on proposals for a future bond election.

6. Call to the Audience

No one spoke at this time.

Curt Lueck announced the Completion of The Loop celebration scheduled for Saturday March 17, as much of the Loop was funded with bond funds.

7. Meeting Adjourned

MOTION: Joe Boogaart moved, seconded by Ed Buster, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 13-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

DRAFT