



Kuna Idaho

2017 State of the City

Presented by

Joe Stear, Mayor

November 16, 2017

Kuna Country

*This Kuna Country
With its rolling hills,
And thousands of trees,
And pies on the window sills.*

*Where the cattle run free
And the children as well;
Where the folks believe
In the liberty bell.*

*Where you can see the Owyhees
And up to Bogus Basin,
Also, east to Sun Valley
And west to Oregon.*

*No matter what point
You choose to stand,
Kuna is the center
Of the Treasure land.*

*It's surrounded by farms
With corn, beets and wheat,
cattle, cows, sheep and pigs
For the food that we eat.*

*Known as the Gateway
To the Birds of Prey;
It, too guards the Cave
Where many come to play.*

*It's safe and silent at night
And the whole day through;
Kuna is sanctuary
For its men and women true.*

Judy Ragain
Kuna, Idaho
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P.O. BOX 13
KUNA ID 83634
(208)922-5546
www.KunaCity.id.gov

Mayor
Joe Stear

City Council
Members
Briana Buban-Vonder Haar
Richard Cardoza
Pat Jones
Greg McPherson

City of Kuna

2017 State of the City Mayor Joe Stear November 16, 2017

I would like to begin with a thank you to all that make the success of this city possible.

We have built relationships with the Mayors, County Commissioners, ACHD Commissioners and the staff members of all of those entities. We have a great working relationship with the School District, Ada County Sheriff's Department and the Kuna Fire District. We are a friend to the Library.

The assistance that we receive from the Community Planning Association or COMPASS, and Valley Regional Transit or VRT is key to our successes.

There is a resource committee that makes assistance available simply for the asking. There are so many people involved in so many committees, that always step up when we have a task to accomplish. Mayors Youth Council is always fun and enlightening. We have an Arts Commission that is just getting up and running and doing a great job. The Historical Society, that runs the museum. The Park Impact Fee Committee, Kuna Economic Development Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

The people that I work with and work for the city, are incredible individuals that care deeply for this community. Our Parks Department, Planning and Zoning, Fleet and Facilities, Utilities, Treasurer, Attorney, Clerks Office and Public Works, all work as a team and even as a family. They all have multiple job duties and responsibilities and not one of our successes would be possible without a great team effort.

There are so many people that deserve mention that I will miss some and can't even begin to name individually.

Most importantly there is one that I will name individually because without her support and efforts I would not be able to do my job, and that is my wife Maresa.

The city has been debt free since 2014. This means there are no revenue bonds or general obligation debt that must be paid for through taxing our citizens. This has allowed the city to work collaboratively with the school district and other entities with public financing of their needs.



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The city has self-funded (via growth) its infrastructure improvements in water, sewer and irrigation services. The city owns the waste water treatment plant and it has ample capacity for the future. The city acquired this city hall by using reserves, fueled by growth, which saves more than \$60,000 annually in lease payments. It provides the city with another real asset. All water, sewer and irrigation projects are funded annually out of capital growth revenue generated within each fund and the city is maintaining that balance and able to keep up with the demand.

Community policing costs have risen from \$1,239,986 in 2010 to \$1,818,061 in 2018. This is an increase of 47% or 5.2% per year. Compare this with the average growth rate of 3.17% and costs have outpaced the growth rate. However, we are working towards a 1 officer per 1,000 citizens ratio and are currently at 0.79 officers per 1,000. Each year we look at our costs for police and how that compares with other surrounding cities. Kuna is still second to the lowest of the 3 cities that contract with the Ada County Sheriff's office. Going by our last year's numbers of \$84 per resident the closest city that has an official city police force was at \$162. The average across the Treasure Valley is \$218.

Since 2010 the property tax levy rate has gone from .002602354 to .0029531070 in the fiscal year of 2018. So, on a nominal basis the tax on \$100,000 of taxable value has not changed much. Over the course of those years it has increased by \$35 or an increase of \$3.89 per year. However, when adjusted to real values based on inflation this number changes. The estimated inflation for property values is about 63%, so the \$35 would change to about \$57. This is a small number in relativity and shows the councils commitment to keeping things level and minimizing the need for a spike in any given year.

One of the things that I initiated before I even knew if I would be the Mayor was to have an approved Area of City Impact. The old lines did not reflect any of the growth and had no relevancy to our future. With great cooperation from the Ada County Commission, specifically Commissioner Case, our staff was allowed to work directly with their staff and turn a 2-year process into something that took a little less than a year. Even though this is old news, the reason that I mention it, is that it was vital in order to begin the process of a comprehensive plan rewrite.

This process is known as Envision Kuna. We have a great mix of people on this committee and have had open houses as well as a survey to allow for public comment. One of the most important aspects of a good comprehensive plan is community vision. Our timeline on this project is 18 months. We are well into that and look to be completed by June of 2018. This will be a vital tool to help guide council to decisions dealing with growth, that reflect the communities wishes.

Council approved the hire of an economic development person. I am looking forward to getting this position filled to get a better hold on bringing in new



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business as well as helping to sustain our established businesses. There is a great deal of work to be done on this in order to keep in front of an ever-changing

world that is not willing to wait on us to figure out a plan. This is vital in balancing our residential vs. commercial tax burden.

Another area that we have made great strides forward in is preservation of records of the city. There were pallets of boxes that had been kept for years and were not safe from fire or other disasters that could occur. Our office of the Clerk has worked diligently to scan thousands of documents and file them in compliance with state code. Historical documents have now been preserved on archival paper so that they can be viewed and kept for many years to come. This has been a monumental task and is still in progress.

