

Town of Gila Bend

Minutes of the October 27, 2009 Work Session

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Mayor Henry called the Work Session to order at 5:00pm. Mayor Henry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry	
Vice-Mayor Fred Hull	
Council Member Armida Gonzalez	Council Member Chuck Turner
Council Member Fernando Fernandez-arrive	Council Member James "Bud" Turner
5:08pm	Council Member Donny Young- arrive
	5:04pm

Staff present: Town Manager Buss, Public Works Director Parsi, Finance Director Young; Town Clerk Turner, Fire Chief Birchfield, Records Clerk Eisenberger

III. WORK SESSION (the Town Council cannot take action on any of these subjects because they are on the agenda for discussion only)

- A. Pima Street and Martin Street Pedestrian and Landscape Improvements. The Mayor and Town Council shall hear and discuss a presentation by E-Group, Inc. relative to proposed Pima Street and Martin Street Pedestrian and Landscape Improvements. The Pima Street improvements are being funded via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Martin Street Improvements are being funded via a HURF transfer completed roughly 8 years ago. Discussion will include future visioning and image portrayal of the Town of Gila Bend. **(Discussion Only) Mark Schwartz and Jason Harrington of E-Group gave a brief bio of the company. E-Group has been in the land planning/landscape architecture business 33 years. Mr. Schwartz spoke on the plans designed 10 years ago for the town that included safe routes of passage for children, sidewalks, seating areas and shade trees that will make Gila Bend more walkable, even in the summer. There was an Urban Forest Plan done in 2000 that works with the Pedestrian Walkway design plan and was used as a guideline and tool for creating the final design. Mr. Schwartz spoke about the Pima Street Corridor and three different plan ideas. Plan One includes a landscape buffer, shade trees, banner consistent with town theme, landscaped median slows traffic, lighting and encourages people to look around. Plan Two incorporates all of Plan One except there is no median and adds wider sidewalks. Plan Three is based on a narrow corridor which is not as pedestrian friendly and the buffer is on the backside making businesses more visible. Schwartz and Harrington spoke about a central area, a go to place, around Pima and Murphy (Murphy St. District) that would incorporate historic Stout's Hotel and water tower, but that the central area could be located anywhere but the Murphy St. area would be a good core area as it is a defined area. Another idea they spoke about were oasis pockets that rippled out from the central area and could be filled in at a later date. They suggested that the Town use this opportunity as a type of branding that Gila Bend is known for. A pedestrian walkway bridge over Pima St. would be something recognizable for Gila Bend. Going with a solar theme we could utilize solar panels for lighting. Discussion followed on the pedestrian walkway bridge idea and Murphy St. District; both great ideas. Discussion on the possibility of problems with railroad property. Discussion on pedestrian bridge**

keeping children and other pedestrians safe and keep ADOT happy as they do not want a stoplight installed at Pima and Martin as it would slow down the flow of traffic. Discussion on iconic signage at either end of town rather than small signs but need to keep the 5 Old Crabs sign. Discussion on the availability of \$250,000 for schools through the Safe Roads Program and the excellent chance that the pedestrian bridge plan has in receiving some of those funds. Discussion on the ADOT signage timeframe; basic design completed by December 1, 2009 and March 1, 2010 deadline for the construction ready documents. Discussion on the need for sidewalks from the canal to Pima St. Discussion on establishing a priority list and using the funds to stretch as far as possible.

- IV. ADJOURNMENT *Vice Mayor Hull moved to adjourn the Work Session. Seconded by Council Member C. Turner. Motion passed unanimously; 7-0. Time of adjournment: 5:56pm.*

Ron Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the work session held October 27, 2009, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk