



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance
Riverside, California

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park
Monday, April 16, 2007
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Attendees (per sign-in sheet):

Pete Kallinger, Dave McNeil, Randy Blackman, Gerry Douglass, Tina Lang, David St. Pierre, Chuck Griffiths, Rod Wolfe, Walter Reis, Eva Yakutis, Kevin Bender, Jerry Crouch, David Lucas, Pat Dean, Jack Larsen, Keith Alex, Damon Castillo, Molly Dougherty, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Dan Hantman, Chani Beeman, Erin Snyder, Nicki Sands, Norm Gritton, Janice Penner, Heather Troxel, Nanci Castillo.

1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:02 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2007.

✓ Motion to approve minutes as submitted

M/S/V: Wing/Hantman/Carried

3. RPD report: Chuck Griffiths and Nanci Castillo

- Various issues: Patrols are continuing at the bus depot; another round of car break-ins in the Mt. Rubidoux neighborhood; some problems with skateboarders riding on the pedestrian mall; efforts continuing at Fairmount and White parks;
- Chuck reported on a series of purse thefts at the Riverside Plaza and Canyon Crest Towne Center – groups of teenagers stealing purses from the backs of chairs.
- Nanci reminded everyone not to leave valuables in their cars, especially items such as GPS units. A community walk is scheduled for Thursday, April 26 at 6 p.m. at 4th and Chestnut. Keith will contact Scott Barber about having a code compliance staff member in attendance.

- National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd. More details will be available later. Chani suggested that DANA organize a National Night Out event of its own.

4. Dom's Report

- The Saturday's Farmer's Market is doing well, with good attendance. The new Thursday night event is also underway, with a different focus than previous Market Nights – more of an emphasis on entertainment, art, etc.
- Fox Restoration event will be held on May 3. Friends of the Fox is looking for volunteers to be solid base of support. The Riverside Downtown Partnership will coordinate the volunteer effort; anyone interested in volunteering should contact Janice Penner at RDP at 781-7339 or by email at rdpjanice@sbcglobal.net.
- An architect for the museum/library renovation will be selected at a future city council meeting, either April 24 or May 1.
- The city's portion of the Evergreen Cemetery improvements – curbs, gutters, roads – are done; private funds for grass seeding, sprinkler systems, etc. are still needed.
- Dom showed landscaping plans for the traffic circle at University and Redwood. Some residents on Arfon Way are complaining that the traffic circle is diverting traffic into their neighborhood; Dom will revisit the issue with Steve Liebling in Traffic Management.

Dave McNiel reported that there are problems with drivers running red lights at Mission Inn and Redwood, and thinks photo enforcement should be considered; Dom not sure it's needed compared to other, busier intersections.

- ✓ Motion to approve/support design of traffic circle as shown
M/S/V: McNiel/St.Pierre/Carried

- Questions/Issues/News:
 - Rod Wolf said there was an issue with a house near Fairmount Park that been taken over by the city in an abatement action; a real estate agent told him the house had been taken by a bank.
 - M'Sole fencing is obscuring the sidewalk on Market between 2nd and Third, creating problems for pedestrians; is scaffolding an option?
 - Lots of litter in the alley near CVS and Starbucks, neither of which are taking steps to clear it; Dom will have code enforcement contact them.
 - Pete reminded everyone about the Tiffany Glass exhibit at the Riverside Museum; it's the only West Coast showing of the exhibit, and will run through July 7th.
 - Upcoming election events include a luncheon on April 24th at a cost of \$15 per person, and the League of Women Voters public forum on April 25th at the library. Laurie DeFrance suggested that DANA sponsor a candidate forum on a special meeting night.
 - Some of the vendors at the last Thursday Market Night didn't stay for the whole event, though it was likely due to high winds that night. Dom says downtown events are "trending upwards" despite changing demographics (young families visiting with children). Some parking garages will be closed temporarily for renovations, but things are in place for future changes. New businesses are attracting customers.

- Jack Larsen noted that news coverage about downtown is very negative these days; Dom suggested that DANA members and others start responding to the coverage with letters to the editor. Janice Penner is working on a letter responding to an anti-Fox letter that appeared recently in the paper.
- The Trolley will start running again on May 1, offering free rides for everyone using garages and metered parking. The Trolley runs every eight minutes during the lunch hour, and will also stop at the Metrolink station. City workers will have a dedicated garage for those who can't afford to pay fees at private garages.
- Chani mentioned a good experience with the Homeless Outreach Team; she had called them about a man who was annoying pedestrians, and the team came out and spoke to him.

5. Treasurer's Report--Heather Troxel

Heather distributed a statement of accounts/treasurer's report: the group has \$2,370.96 in the bank.

6. Secretary's Report—Molly Dougherty

Molly wrote a letter to be given to the Park and Rec commission, asking that DANA be allowed to seat a representative on the future Tequesquite Arroyo community task force.

7. Future Projects

- An Evergreen Cemetery fundraiser will be held in June, with actors portraying scenes with historic Riverside notables. The fundraiser includes a home tour, and it costs \$250 to sponsor a home.
 - ✓ Motion that DANA sponsor Jim and Laurie's house on the Evergreen Cemetery Fundraiser/Home Tour
M/S/V: Alex/Larsen/Carried
- Heather met with Ralph Nunez from Park and Rec to discuss a project in which DANA members would sell tickets to the public as part of a "Donate a Rose Bush to Fairmount Park" event; each \$10 ticket would purchase one rose bush, with a target of 300 plants total (though more would be great); Park and Rec in turn would help sponsor a thank you barbecue for the volunteers. A raffle could help bring in even more money, which could be used for future projects. Pete suggested creating certificates or letters for people who buy ticket books of \$100 or more.
 - ✓ Motion to approve Donate a Rose Bush plan in its present form; Heather will move forward with the details and report at the next DANA meeting
M/S/V: St. Pierre/Kallinger/Carried
- Other ideas:
 - Continuing with community walks
 - Working on Mt. Rubidoux graffiti cleanup
 - Helping establish an historic district in the Mile Square northwest area; Nanci Larsen and Dave McNiel have formed a subcommittee to work on the project.

- Organizing a group to participate in the Great American Cleanup on May 12; Damon will attend the orientation and notify anyone interested in the event.

8. News/Announcements

- Janice Penner brought copies of RDP's annual report for anyone interested; RDP is also sponsoring the RTA Trolley, Arts Walk Trolley, museum exhibits, and other events. Target Day for the Arts will be held on May 6; visit inlandarts.com for information.
- Chani urged members to get the word out to local artists about participating in the Thursday Night market event; booth rental is \$50 per month for vendors.
- The Youth Multicultural Forum will be held April 29-30.
- Jim and Laurie will be hosting a coffee for Dom later this month.

Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2007

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Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dougherty, DANA Secretary