We have completed and are in process of completing some fun and exciting projects. We added lighting on one portion of the greenbelt. We were able to complete another greenbelt extension. We have a great amenity with Indian Creek and the development of that pathway. From the efforts of the Mayors Youth Council we will be installing a workout area along that pathway. The disc golf has been a huge success. Through the efforts of our Parks department we have installed a playground area and equipment in the Farm Park. This spring we will be completing a splash pad project. Our Parks director has worked diligently on this and it will be a very popular attraction. We were able to get the dog park open. There is still some work to be done on that but it has been a welcomed addition. Some of these projects have been made possible through grant funding and some have been made possible by fees collected associated with growth.

There has become this us against them feeling when it comes to government. I do not want that here. I have a great passion for community and what better way to promote that than with our young people. Our youth have great ideas on how to make our city more useful and fun for them. Some of those ideas are not a 10-million-dollar pool but a 2 thousand dollar set of exercise equipment on the green belt, things that we can actually accomplish. When I go into the schools the kids know who I am and are not afraid to come up and say hi and tell me a story or ask me questions. That gives me a great sense of accomplishment and I will always make the needs of our young people a priority.

You may have noticed that I like to do things with our kids. That is partially because I am still a kid myself. Down and Dirty, Snow cone with the Mayor, Candy cane with the Mayor, Walk to School, Dunk Tanks, Lunch with the Students, Mayors Book Club, Mayors Youth Council, Meeting with the Mayor and a few others. The reason that I do all of that is because I want our young people to know first of all that I am no more special than anyone else. I want them to be comfortable in knowing that in our local government, that it is not only Okay to speak to us, but it is welcomed. It also makes the parents realize that it is



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welcomed when they come up and speak to me. I want everyone to know how we do things and what it is that we are doing.

We will be mapping out the city to look at critical areas where sidewalk gaps exist. Areas that will not develop anytime soon will be addressed and we will do our best to make this city pedestrian friendly. In the next month or so we will get that mapped out and I would like to put together a citizens committee to give input on priorities and critical areas.

The best way to keep government on track is by the use of citizen committees. Their ability to share in the design process of any project makes for a better and more useful product. Phase 1 of the downtown Revitalization project is a great example of that. Its design does not come from the City or ACHD but from the people that are vested in Kuna, our citizens and our business owners.

Downtown Revitalization is also a great example of collaboration between entities, agencies, contractors, organizations and many citizens and staff members. We had multiple funding sources for this project and it has been a huge challenge to organize and execute. In fact, this project is being looked at as a template for other agencies to follow.

We have been very successful in the number of grants that we have been awarded. Our Clerks office is in charge of writing grants and is very diligent in working towards all that we can get and very creative in what we can do to qualify. One example of this is an interactive art piece that will be a part of our downtown. It spells out KUNA and will provide for fun for the kids and a great place to take family photos.

In closing, I would just like to say what an honor it is to be the Mayor of such a great community. This is a time when our city is doing the best that we can in catching up after years of falling behind. I believe that we have come a long way but have a lot of work yet to do. I do want to hear from you so I will finish with a question that myself and staff ask ourselves every day.

What can we build together, today?



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Mayor Joe L. Stear



Kuna's Downtown Revitalization



The first phase of construction for the Downtown Revitalization Project began in August 2017 and may be completed in November 2017.

Funded by grants from:



Greenbelt Extension

Behind Indian Creek School

Before:  After: 

Funded by a grant from:



"KUNA!"

A Kuna Arts Commission Project

This sculpture spells out KUNA in giant letters with a black on the end saying "My Home Town" and play equipment is incorporated in a way that makes play irresistible!



Funded by grants from:



The "KUNA!" interactive sculptural play space is the first art installation for the Art Alley along Ave E!

Kuna Arts Commission



Stroll with the Sheriff

On June 29, 2017 community members got to know Mayor Stear, Ada County Sheriff Steve Bartlett and Kuna Police Chief Jon McDaniel while walking along the greenbelt path!



Kuna's 3rd Annual DOWN N' DIRTY

Over 600 kids and parents joined us for what has become a favorite community event!

The Parks Department out did themselves on the course and we can't wait for next year!



Encouraging Kuna Children to Lead Active Lifestyles

National Walk to School Day
October 2016

Cheetah Run
October 2016



Miss Idaho Pageant

The Miss Idaho Pageant was held in Kuna in June 2017 and Mayor Stear participated as a judge!



Movies on the Greenbelt

Great summer family fun sponsored by:




Sno Cones with the Mayor

Celebrating the 4th of July with Kuna's youth!



Fishin' with the Commission

June 2017



2017 Mayor's Table

A Community Event hosted by Mayor and Mrs. Stear, City of Kuna and the Kuna Farmers Market featuring local farm foods that are ripe and ready for the table during the month of September.



Candy Canes with the Mayor

Celebrating the Holiday Season with Kuna's youth and Santa Claus!



Envision Kuna

Creating Kuna's New Comprehensive Plan



Mayor's Youth Council

The Youth Council has been working on safety, improvements, and amenities for the Greenbelts. They have also volunteered to help with community events!



Park Updates

Enjoy new play equipment and shelters at some of Kuna's Parks and lights on the Greenbelt!



Farm Park Play Ground

Enjoy new playground equipment at Farm Park on Deer Flat Road!



Sadie Creek Dog Park

The Sadie Creek Dog Park is open for use and may be completed in Spring of 2018!



Splash Pad Coming Soon!

On the Greenbelt by the ball fields off Linder and Swan Falls Road!



The Splash Pad was approved in 2017 and construction has started. It may be open for use in the summer of 2018!

Snowmageddon!!!

The Kuna community came together to face challenging winter weather!



Volunteer Barbeque

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER IN THE CITY OF KUNA!!!





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