

# Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

## Meeting Minutes

Monday September 26, 2005 (rescheduled)

7:00 – 8:30 PM. Isaac Walton Building Fairmount Park

**Attendees:** Keith Alex, Pete Kallinger, Chani Beeman, Lindsay Abecrombie, Jack Larson, Nanci Larson, Eva McNeil, Dave McNeal, Angelo Cesari, Susanne Cesari, David Lucas, Jerry Crouch, Curt Grassman, Rob Robinson, Linda Calabin, Tony Calabin, Chris Jones, Bev Jones, Heather Troxel, Nod Wolfe, Candi Hammeral, Dick Wing, Dona Wing, Silvia Flores, Norm Gritton

### 1. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alex at 7:05PM

- Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2005

- ✓ **Motion to approved Minutes as submitted**  
**M/S/V: Dave McNeil/ Jack Larsen/Carried**

### 3. Report from Councilman Dom Betro

- The projects along **Market St.** are coming along. The first phase of the **1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> project** is set to begin. It will include 150 condos and town homes, in addition to retail space. Final approval is expected at a council meeting in October.
- Plans for the **Pacific/Metro project area around the Fox Theater** will be presented to council soon. The developer's plan contains some beautiful products including loft residences, condos and lots of retail space. There may even be an hotel.
- The committee has reached agreement on the architectural plans for the renovation of the **Fox Theater**. The plans include 1,500-1,600 theater seats to be open by Fall 2007. Council will be considering these plans soon. The timeline is important because a Broadway touring company wants to include the theater on its 2007 tour season.
- Dom met with Indian Hill residents to discuss their concerns about **vicious and stray animals** in the neighborhood. A task force has been formed to study the problem, review existing ordinances and provide recommendations for changes. City staff is already working on an analysis of public safety issues and policies, Dom has requested that animal control be included in that analysis.
- **Fairmount Park** continues to be improved; the Jazz Festival was very nice. Hopefully the hurricane recovery efforts will not pull away the Army Corps of Engineers resources the city needs to improve the quality of the lakes. There are still plans on the table to improve circulation, aeration and dredge the lake bottom.
- **Council agendas** have been light, which reflects the summer slump. Projects will begin moving through the council so it should begin to get busy again.
- **The National Guard Armory** at the park *will not* be used this year for the cold weather shelter program. The **Homeless Shelter and Intake Center** at Hulen place

is expected to be open by mid-October. City staff continue to reach out to homeless individuals and provide them with information about resources available in the city. The police department continues to sweep the park after hours and prevent people from camping in the park. There continues to be about 30 “hard core” homeless individuals. The efforts to address homelessness continue to strike a balance of providing accessible services and enforcing city ordinances. Once the arrundo grass at the back of the park has been cleared it will be easier to keep people from being in the park after dark.

**Questions:**

- **There is a lot of trash in the downtown area, what responsibility do businesses have to keep their property clear of trash?** If you see a problem area, first call the 311 number for city hall to report it. If the problem persists please call Dom. There are ordinances that can be enforced, it is a Code Compliance issues. Also, send concerns to DANA so the group can follow up on the problem.
- **There are still people feeding homeless individuals in the park, is that against the law?** There are health codes that can be enforced to prevent people from feeding homeless individuals in the park. Please contact Joan Thirkettle, the city Homeless Coordinator, and let her know about the problem. She can be reached at: 826-5615. The shelters have a guest food program, so people/organizations can still provide food for the homeless just not in the parks. Also, it was suggested that if you can get contact info for the person, or their car license plate number, Joan can contact them about how they can help provide support for the homeless. It was also suggested that everyone have multiple copies of the pamphlet on homeless resources, so they can be given to homeless individuals.
- **Are there any plans to widen 3<sup>rd</sup> St. or otherwise deal with the backed-up traffic?** The City Council has just approved an Environmental Impact report for Market St. due to all the development that is taking place there. Traffic lights might be an option. There are neighbors in Heritage Square who would oppose widening 3<sup>rd</sup> St. So, we will need to discuss all options and make some difficult decisions. The traffic on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. is heavier due to the construction on the 91/215/60 interchange and may improve as the construction finishes.
- **How are the schools going to be impacted by all the downtown development?** The RUSD is adding additional schools. They make their own decisions based on growth patterns in the city. The city council has very little to say about where schools are located and how many are available. School districts have their own eminent domain powers.
- **Will the city still buy a dredge boat if the Army Corp of Engineers improves the lake?** Yes.
- **There is a parking problem along Dexter St. in the Park. Many cars are parking illegally. Is there any enforcement of parking regulations in the park?** The City Manager is exploring the possibility of hiring private security for the park regulation enforcement. The city currently has 2 Park Rangers.
- **What is being done to clean up problem apartments like Su Casa?** The city has many development plans that will clean up the downtown areas. Neighbors must realize that some of the development will remove some residents that are worn and incompatible with the changes being made in downtown. A proposal made later in the meeting specifically addresses the Su Casa Apartments.

