

Employee Council Minutes

Third Quarter Minutes, 2006

The 2006 Employee Council's Officers are:

Ben Barela – President

Steve Melendez – Treasurer

Kathy Kubish - Secretary

Due to work obligations, three members only showed up for the June meeting; therefore, as there were insufficient members to vote on any issues, the meeting was canceled.

In July, Alan Lee, Administrator of AFSCME Local Branch 449, and Kristin Lobato, summer intern for AFSCME were present. Lee made a presentation to the council, including, the union is making structural changes in its organization, it is are growing everywhere but Pima County, that its competitor SEIU has asked AFSCME to cede Pima County to them, and AFSCME is the largest political contributor in Arizona. Council members recommended that the union let Pima County employees know what they are working on, and also notify employees when compensation issues are being discussed by the Board of Supervisors.

Steve Melendez made the point that many BOS meetings are held in the evenings, so there is no work-related reason why employees cannot attend. The Clerk of the Board minutes would be a good reference for times and topics of BOS meetings. There was also discussion that the PacifiCare contract expires next year, and Pima County employees will be asked to use a different provider during open enrollment in May 2007.

From the employee survey, parking was the largest area of concern. Cost, rather than availability, seemed to be a crucial issue with parking meters. Ben Barela and Joan Harris are going to conduct some research on this matter. Another high area of interest was exercise facilities. Linda Cowen of the Wellness Council was consulted and she felt the facilities were already cheap enough. She did point out that the convention center was open to noontime walkers. Gloria Zubia Burt will contact Linda to see if the Wellness Council can locate a noontime-walking site for eastside workers.

Employee Council elections will be held in November 2006.