

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday January 17, 2005

7:00 – 8:30 PM. Fairmount Park Boathouse

Attendees (per the sign-in sheet): Chani Beeman, Keith Alex, Chuck Beaty, Virginia Foraker, William Foraker, Joanne White, Toni Kachevas, Kevan Cloud, Gayle Cloud, D.E. Kessinger, Dick Wine, Donna Wine, Lindsay Abercrombie, Richard Puskas, Norm Gritton, Jim Talcolt, Laurie DeFrance, R. Simmons, Nanci Larsen, Jack Larsen, Heather Troxcel, Kevin Shellman

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Keith Alex at 7:10 p.m.

Keith welcomed the group and applauded everyone's commitment to coming out on a holiday evening to serve the community/neighborhood

2. Approval of Meeting Notes of November 15, 2004

✓ Motion to approved Minutes as amended

M/S/C: McNeil/Youden/Carried

3. Councilman Dom Betro

- Thanked DANA for **award presentation** at Council to Bob Williams and the POP Team. It highlighted the effective work being accomplished in the Downtown area.
- Phase II of the **Market Street improvement project** will begin soon. This phase extends improvements to 1st St. The second office building is being built ahead of schedule because the first building is almost completely leased. This shows there is a need and desire for office space in the downtown area. In fact we will soon be hearing of another office building proposed for 9th and Orange St.
- The **City View housing project on Market between 1st & 3rd St.** may extend to both sides of Market St. rather than just the east side of Market. This would include replacing the "Save-a-Minute" market with new housing.
- The two finalists in the **Fox Theater** project were given some recommendations by the Development committee. To date, there has been no response from either finalist so the project may go back out for Request for Proposals (RFP). If that is necessary the matter will come back to the full council on January 25th.
- The **Sav-on Drugstore** project will be coming to the Planning Commission soon (maybe Thursday?). The designers worked to get more of an urban design with mission-style arches and second business on the property. The design is much closer to the style appropriate for downtown, rather than suburban areas. We are looking for more intense use of downtown properties than was originally proposed by the designers.
- The city and county of Riverside are preparing a joint RFP for the best environmental and recreational uses of the area along the **Santa Ana River at Fairmount Park**. The joint RFP process will prevent duplication of efforts and focus on more regional

uses of the area. The original visioning for this area did not include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so they have been asked to provide input. The city hopes to have feedback by March. A report on the Santa Ana River project by Parks and Rec. Director Ralph Nunez will given at the January 25th Council meeting.

- A lot of work is being done to try and move the **Armory at Fairmount Park** sooner than later, perhaps in as soon as 2 years. Congressman Calvert is involved in this effort. Also, Redevelopment Agency Director Michael Beck is working on plans for the other park buildings at the front of the park.

Responses to Questions:

- **Bike, walking and horse trails** are part of the recreational use plan for the Santa Ana River.
- Dom was not certain if liquor will be sold at the new **Sav-on Drug Store**, or if there will be a payphone or security provided. Concern that these issues will prevent it from becoming another Save-a-Minute.
- Plans for moving the **Bus Depot** are still in discussion with RCTC.
- **Homeless Shelter** is moving along. The operators of the shelter were able to lease the adjoining property to comply with the CUP provisions. Dom is still working on regional solutions that include March Air Reserve Base. Path of Life Ministries is helping transport Homeless persons to shelter and other resources. Neighbors with concerns about the homeless can contact Joan Thirkettle at: 826-5615. There will be a Homeless Count on Wednesday, January 26th (?) training for counters may be on Saturday, January 22nd (?). Joan Thirkettle can be contacted for more information. There has been some discussion about re-opening the Butler Building in Fairmount Park as an “over-flow” shelter, which could be very problematic. Dom will email DANA if this idea proceeds to Council.
- The owner of the old **Santa Fe station** has been unable to lease the property as a restaurant and is now looking to rent it as office space.
- The Megan’s Law registered sex offenders database (<http://meganslaw.ca.gov>) continues to show a great number of listings in the downtown Riverside area. This is probably due to the great number of parolees in the neighborhood. It’s unlikely the information in the database is even accurate, since parolees give one address and then move. We would like to get an update on the progress of the **6-pack compliance ordinance**.
- As reported in the Santa Ana River/Fairmount Park use report the property currently used by the **Fairmount Golf Course** maybe put to better use, such as soccer fields. It’s important that overall use be evaluated and use that serves as many people as possible be identified. Placement of a public golf course in Tequesquite Arroyo has been considered in the past, but no one seems to be able to determine if the land (which includes the old landfill) can be developed in any useful way.
- Dom opposes any development (such as condominiums, offices, etc) in Fairmount Park.
- There are discussions underway and a report being developed on options for mitigating **heavy traffic on Pine St. and Redwood Dr. between University Ave. and 14th St.** Discussions are in the early stages and there is a long process that will include the Traffic Commission before consideration by the City Council. Some of the options being considered include: preventing traffic flow from University to Cedar, Locust, Pine or Redwood; closing Pine St. at Evergreen Cemetery; Changing the direction of Redwood Dr. The main objective is to utilize Brockton Ave. as a

