

**Buddy Walk Tucson 2006
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2006
Ward 6 Council Office**

In attendance:

**Caroline Ganz
Frank Ganz
Anne Simpson
Geoff Gonzales
Chad McKinley
Scott Warren**

The first draft of the 2006 Buddy Walk Brochure/Registration was reviewed with approval. Anne Simpson will be sending it out this weekend with the first batch of letters to sponsors who donated to Buddy Walk last year.

It was agreed to utilize the services of justgiving.com, which provided SANDS with pledge web pages gratis for last year's BW and which will cost ca. \$300 this year. Last year in excess of \$4,000 was raised through the web pages. NDSS provides free pledge web pages to a limited number of BW each year, and were already at quota when Caroline inquired. Next year we will apply for this early.

Carolina submitted the idea to have the survey/suggestion flyer be connected to a raffle prize to encourage more input from BW participants about what they like/suggest to improve the event. Consensus to adopt this idea.

Discussion of whether SANDS should purchase a tent for permanent use for registration and other possible events throughout the year. Scott suggested it may be cost effective to rent on a yearly basis as storage and maintenance are an issue. This year we may again be fortunate to have usage of equipment (tents for the food providers, sound) set up for an event on the following day.

We have requested to have the park a half hour early, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., as last year many people left when it got dark. We haven't heard confirmation yet from the Park dept.

We have been apprised that John Macko and his Scout troop, the Hayden HS cheerleaders, and Neon Prophet all offered after last year's event to return this year and we will confirm this with the various parties.

We will ask Mariachi Juvenil, who performed to a dwindling crowd at the end of last year's event, to come again and perform earlier in the schedule.

Ronald McDonald is confirmed to perform again – from 2:30 to 3:15 then possibly the Cheerleaders will do some routines to get everyone inspired and then lead into the walk. Mariachi Juvenil can perform during and just after the walk time, and Neon Prophet can play from 5 – 6 when those who wish can dance.

Geoff raised the question of the security of the pledge form system. Unlike the raffle tickets, which are numbered and accounted for, the pledge form is vulnerable to fraudulent use by any unscrupulous party that has access to a brochure. One possible remedy is to request checks only, payable to SANDS, on the form, although this will exclude those who work on a cash only basis.

Anne will be working on the raffle plan this year and has ideas to simplify the process, including having the winners of the small prizes come to the raffle tent to match numbers and select their own prize.

Geoff offered to help with the media coverage, public service announcements, etc. as well as be the MC for the stage program. Scott has connections at the local FOX channel and will pursue that. He is a member of the ATO fraternity Board, which was a major sponsor last year and which hopes to continue its relationship with Buddy Walk and SANDS in a mutually beneficial way. He also will pursue possible ways to invite UA alumni to take part in this event. Other connections to UA were discussed, including approaching the various related departments, i.e. Medical School, Special Education, Physical Therapy, for volunteers. Some programs have a volunteer component to their curriculum.

The need for a volunteer coordinator was discussed to orchestrate recruiting, planning and training, as needed, before and during the event.

It was suggested that walkie talkies for the committee heads at the event will be helpful.

The next meeting will be held at the Ward 6 Council Office, Thursday, May 25th, 6⁰⁰15 to 7:30.

**Respectfully submitted by
Frank and Caroline Ganz
4/21/06**