

# Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

## Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday November 20, 2006, 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

**Attendees (per sign-in sheet):** Norm Gritton, Ron Velasquez, Chani Beeman, David McNeil, Jack Larson, Nanci Larsen, Nicolette Sands, Dan Hantman, Cyndi Muir, Chuck Griffiths, Tina Lang, Geraldine Grolam, Betina Brotzen, Jerry Crouch, Joan Donahue, David St. Pierre, Laurie DeFrance, Dorette Peterson, Jim Talcott, Roxanne Anderson, Gerry Shoat, Robert Cunningham, Fred Gordon, David Lucas, Rod Wolfe, Stan Shannon, Molly Dougherty, Jean Wong, Staci Hamilton, Devin Bauder.

### **1. Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chairman Norm Gritton at 7:00 p.m.**

Norm read aloud a letter from Chairman Keith Alex who was unable to attend due to the death of his father.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes October 16, 2006**

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

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

### **3. Downtown Update from Councilman Dom Betro**

- Traffic signals, road resurfacing and lane re stripping on 3<sup>rd</sup> st. have been completed. An additional traffic light on 3<sup>rd</sup> at Main St. should be completed ahead of schedule. These improvements seem to have helped the traffic flow. Much of the traffic in this area is due to the construction of the 91/215/60 interchange.
- Riverside Reinesence projects are coming up. About ½ the projects of that plan had already been approved, but the plan accelerated their schedule. This plan addresses decades old needs.
- On the council agenda Tuesday, there is an item to approve the \$2.5 million cost of dredging the lakes in Fairmount Park. Next will be the construction of the amphitheater. These two projects are scheduled to be finished by summer 2007. You will begin to see the houses near the park, close to the tennis courts come down to make way for an improved Senior center and housing. The park plan calls for closing streets that lead into the park so the park can be closed at night. This will require creating cul-de-sacs at several street entrances, but that change will require public hearings and more discussion. The plan calls for a main traffic loop and maintaining interior roads as walking and biking paths. Access to the Bubbling Wells housing area will be maintained by the construction of a road from Market St. Many of the old play structures will be replaced by new play structures.
- The first meeting of Mt. Rubidoux Task Force will be December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6PM@White Park Parks office. The public is invited to participate. The task force will be

discussing the priorities for spending the \$750,000 allocated for park improvements to Mt. Rubidoux.

- The city's participation in the Festival of Lights is coming together. The ice skating rink looks good. The lighting ceremony starts at 6PM on the Friday after Thanksgiving. I hope you will all participated.
- The Main St. Mall Plan was presented to spend \$10 million to modernize the mall and to create upgrades. The plan received a lot of input and is clearly a sensitive issue for community members. Many of the building facades along the mall could use upgrading and much of the paving along the mall is patchwork that needs to be replaced.
- In the next month or so you should see a fence go up around the Fox Theater and construction should begin in January.
- Victoria Market, on Mission Inn Ave., is scheduled for demolition.
- The burned out building on Main St. is a hazard and it will be demolished soon.
- The 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> project is still stalled by the purchase of a couple of last pieces of property.

#### Questions:

- A Farmer's produce market should begin with the Festival of Lights and located either between 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> on Main or on the grass area next to the Marriott.
- Fairmount Park is not yet closed at night, the gates have been installed in anticipation of the change next year.
- The dredging of the lakes could begin 6 weeks after approval.
- The rationale for creating a "right-turn-only" on Orange was to stop pass-through traffic on that street. It is a residential street and the plan is to move traffic onto designated "collector" streets to help preserve neighborhood streets.
- Yes, there will be security cameras in Fairmount park and they could be installed by the end of the year.
- The Vanderzyl house is being moved to the old railroad spur near Main St.
- The convention center is scheduled for a \$20 million dollar re-do that will expand and redo the center. The main entrance will be on Main St. Will need to work with residents to minimize traffic impact.
- Yes, a second entrance to Bubbling Wells can be explored.
- Savon is scheduled to open in December, but they continue to drag out the timeline.
- We should see the construction of the first hotel of Fox Plaza begin in the Spring.
- The M Sol develop should begin by end of January.
- With the passage of Measure 1D we should see the start of construction for the Arts school in downtown.
- The bus depot should be relocated by Spring. It will be relocated to Vine St. and RTA board has approved \$7 million for relocation costs.
- Dom invited DANA to his December 12<sup>th</sup> campaign event to thank all the community volunteers he has worked with since his election.

#### **4. Riverside Police Department – Chuck Griffiths**

- The Festival of Lights plan has been reviewed and ice rink hours have been established: M-Th 2-9PM, F-Su 10AM-10PM
- Crime in downtown is down 8.4% from last year. North precinct has the lowest crime of the city.
- RPD will begin their holiday enforcement program for malls and areas prone to crime. This program includes supplemental patrols and crime prevention education.
- The homeless outreach team is in place, having received federal funds. This program is working pretty well. On average the team is working 6 days/week for 30 hours/week. To day 6 homeless individuals have been reunited with their homes in other areas; 36 have found jobs with temporary agencies. The program is available for homeless community members who are not violating the law.
- Chuck provided a rundown on group home investigations. Future reports will include an update of the DANA reported properties.
- There was an alleged rape in the ally between Fairmount & Chestnut. Two suspects were stopped by police and the victim ID'd them as the rapists. They were arrested.
- The owner of Su Casa apartments has indicated interest in improving the property and working with residents.
- Walk-alongs are too difficult to schedule for Saturdays because of the availability of City Staff. We will restart the program in February or March with the evenings are light for longer.

#### **5. Planning & Development -- David St. Pierre**

- The Monte View Terrace building at the main entrance to Fairmount Park cannot be converted to condos, therefore it may be torn down and town homes built on the two lots.
- The property near Snyders pest control is being acquired for a future doctors' office complex.

#### **6. Treasurers Report -- Heather Troxel**

NO REPORT

#### **7. Discussion of ideas for 2007 Goals**

- ✚ Rose Garden planting and Wildflower seed disbursement are set to happen this winter. Pete Kallinger will organize and notify through the DANA list.
- ✚ DANA could help raise funds for Mt. Rubidoux improvements or monuments.
- ✚ Pressure the city to establish the last remaining historic districts in downtown and help get the neighborhoods organized.
- ✚ Develop and outreach program to get more downtown organizations to participate in DANA.
- ✚ Work with Cultural Heritage Board.

**8. New / Old Issues / Open Issues / Subcommittee Update**

- December Holiday Meeting Potluck sign-up was sent around and their might be caroling on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Announcements will be sent via the DANA email list.
- Dave McNeil announced that 2 houses on Almond St. (4177 and 4161) between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> St. are scheduled to be torn down in 90 days. These are cute craftsman bungalows worth saving. Anyone interested in moving the houses should contact the Cultural Heritage Board immediately.

**9. 2007 Chairperson Elections**

- Ballots were cast for the election of the 2007 DANA Chairperson. Norm Gritton and Chani Beeman were the nominees for the office.
- Ballots were counted by Dan Hantman and verified by David St. Pierre.
  - ✓ Chani Beeman was elected as Chairperson by 3 votes

**10. Next meeting is the Holiday Potluck scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2006  
7:00 PM. Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

**11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Chani Beeman  
DANA Secretary**