



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance
Riverside, California

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park
Monday, September 17, 2007
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Attendees (per sign-in sheet):

Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Connie Crouch, Mike Lapioli, Evelyn Lapioli, Jennifer Baccari, Rebecca Kalinger, Gerry Douglas, Robert Diaz, Betsey Webster, Norm Gritton, Tina Lang, Robbie Kennedy, Dorette Peterson, Erich Lewis, Frances Fernandez, Rebecca Simcox, Keith Alex, Bettina McMahon, Dave McNiel, Phil Neglia, Pete Kallinger, Chani Beeman, Randy Blackman, Molly Dougherty, Mike Denholtz, Myles Denholtz, Renee Polsaski.

- 1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:00 p.m.**
Welcome and Introductions. Chani welcomed Jerry Crouch's wife, Connie, their daughter, Jennifer Baccari, and two employees of the Save-a-Minit market, Mike and Evelyn Lapioli.
- 2. Moment of Silence for Jerry Crouch**, who died suddenly on July 23, 2007 at the age of 63.
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2007.**
 - ✓ Motion to approve minutes
 - M/S/V: McNiel/Alex/Carried
- 4. Guest Speaker: Rebecca Simcox, Riverside Police Department Crime Figure Analysis Unit**
Ms. Simcox began by distributing a handout which explains how to access crime data from the city's website, a map showing crime statistics for the downtown area, and a

key explaining the various crime classifications, and then continued with an overview of the work done by her department and some background on how crimes are defined.

The Crime Figure Analysis Unit gathers crime data from all city districts and prepares reports for the various city departments. For example, there were more than 2,000 “calls for service” in the downtown area from August 1 to September 17; of these, 115 turned out to be crimes. Most of the others were alarm calls, reports of vicious animals, etc.

Pete Kallinger commented that the way crime statistics are presented on the web is not very user-friendly – people really need to hunt for it. Pete gave Becky some hard copy examples of how other police departments present their crime information online. Becky responded that though RPD would like to give citizens easier access to this information, their current resources – software, license fees, staff time to produce and interpret maps and reports – don’t allow it. She suggested speaking to Councilman Betro about the issue.

Molly asked if it wouldn’t be better to provide basic, user-friendly tools on the website and allow people to pull the data and interpret it themselves. Becky said there were some procedural and access issues over which she had no control, and that she recommended contacting Dom with our concerns.

Becky also said her unit can produce crime analysis reports of different areas for a fee of \$80; she said prospective home buyers often find this information useful.

Becky Simcox can be reached by email at rsimcox@riversideca.gov.

5. Riverside Police Department Report—Phil Neglia

Phil reported a loitering issue with a property at Second and Fairmount; people are using a low fence as a “stool” and RPD suggested that the owners raise it to make the area less attractive, and also trim trees and shrubs to provide less cover for any illegal activity.

Becky Simcox urged people to report crimes to the police call center so they can be counted in the crime statistics for the area.

A community walk is scheduled for this coming Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Fourth and Fairmount, in response to a request from a community member. Anyone wanting to participate should be sure to bring a flashlight since its getting dark so much earlier now. This will probably be the last walk before spring.

6. Treasurer’s Report—Heather Troxel

Heather reported that DANA’s bank account has a balance of \$2430.98, less the cost of the flowers that were sent to Jerry Crouch’s family.

7. Guest Speaker: Betsey Webster, County of Riverside Animal Control Services, (with special mystery guest)

Ms. Webster gave a powerful presentation on the problem of abandoned and neglected animals in Riverside County, giving the example of an abused dog found

wandering the streets with a length of rope imbedded in his neck. She also gave statistics on the numbers of animals which are brought or left at the shelter versus how many ultimately find homes. (The City of Riverside contracts with Riverside County to provide animal control services). Animal control staff answered questions about the process of reporting barking dogs and other problems, and then Betsey introduced the mystery guest: Chance, the abused dog with a rope collar that had been shown in her presentation. Chance was doing much better, but was still healing from his injuries, and staff hoped that he would be eligible for adoption soon.

Betsey told the group about “Dogtoberfest,” an event hosted at the Skip Fordyce Harley-Davidson dealership on Oct. 27-28, which will feature pet adoptions, pets in Halloween costumes, a chili cook-off, and K-9 demonstrations.

8. Rose Garden Fundraiser Report – Heather Troxel

Heather gave an update on the status of the Fairmount Park Rose Garden/Barbecue project: Pete Kallinger is working on finishing the rose inventory and finding a rosarian to help choose the right varieties for this area, and will get in touch with Randy Blackman about a possible donation from the Weeks rose company. Installation of an irrigation system and other improvements at the site are making it difficult to come up with a definite date for the barbecue. Heather will touch base with Ralph Nunez and Pete in the next month and give an update as soon as she has more information.

9. Updates on D.A.N.A Projects

- Update on Tequesquite Park Taskforce: Rick Thomas
The task force’s recommendations have been reviewed by the city council and will be voted on soon.
- Update on Fairmount Park Taskforce: Keith Alex
Keith discussed the task force’s recommendations, which will be presented at the next city council meeting by Pete Kallinger (on the discussion calendar).
 - The much-discussed frontage land at the park will remain with the city (Park & Rec department), and any money raised from leases or concessions will go into Park & Rec’s budget.
- Update on new downtown historic district designation: Nanci Larsen
 - Some progress has been made, but nothing final yet.
- Evergreen Cemetery update: Keith Alex
 - There’ve been some delays with the new fencing, but progress is continuing. Next step is finding some major contributors to help with the grass seeding, etc.

10. Brief Reports and Announcements from Group Representatives

- Riverside Downtown Partnership: Dave McNiel
 - Parking was the major topic, with attendees suggesting that a new parking garage be built as soon as possible to compensate for lost parking lots.
- Italian Fest: Keith Alex
 - Keith passed around a sign-up sheet for the festival, asking anyone interested to volunteer for two-hour time slots. Connie Crouch offered to donate water and sodas for DANA to sell as a fundraiser during the event, as Jerry had done last year. Thanks, Connie!

- Fire Station: Dave McNiel
 - The plan now is to demolish the existing fire station at Mission Inn and Lime, and build a new office building on that site. A new fire station will be built directly adjacent.

Norm suggested a presentation on electronic voting machines as a possibility for a future meeting.

11. Presentation Issue – Chani Beeman

Some members have expressed concern about the number of presentations at each meeting, and if they are encroaching too much on regular DANA business and projects. Chani asked the group for input: How many presentations should be scheduled? How often?

The group discussed the issue, and though members agreed that the presentations were informative and enjoyable, it was felt that limiting speakers to every other meeting might be a good idea. Presentations by Dom, Chuck, RDP, and other groups are not included in this plan – they would continue as usual.

- ✓ Motion to limit the number of presentations by guest speakers to every other month.
M/S/V: Troxel/Alex/Carried

Keith told the group about a forum on dealing with difficult neighbors on October 3 at the La Sierra Library.

**Next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2007.
Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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