collector street and return the other streets to residential use. Beginning next month there will be opportunity for community input to the options developed for the report. The Evergreen Quarter Society is hosting a meeting on Monday, January 24th at 6:30 to discuss these preliminary ideas.

4. Treasurer Report / Jim Youden

- The current balance of the DANA checking account is: \$411.00. Expenditures since last report includes \$48.00 permit fee to server alcohol at the holiday party in December.
- Treasurer requested authorization to purchase new checks, a deposit stamp and other bookkeeping materials at the cost of \$60.
 - ✓ **Motion to allocate \$60 to purchase bookkeeping materials**
M/S/C: Beeman/Abercrombie/carried
- Dues for 2005 are due in January, the cost is \$10/person. Dues paying members representing organizations may send voting proxies to the meeting.
- Membership Drive. Each member was encouraged to bring two new people to meetings in the next year. Recruiting downtown business owners is encouraged.
- The Chair will email meeting announcements that folks can download and post or distribute. Simple Simon's Bakery has an announcement table, meeting notices should be made available at that table and any others at downtown businesses.

5. Planning & Development / David St. Pierre

Discussion tabled.

6. Focus Session

A subcommittee was formed to discuss ideas for focusing the efforts of the group. The subcommittee includes: Nanci, Heather, Dave, Check, Pat, Norm, Linsey, Keith. The subcommittee planned to meet briefly at the end of the meeting to discuss getting organized. Once the subcommittee has ideas to propose the Chair will schedule a longer focus session on the meeting agenda. Some of the initial ideas presented include:

- Cleaning up the Fairmount Park lakes' low-lands
- Cleaning graffiti in the neighborhood
- Continue to organize neighborhood walks with the police
- Work with area Middle and High Schools to use the Fairmount Park Golf Course
- Organize a BBQ in the park and host other Neighborhood groups

7. New Business

- Neighborhood Governance Task Force Report has been completed and will be discussed at the February 15th City Council meeting. The full report and recommendations can be accessed at:

<http://www.riversideca.gov/PDF/NGTaskForce.pdf>

The Mayor appointed the 30-member task force of neighborhood leaders to work with a consultant in considering a governance structure that would formally provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. The structure proposed is different from the former Neighborhood Advisory Committees in that their recommendations would be beyond the scope of recommendations for distribution of Block Grant funds.

- Citrus Heritage Park is hosting free seminars on the 2nd Sunday of the month. They have scheduled several interesting sessions. They are fun and interesting.
- Suggested that the sign-in sheet include the email contact info for paid members, so changes can be made if the information is incorrect.
- Pat Stewart has compiled an extensive history of Fairmount Park and she will make it available as a printed booklet to anyone interested.

8. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday February 21, 2005 Fairmount Park Boathouse 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment 8:30 p.m.