

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday April 18, 2005

7:00 – 8:30 PM Fairmount Park Boathouse

Attendees (per sign-in sheet): Keith Alex, D.E. Kessinger, Ron Kushner, Kristi Carwith, Dennis Carwith, Norm Gritton, Jack Larson, Pam Bohne, Joe Bohne, Heather Troxel, Debra Reiser, Paul Reiser, Laurene Bryden, Lorri Coles, Dave Terrell, Julie Terrell, Jackie Frayley, Mary Ann Beaman, Brian Bordash, Cindy Bordash, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Rod Wolfe, Shirley Wolfe, Chani Beeman, Drista Dlyan, Kirsten Schutz, Jean Anderson, Nancy Difani, Pedro Payne, Rick Buran, Pete Kallinger, Silvia Flores, Dave McNiel, Molly Doughery, Janice Frances, Jim Talcott, Robbie Kennedy, Dan Hantman, Eri Tani, Bryan Kuderman, Siobhan Foster, Kathe Mate, Greg Hixon.

Unexcused Board Absence: Jim Youden

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Keith Alex at 7:10PM

Each attendee introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes of March 21, 2005

✓ **Motion to approved Minutes as submitted**

M/S/V: St. Pierre/N. Larsen/Carried

3. Council member Dom Betro

- Council member applauded the turnout at the meeting on April 14th at Bryant school to support the Perez family and to discuss the investigation **into Mrs. Perez's murder**. Several important questions were raised during that meeting and clearly the frustration level is high with two particular issues: Homelessness and Parolee/Probationer homes. For that reason, Dom invited several city staff members to the meeting to provide information and address questions. City staff members present included: Pedro Payne, Human Relations Commission; Joan Thirkettle, Homeless Coordinator; Greg Priamos, City Attorney; Siobahn Foster, Public Works; Lt. Griffiths, Riverside Police Department; Nancy Castillo, RPD; North Area POP officers, RPD.
- **Homelessness:** Dom continues to be committed to closing the armory. The cold weather program at the armory ended April 1, 2004 and will not reopen at that location. The property on Hulen Place will be open in September to provide short term homeless shelter services. You will notice there is now a fence around the Butler building in Fairmount Park, the building will eventually be torn down as well. Path of Life Ministries is responding to immediate homelessness problems. If residents need assistance with a homeless person please call either Joan or Path of Life Ministries (see handout). The police are doing park sweeps in the morning and evening to clear the park of homeless individuals. Unfortunately, that causes them to congregate around the Hwy. 60 underpass. We are working to minimize the "moving around" of homeless individuals.
- **Fairmount Park:** There will be a lot of work done in the park along the river bottom. The old Boy Scout camp will be cleared as part of the wildlands conservancy project. The project will hopefully include the Indian Hill area, the city is working with property

owners. The wetlands conservancy project includes a land swap with the Riverside Public Utilities. RPU will trade land it owns along the river for land at the front of the park. Land at the front of the park will be used for restrooms and a park office.

- **Parolee/Probationer Homes:** There are four types of multiple person housing: Parolee/Probationer homes, Sober Living (drug and alcohol rehab), Group Homes (teen pregnancy, mental/physical disability, etc) and multiple family (6 or more unrelated adults). City Attorney Greg Priamos explained the ordinance that was passed by the City Council last year to lawfully regulate the number of Parolee/Probationer homes in a neighborhood, thereby separating them out from the other types of group homes. The ordinance requires that Parolee/Probationer homes be no less than 1,000 feet from sensitive uses (schools, senior centers, etc) and no closer than 5,000 feet from another Parolee/Probationer home. Also, the ordinance requires that Parolee/Probationer homes with less than 6 residents must obtain a minor conditional use permit from the city. Parolee/Probationer homes with more than 6 residents must obtain a conditional user permit. The “grace period” for compliance with this ordinance (obtaining conditional use permits) ended in February, so enforcement of the ordinance has begun. Training for police and code compliance officers has been ongoing. Identifying the homes is the next big step and requires the assistance of area residents. DANA will assist with that process by collecting addresses and forwarding them to Public Works and the Police Department, who will investigate and get back to DANA about the status of the reported property. DANA will work with Public Works and RPD to maintain a running list of reported properties and investigative findings.

Answers to questions:

- There are local, state and federal regulations that apply to other types of group homes. When a problem property is identified all options are evaluated to determine the best way to address the problem. The biggest problem is absentee landlords. A great deal of effort must go into identifying property owners and then pressuring them to clean-up the property or sell.
 - The information about the applicable ordinances can be found online: <http://www.riversideca.gov> Click on the Municipal Code link and look at Title 19 section 19.07.030
 - Conditional Use Permits are public record and can be found at the city’s web site in the Planning Department. Also, Community Care provides licensing that is public record.
 - Addressing the problem has a significant priority. Police officers are trained to notice possible violations of these ordinances when they respond to calls. Several group homes that were designated “Sober Living” have been closed down when drugs were found on the property.
 - Another way to address the over abundance of group homes in the downtown area is to contact elected representatives that can have impact on the policy for discharging parolees. Those representatives are: Russ Bough, John Benoit, Bob Dutton, Ray Haynes.
- Dom is asking city staff to develop ideas for cleaning up the neighborhood around Sav-a-Minit. There are some great homes there, but the area also needs some help with rundown properties.
 - The Santa Ana River Task Force and Wildlands Conservancy will be providing an update report at the April 19th council meeting.

4. Riverside Police Department

- Lt. Griffiths introduced himself encouraged residents to use the non-emergency number: 787-7911 or to contact him with concerns: 351-6045. Area police officers have been cracking down on on/off ramp vendors, although for the most part they just run them off if they don't have any warrants, etc. Sometimes they are cited if the situation warrants it.
- The Police and Corrections Team (PACT) officers are working closely with Code Compliance to identify and correct problem multiple adult homes.
- The North Area POP team was noted, the team has 3 officers. The next Neighborhood Walk with the POP team will be held at 6:30PM, May 11th. The starting location of the walk will be emailed to DANA list. It was suggested that DANA develop a 4x4 flyer about DANA to give to neighbors during the walk.
- Current storefront newsletter was provided and an updated contact list.

5. Proposed Fire Department / Yvette Sennewald, City of Riverside

- Discussion Tabled to a future meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for May 5th at 6:00PM in the Mayor's Ceremonial room on the 7th floor of City Hall. The discussion will be about the new fire station and structures of merit near Olivewood and Kane.

6. Treasurer Report / Jim Youden

- Jim was not present at the meeting so there was no report filed.
- Suggestion was discussed that DANA make a donation to the Perez family and encourage other neighborhood groups to do the same.
 - ✓ **Motion to approve a \$200 donation to the Perez family.**
M/S/V: N. Larsen/J. Alex/Carried

7. Planning & Development / David St. Pierre

- City Council approved a program to offer free building permits and other fees on Saturdays, 8AM-5PM, during the month of May. Please check the city's web site for details, since there are some permits that will not be covered by this program.
- The Development Committee will meet on Thursday, April 21st at 3:00PM at City Hall to discuss selection criteria for the Mission Inn Ave. development project.
- The Development Committee will also recommend one of the three developers proposing to develop the 1st-3rd project.
- City staff are continuing to develop a low-income, manufactured housing project.

- ✓ **Motion to table the rest of the agenda.**

M/S/V: McNeil/St. Pierre/Carried

10. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 16, 2005

7:00 PM. Fairmount Park Boathouse

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Chani Beeman, DANA Secretary