

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday March 21, 2005

7:00 – 8:30 PM Fairmount Park Boathouse

Attendees (per the sign-in sheet): Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Bryan Kudernman, Norm Gritton,, Pete Kallinger, Raymond Dean, Patty Dean, Bonnie Reynolds, Bruce Reynolds, Nancy Castillo, Lindsay Abercrombie, Jim Talbott, Laurie DeFrance David St. Pierre, Keith Alex, Heather Troxel, Eric Tani, David McNeil, Molly Dougherty, Dan Hantman, Robbie Kennedy, D.E. Kessinger, Cindy Bordash, Chani Beeman

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Keith Alex at 7:05 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 February 21, 2005

✓ Motion to approved Minutes as submitted

M/S/V: McNeil/Youden/Carried

3. Council member Dom Betro

- Council member Betro yielded the floor to Mayor Loveridge for an update on the situation regarding the **City Council's Land Use sub committee's** recommendations addressing the demolition of a rock bungalow at Washington Ave. and Indiana Ave, as well as the **Cultural Heritage Board** (Consent Calendar March 22nd Agenda item #14). Mayor Loveridge noted that the agenda item had been tabled until the April 5th City Council meeting. On that date the Council will hold a public hearing at 3:00PM to address recommendations 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 (which address the demolition) of the report. Recommendations 3 & 4 (which address the CHB) will be heard on the discussion calendar at 6:30PM on the same date. Mayor Loveridge encouraged wide attendance at the evening meeting. The issue could be dealt with very quickly or could be held over for a workshop of the Council. It is critically important that people who care about historical preservation in Riverside be present and show their numbers at the meeting. It's important to have new faces, too. This should be an organized effort. It could be viewed as a test of community interest in historical preservation. Council member Betro thanked the Mayor for working to distinguish the issues involved in the case. Under the Mayor's guidance the specific demolition case can be addressed separately from the recommendations regarding CHB. Council member Betro believes that distinction has helped clear some of the other council members' thinking and there will be less of a challenge to Title 20 or the CHB. Dom encouraged strong participation at the April 5th meeting by all DANA members.

Questions:

- **What type of record is kept of the standing sub committee meetings?** Only Action Minutes which do not reflect any of the comments made by Council members. This raises concern since there are now several cases of inappropriate, perhaps illegal, comments made by Council members during the meetings.

- **How did recommendations that change Title 20 become part of the discussion when it was not on the agenda?** (Betro) The issue came up through an appeal by Council member Adkison and it was a bit messy. Mayor Loveridge has handled the situation well by separating the issues, it has enormously helped clarify understanding of the issues.
- **Why is this happening now?** (Loveridge) Historically, and in most cities, there is a tension between preservation and development which is a natural part of a city's evolution – it's just part of the process. It's important to maintain the larger objectives and context of preservation, and make a strong case.
- Dom has challenged all city staff who work on **Homelessness** issues to have a plan in place by April 1st that removes **Fairmount Park** from any homeless program. Use of the Butler Building is not an option for providing shelter. Council member Shiavone will allow Dom to replace him on the Land Use sub committee on March 24th for the purposes of removing Fairmount Park as a center for any homelessness projects. Dom is working closely with the Riverside Police Department to see that ordinances for the park are humanely enforced and that the problem does not just simply shift to another part of the city.

Questions:

- Where did the funds come from to open the Butler Building as a Homeless Day Shelter? The City Manager's office budget.
- There will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 30th at 7:00PM in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room on the 7th floor of City Hall to discuss **Indian Hill**. The meeting will explore ideas for purchasing the property on Indian Hill for the purposes of conservation. The Nature Conservancy and other groups are involved in an effort to preserve the wetlands along the Santa Ana River and there is a chance that Indian Hill, which has historical significance as a former Native American settlement area, could be included in the preservation project. This is an important issue since there are developers interested in building housing on the vacant areas of Indian Hill. There will be a report on the **Wetlands Conservancy Project** made at the April 5th City Council meeting. It is important for area residents to attend the both meetings.
- There was a disappointing theft at the **Fox Theater**, as reported in the local newspaper. An architect was hired last week to develop an historic preservation plan for the building; the plan will include hiring an historic preservation monitor. Knox Mellon will be on the technical advisory committee, his expertise will be invaluable to the project. The architect has an ambitious plan to have final blueprints in 4 months, construction beginning in 6 months and completion by December '06. The projected costs at this point will be \$2 million of community fundraising and grants to fully restore and preserve the building. It will cost \$6-8 million to make the theater operational to 1940's era style. Dom has met with the Friends of the Fox Theater group and hopes DANA will be supportive of their efforts.

Questions:

- Should DANA have a representative on the Friends of Fox Theater? Robin Kennedy is a new member of DANA and also on the FFT group. She can function as a DANA/FFT liaison.
- **Savon** development is moving ahead. Planning Commission changed the drive-thru window to a walk-up window. There will be a small market in the front of the parking lot. Dom would like to see that market be a perishable food market, which Savon has done in other cities.

