



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance  
Riverside, California

## **Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance** Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday, November 19, 2007  
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

### **Attendees (per sign-in sheet):**

Dave McNiel, Norm Gritton, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Jean Wong, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Damon Castillo, Janice Penner, David Lucas, Chani Beeman, Nicki Sands, Rebecca Kallinger, Connie Librenjak, Jenny Anderson, Norm Perry, Joan Donahue, Tom Donahue, Dorette Petersen, Erich Lewis, Annette Compton.

### **1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:00 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2007.**

- ✓ Motion to approve minutes  
M/S/V: McNiel/Gritton/Carried

### **3. Dom's Report—Joan Donahue**

Joan reported that the recount of the November recall election will begin Monday or Tuesday, and the results should be available later in the week. With Keith out of town, Chani offered to send an email to all members if the results become available before they appear in the newspaper.

Jean Wong asked if DANA could make a statement or send a letter to the Registrar of Voters about the irregularities in the election, asking them to work on solutions and new processes to keep problems such as these from arising at the next election. Chani said that communication with ROV was a problem affecting the city clerk's office and the overall flow of information. After some discussion, it was agreed to wait until after the recount to see if the group should send a letter.

On another issue, Dave informed members that the Government Affairs Committee would meet soon to discuss the modification of a code enforcement ordinance governing the maintenance of abandoned buildings. The modification would require that the current legal owner of a property, both commercial and residential, be held responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of a property until it can be sold. This is in response to the issue of banks or legal owners allowing foreclosed homes/buildings to become derelict, with overgrown lawns, rundown appearance, or worse -- squatters, vandals, etc. Dave suggested that DANA draft a letter to the committee supporting changes in the ordinance.

- ✓ Motion to send letter on behalf of DANA supporting changes in code enforcement ordinance regarding maintenance on foreclosed/abandoned buildings by legal owner.

M/S/V: N. Larsen/Castillo/Carried

**4. Riverside Downtown Partnership—Janice Penner**

Janice reported that RDP is considering hosting a downtown security forum on February 8 for both downtown residents and businesses, and wondered if DANA would like to participate. Members sounded interested, and Chani asked Janice to notify the group when the event starts coming together.

David Lucas commended RPD Commander Chuck Griffiths for taking such an active role in policing problem areas downtown – particularly in the First Street/Second Street “speed alley” and “heroin alley” areas.

**5. Chair’s Report—Chani Beeman**

Chani proposed two dates for the planned Christmas caroling party – December 7 or December 21. Everyone would meet at Keith’s house at 6:30, leave by 7 or so, and wrap up by 8:30. The group was in agreement that Dec. 7 was a bit too soon, and Dec. 21 was “just right.”

**6. Treasurer’s Report—Nanci Larsen for Heather Troxel**

In Heather’s absence, Nanci reminded everyone about the need to sell rose garden tickets.

**7. Secretary’s Report—Molly Dougherty**

Molly invited DANA members to participate in the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree project, which provides Christmas gifts to needy children from the Riverside Unified School District. She passed around an envelope with a sign up sheet and a small group of tickets, which were printed with a child’s name, gender, age, and wished-for present, and the tickets were all taken before the envelope made its way around the table. Molly offered to get more tickets for those who wanted them.

Damon announced that Coalition for Common Ground was also doing a toy drive, and would be hosting a dinner on Dec. 14 at the Izaak Walton Club.

**8. Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful—Connie Librenjack, Jenny Anderson**

KRCB volunteer director Jenny Anderson introduced new executive director Connie Librenjack. Connie gave an overview of the work done by the 15-year-old group, which partners with the Riverside Chamber of Commerce on a variety of projects, including city-wide anti-littering campaigns, beautification efforts, graffiti paint-outs, and more. Connie said as many as 100-200 people often volunteer on scheduled weekends to pick up trash in their neighborhoods.

Jenny outlined other projects, including tree plantings with schools, “Make a Difference Day”, littering campaigns during the Festival of Lights, and the Great American Clean Up, which DANA members have participated in the past.

#### **9. News, Announcements, Reports from Group Representatives**

- DANA Holiday Party: Dorette Peterson, who did an amazing job on last year’s party, has agreed to coordinate this year’s as well. She passed around a signup sheet asking for volunteers to help.
- Brockton Area Historic District Designation: Nanci Larsen said a survey of the area is ongoing.
- Evergreen Cemetery Update: Work is continuing on the irrigation system, fencing, and the “sod house” buildings. Plans include installing touch screen stations or kiosks for visitors to locate specific graves.
- Sailing Project: Dave McNeil said work is being done to get the sailing program in place by summer. The facilities are in pretty bad shape, with termites and rats, but Hazmat will help with the cleanup.
- RDP: Janice said DANA will need to appoint a new representative to RDP in March; nominations are being accepted for the Roy Horde award; the Hanukkah menorah lighting will be held on Dec. 5 on the courthouse steps.
- Sister Cities: Damon said representatives of a proposed sister city for Riverside, Obuasi, Ghana, will be visiting Jan. 26-31.
- Friends of the Fox: Janice said things are in flux with this group right now, with no leadership in place, but she will be the representative for the foreseeable future.

#### **10. DANA Elections – Chani Beeman**

Chani passed out ballots to the group, along with candidate statements from Norm Gritton and Jim Talcott, who are both running for Vice-Chair, the only seat with more than one candidate, and Jim read his statement aloud.

**Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Molly Dougherty, DANA Secretary**