

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 20, 2006,

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

Attendees (per sign-in sheet): Keith Alex, Molly Dougherty, Krista Dixon, Chuck Beaty, James Goldenetz, Lindsay Abercrombie, Toni Dachevas, Eva McNiel, Jack Larson, Nanci Larsen, Heather Troxel, Vera Stamenkovic, David St. Pierre, Chani Beeman, Rob Rahurson, David Lucias, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Pete Kallinger, Norm Gritton, Jerry Crouch, Bryan Kudeyman, Rod Wolfe, Bret Dawson, Alisa Dawson, Robbie Kennedy, Pam Smith, David McNiel, Tina Lang, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Rebecca Pruita, Chris Simpkins.

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Keith Alex at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes November 21, 2005

✓ **Motion to approved Minutes as submitted**

M/S/C: Dougherty/St. Pierre/Carried

3. Report from Councilman Dom Betro

- On February 28th the City Council will review plans for the renovation of the **Fox Theater**. The renovation will maintain the 1920s look but become a state-of-the-art theater. **Friends of the Fox** will play an integral role in the promotion of the Fox. There will be a lot of opportunity for community ownership of this \$20 million project.
- Downtown is beginning to look very different. **Savon** has broken ground. The **Condo project between 2nd and 3rd streets** is coming together. The streetscape project, giving downtown a unified look and feel, is underway. By summer time downtown will have a different look and feel.
- Caltrans has a \$1.3 million bid **for traffic light on Market at the 60 freeway**. This traffic must be dealt with sooner than later, it has become hazardous. The landscaping will be done later, we want to move forward quickly to get the lights installed.
- **Traffic** continues to be a problem, we must develop different patterns and we will work on that together. Later I would like to hear some discussion about the closure of Pine St. at the cemetery.
- The **Downtown Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission** is in the process of developing recommendations for City Council to consider that will provide incentives for people to use the parking garages. The newest structure, which cost \$17 million, sits virtually empty 75-80% vacancy. Most of the 2 hour parking is used by people who work in downtown and just move their cars around. We need to make better use of the parking structures, the report will be made available on the city's website.
- The Downtown Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission will also be discussing the **possibility of closing Pine St. at the cemetery**. This closure, if it is to happen, would make sense to coincide with the cemetery refurbishment. I believe Pine St. has become a "freeway" and that Brockton, which is a collector street, can handle the

traffic that would be shifted from Pine. The trick will be to make sure the traffic doesn't just shift to Locust or Cedar. I would like to hear more discussion on this possibility and I will only move forward if there is enough neighborhood interest in making this change.

Questions

- Yes, there will be lights installed on 3rd St. from Vine St. to Market. They will be installed by developers, but Dom will look into ways to accelerate the timeline.
- Dom will look into where the process for making an historic district designation for the Brockton area.
- Yes, community groups will be able to use the Fox Theater, within business constraints. There will be different rates for commercial and non-profit uses. Grants could be used to help cover costs for community use.
- Residents need to press for the closure of Pine St. It makes sense to do it as part of the cemetery refurbishment, since the city will already be doing the curbs and gutters for the area. However, residents need to discuss whether to close the street at 14th and initiate the process. This was started last year by a group of residents on Redwood but no petition was ever presented.
- The consideration of closing Pine St. at the cemetery is the only part of the bigger plan discussed last year that is being considered now. It is only being considered because of the work being done at the cemetery, the timing might be better now but it really is up to the residents and the traffic engineers. There should be lengthy discussion about the idea.
- The mayor spoke of a Fairmount Park task force in his State of the City address. There is no clear idea about what this would be or what he has in mind. The idea of having a group looking after the park has always been encouraged since becoming council rep.
- The next step for Pine St. is for the residents to request a study be done by Public Works. The study and a plan would be discussed at the Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission. It will be a completely open, public process.
- The city would cover the cost of a study.
- Yes, a traffic engineer could make a presentation at the next DANA meeting.
- Closing Redwood and other considerations could also be discussed, but the residents must express interest. A petition with 20-25 names would be sufficient to file papers.
 - ✓ **Motion to invite a traffic engineer to DANA to revisit the plan discussed last year (developed by Mahoney)**
M/S/C: Kallinger/Dougherty/Carried
- There is a group called "Neighbors of Fairmount Park" forming.

4. Riverside Police Department (holiday, no representative)

5. 2006 D.A.N.A. Board Election Results

DANA Secretary Chani Beeman read the results of the Chapter Officer elections held at the November 21, 2006 meeting:

A total of 18 ballots were cast

President

Keith Alex=17

Write-in=1

First Vice Chair

Norm Gritton=18

Second Vice Chair

David St. Pierre=18

Treasurer

Jim Youden=8

Heather Troxel=10

Secretary

Chani Beeman=18

6. Planning & Development / David St. Pierre

- Mission Inn Bistro plans were approved by the Cultural Heritage Board
- The Thrifty medical building project on 14th/Market is on hold because of the changes on that block.
- The Press-Enterprise building has broken ground.
- The housing project in the Tequestuite Arroyo, that included a golf course, etc., is ended. The agreement with the city council is expired. There may be some changes to the plan and then resubmitted.
- David St. Pierre is now a member of the Downtown Partnership board.

7. Treasurer's report

Account balance is \$604.25, \$105 of that is for the wildflower seed project

Dues are due (\$10 for the year)

8. Sub Committee Update

Flower Seed Project – Too late in the year, not much rain. We might want to consider waiting until next year or putting the money into another beautification project.

✓ **Motion to roll flower seed money to next year for earlier planting.**

M/S/C: St. Pierre/McNiel/Carried

Community Walks – It's beginning to stay light longer into the evening, we can begin weekday walks again or we can have one on Saturday. There is interest in walking the Mission Inn/Brockton area. Nanci Larsen will plan and send a message out.

9. New Issues

- There is quite an encampment of homeless people on North Hill. When the police checked the area, there was no one there because they leave early in the morning. Would like police to check at night. It seems Park Terrace has been taken over
- The city has hired a new Homelessness coordinator and has a grant to hire 3 outreach workers and a half-time psychiatric evaluator. The coordinator is trying to get

funding together for a van to help people take advantage of the shelter. Concerned residents should contact the Homelessness coordinator.

- There seems to be drug traffic in the area of 2nd St. and Market. A drug raid at the Santa Cruz Inn did not get any results.
- Judith Schafer, founder of the preservation movement in Riverside, has terminal cancer.
- Representatives from DANA have been asked to attend other neighborhood group meetings to show a successful model for successful neighborhood organizing.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2006
7:00 PM. Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

Respectfully submitted,

Chani Beeman, DANA Secretary