- **What is the status of the development of North Hill and when will the advisory group meet?** The City Manager and city staff know they must meet with the advisory group before developing any plans for North Hill. At this time, there are no plans to develop that area. The houses that were suggested to be moved there may now be located behind the Salvation Army. Several suggestions about what could be done at North Hill were made and could be implemented. However, at this time there are no plans.

#### **4. Riverside Police Department/Nancy Castillo**

- Transitional Housing/Group Home update: A summary was given for each of the addresses submitted by DANA. Nancy will forward the summary to Chani so the list can be updated and made available to DANA members.

#### **5. Treasurer Report / Jim Youden**

- There was no formal report provided since Jim was not present at the meeting.
- Heather Troxel reported that \$193.75 was raised at the 2 bake sales. She will keep the money until the next meeting.
- A question was raised about whether or not a check for the donation made to the Perez family was ever done by the Treasurer. Keith will ask Jim and report at the next meeting.

#### **6. Planning & Development / David St. Pierre**

- Tabled since David was not present at the meeting, due to work conflict.

#### **7. 2005 D.A.N.A. Goals / Visions / Project Subcommittee Updates**

- **2006 Board Nomination Committee**
  - Elections will be held in November. The bylaws require the creation of a Nomination Committee to receive nominations and develop a ballot.
  - The Nomination Committee will include: Chani, Keith, Heather and Norm.
  - All standing officers are eligible for re election. The Nomination committee will contact current officers and ask if they are willing to serve again.
  - Any one interested in running for an office, or nominating someone else (with their permission) can send an email to [DANARiverside@aol.com](mailto:DANARiverside@aol.com) or contact one of the committee members.
- **Community Walks**
  - The walk in Heritage Square was well attended and productive.
  - Sav-a-Minit market has undertaken many changes to address the concerns expressed at the August DANA meeting. The alcohol sales policy has changed to limit small/individual quantities, Malt liquor is no longer sold at the store, pay phones have been removed, hedges have been trimmed and a new security company has been hired to patrol the grounds 16 hours/day.
  - This sub committee proposed another project for discussion by the group. They suggested that for the next year DANA “adopt” the neighborhood surrounding Sav-a-Minit Market. The owner of the market has taken significant steps to reduce elements that make the market a hangout for criminals. However, the surrounding area has many apartments that continue

to attract problems. The next community walk will begin at the market and walk the area assessing problems. The subcommittee also suggested that DANA meetings could be held in the neighborhood and encourage residents to attend to discuss strategies for addressing problems.

- ✓ **Motion to form a new sub committee to meet, discuss ideas and develop a plan to present to DANA at the October meeting for consideration.**

**M/S/V: Chani Beeman/ Dave McNeil/Carried**

A sign up sheet was passed around for anyone interested in participating in this project.

- **Bake Sale**
  - Total amount collected was \$193.75 but we need to reimburse Lori for the cost of the banner, which is about \$75.

#### **8. New Items / Issues**

- Friends of Mt Rubidoux Graffiti Paint Over: Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM.
- Jazz Festival was very nice but had low attendance.
- The vicious animal task force will report their activities to DANA
- “A Taste of Citrus” will be held October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at the Citrus Heritage Park

#### **9. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 17, 2005**

- Eva will check to see if the Walton building is available for the meeting. So, check the location listed on the next meeting’s agenda.

#### **10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Chani Beeman, DANA Secretary**