- **Housing development between 1st & 3rd St. along the east side of Market St.** is moving along but must meet specific parameters. Emphasis is on home ownership. There are two developers interested in doing something on the west side of Market St in the same block, along Fairmount Blvd. That land assemblage is much more difficult since there are homes along the back side that are worth preserving. Dom would like to see something change with Sav-a-minit.

General question answers:

- Dom will check with Code Compliance about any ordinance requiring houses converted to multi-family housing that are vacant for extended periods of time being required to revert back to single-family housing.
- The proposal to use part of the property at the front of Fairmount Park has been withdrawn. There is some interest in the Monte Vista Terrace property that could become parking.
- The report on the possibility of having soccer fields in Fairmount Park is still in progress. Report could be completed by the end of March.
- The plan to move the bus depot to the MetroLink station is still in the hands of RCTC. Greyhound has expressed interest in building a depot in the North side of the city.
- Dom will look into the plans the County has for the 10th-14th St. blocks along Lime St. and the 91 Fwy. There could be some chance to make changes that would boost the Marketplace area by creating easier access for pedestrians.

4. Riverside Police Department/Nancy Castillo, PSR

- Next week RPD reps will meet with Parks and Recreation and other city staff to discuss homelessness in Fairmount Park.
- The RPD area command boundaries have changed, Nancy will bring new maps to the April meeting. Lt. Griffiths is the new area commander for the North precinct. He would have attended the DANA meeting but was ill. He will try to attend the April meeting.
- The POP team has been “distributed” around the city. Each precinct has 2 POP officers. We’re lucky to still have Chuck Olsen, the POP supervisor, in our area. There was a great deal of concern expressed by meeting attendees about this change in the department. DANA members were worried about how it would affect the good relationship and neighborhood walk-alongs we did last year. Nancy assured DANA the walk-alongs could continue. Just give her dates and she will make arrangements.
- Nancy listed the current Neighborhood Centers: Chestnut, Bobby Bonds park, Galleria and the Central precinct (old Costco on Magnolia), which should open in August ‘05. She will bring a list of phone numbers and addresses to the April meeting.
- Nancy asked that when making a report to dispatch callers should get an incident number this will be helpful to her for follow-up action.

5. Treasurer Report / Jim Youden

See attached report, balance reported of \$540.66. We have 20 paid members. No expenses this month.

6. Planning & Development / David St. Pierre

- Alternative sites for new civic **Museum** facilities were explored. Several sites were considered including, a building near White Park or becoming part of the Library expansion. An Independent firm is doing pro-bono work and will have more details in 60 days.

- Pacific Metro was chosen to **develop the area around the Fox Theater (bounded by Mission Inn Ave, 5th St., Fairmount Blvd, Main St.)**. This was the staff recommendation due to their strong experience in developing mixed use projects. Another developer, CIM, was also considered and highly recommended. However, Pacific Metro's proposal was most in line with the development parameters. The project could begin as soon as Fall 2005.

7. Cultural Heritage Board/Dave McNeil

- We should make sure there is a strong turn out for the Council meeting addressing this issue. It was suggested that DANA communicate its support for Title 20, a strong historical preservation program and Cultural Heritage Board.

✓ **Motion: Jim Youden will draft a letter for DANA to be sent to the City Council supporting the Cultural Heritage Board.**

M/S/V: N. Larsen/McNeil/Carried

8. 2005 D.A.N.A. Goals / Visions / Projects/ Keith Alex

Keith listed several projects and activities to consider as priorities for DANA during this year. The list was discussed and item that had a sufficient number of coordinating volunteers was "approved." Coordinating volunteers are expected to make monthly reports about the project's activities and recruit member participation.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Coordinator(s)</u>
✓ Neighborhood Walks with RPD	Nanci Larsen
✓ Evergreen Quarter Traffic Calming	Bonnie Reynolds & Molly Dougherty
✓ "6-pack house" identification and listing for PD	Jim Talbot & Chani Beeman
✓ National Night Out BBQ (8/2/05)	Heather Troxel & Laurie DeFrance
✓ Graffiti Removal	Keith Alex
✓ Downtown beautification projects	Pete Kallinger, Lindsay Abercrombie
✓ Friends of the Fox	Robby Kennedy

Projects without Coordinators:

Membership drive

Local Business involvement drive

Underpass mural project (w/ DNP)

Tour and Taste Event

9. New Items / Issues

- ❖ North Park, located between the Santa Fe and Union Pacific train stations on Mission Inn Ave., will be re-dedicated on Thursday, March 24th at 11:00AM.
- ❖ Old Riverside Foundation will hold its annual "Vintage Home Tour, Restoration Faire & Vintage Mercantile" event on Saturday, May 14th 10:00am-5:00pm. Admission is \$12/person advance and \$15 day of tour. Advance tickets are available at: Amazing Grace, Mission Galleria Antiques, Tiggy Winkles Toy and Gift Shoppe, Center Lumber and A-Z Printing.

10. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2005 7:00 PM. Fairmount Park Boathouse

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35