

# Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2006,

7:00 – 8:30 PM., Izaak Walton Club / Fairmount Park

Attendees (per sign in sheet): Norm Gritton, Tina Lang, Nanci Larsen, Randi Blackman, Laurie De France, Jim Talcott, Ron Kushner, Eric Tani, Damon Castillo, Lindsay Abercrombie, David St Pierre, David Lucas, Jerry Crouch, Angelo Cesari, Eva Yakutis McNeil, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Robbie Kennedy, Heather Troxel, Patty Dean, Dan Hantman, Nancy Castillo, Jim Youden, Mary Jerdeman, Pam Smith, Keith Alex

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

Secretary Chani Beeman was not in attendance. Meeting notes were kept by Eva Yakutis McNeil.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Notes March 20, 2006**

#### ✓ **Motion to approved Minutes as submitted**

M/S/C: Nanci Larsen/ Lindsay Abercrombie/Carried

### **3. Hills of Riverside Video Presentation/**

- Lucy Heyming, representing the Riverside Land Conservancy presented a short video detailing the Hills of Riverside. Following was a quiz and discussion on appropriate practices on hill side grading projects. A copy of the video was offered for joining the Land Conservancy.

### **4. Report from Councilman Dom Betro**

- Feels certain that there will be a concerted effort to challenge to prop “R” & Measure “C” from the Friends of the Hills.
- Council is discussing the Rental Housing Inspection Program. This initiative will greatly affect Ward 1 with the large amount of rental units and group homes of all kinds in the Ward. This rental housing inspection program will apply only to single family residences and is expected to be a \$67 fee. Code Compliance would perform the inspection. The city is taking 90 days to study the issue
- The weeks Development committee will be discussing California Square, Adams Plaza and one or two parking lots for refurbishment or possibly taken down for building use.
- The Redevelopment Agency meets tomorrow on the Merrill “Restaurant Row” to discuss options and the possibility of invoking eminent domain. Also will be discussing the Brown Automotive building that has been boarded up for decades. The patriarch of the family is getting up in years and the city is dealing with 4 or 5 families that have involvement with the property
- Questions / Answers & General Information:

*Q. What is happening with the muffler place on 5<sup>th</sup> and Market?*

A. Dom has been working on that as well as the Santa Cruz Hotel.

*Q. Update on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Project?*

A. City View/Watt is the new developer. the Civic Center Motel is down. We should start to see demolition of the area this summer. City view has almost all of their property in escrow. We should see construction by fall.

Next to the Sav-On lot Alan Mruvka has 12 condos planned.

The Starbucks will be completed by July

Sav-On will be completed by December

Metro Pacific / 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> and Market Project has 500 condos, a hotel and 50,000 s.f. of retail planned. Construction is off for a year. The development agreement goes to Council tomorrow.

*Q. There is a group home @ 4<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut as well as a vacant lot that is an eyesore. There is no stop sign between Brockton and Market on 4<sup>th</sup> that is problematic.*

A. Get the group home address to DANA and it will be forwarded to RPD. Dom will ask traffic to look at the stop sign issue.

*Q. Is the Mruvka development going to have retail?*

A. No. They will be live / work town homes.

The City is looking at center medians on Market Street, 1<sup>st</sup> to Mission Inn Ave. There are some that disagree. DANA should have a member on the committee.

*Q. What about the parking for the Fox Theatre?*

A. the City is holding back a block for parking. Also parking may be available at the brick building across the street. There is discussion on building additional parking on the existing parking structure across the street at the California Towers.

*Q. What about parking for the Orange Blossom Festival? Will we have "no parking" signs in the residential neighborhood?*

A. Yes, there is a traffic plan in place. It was also related that the general consensus within the City is that if the Festival does not get better soon; it will be discontinued.

- La Valencia Update: There has been a deal struck with the Victoria Market and is in escrow. The City has had inquiries from specialty foods for a mixed use development.
- The first property of the Art School has closed escrow.
- We can expect there to be parking fees coming to the downtown. A question asked about the library parking was answered that the plans are to have a 1.5 hour pass for parking while at the library.

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

- Nancy Castillo advised all to keep an eye out and to report all suspicious activity.
- Date for next walk: Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, 5<sup>th</sup> & Fairmount.
- Neighborhood Watch Academy starts May 17<sup>th</sup> through June 21<sup>st</sup>

- July 26<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the new RPD Station at Mag Center.
- Nancy inquired to the group if anyone had any information about a new group: “The Neighbors of Fairmount Park”

#### **7. Treasurers Report / Heather Troxel**

- Additional dues have been collected and we now have \$1000.00 in the DANA Account. Heather suggested that we need to come up with ideas for programs or activities.
- A motion was made to have a summer Bar-B Que / Membership Drive  
M/S/C Heather Troxel/Nanci Larsen/Carried

#### **8. New / Old Issues / Other Business**

- Randy Blackman reported that she works for a seed company and can provide DANA with seed at cost.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM is the Peace Officer Memorial Tribute.
- Volunteers are needed for the Riverside Metropolitan Museum
- Tina Lang reported that the lake dredging is of interest to the Parks and Recreation Department and volunteered to bring Ralph Nunez to the next meeting.
- Concern was expressed from the group about the continuing problem of the homeless raiding the recyclables from the residents recycling bins
- Jerry Crouch related a recent incident of braking up a recent attempt of daylight burglary by a band of “Gypsy’s” at Save-A-Minute Market.

#### **9. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June19, 2006 7:00 PM. Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Minutes taken by Eva Yakutis McNeil / Transcribed by Keith Alex**