

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday August 15, 2005

7:00 – 8:30 PM. Fairmount Park Boathouse

Attendees (per sign-in sheet): Heather Troxel, David McNiel, Norm Gritton, Jim Youden, Lindsey Abercrombie, Keith Alex, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Anthony Calabro, Linda Calabro, Mary Jerdeman, Jerry Crouch, Bettina Brotzen, Jim Talcott, Laurie De France, Dave McNiel, Nancy Castillo, Pete Kallinger, Eva Yakutis-McNiel, Randy Sawn, Angelo Cesari, Susanne Cesari, Donald Greene, James Smith, Lila Higgins, Casey Sparks, Wendy Sparks, Silvia Flores, David Lucas, Nicolette Sands

Excused Absence: Chani Beeman

Unexcused Absence: David St Pierre

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Keith Alex

Self introductions followed.

2. Motion to approve July Meeting Notes as submitted

McNiel / N. Larsen

3. Report from City Council / Dom Betro

- **Parole, Transition Homes.** There was a meeting last Thursday at City Hall where the Task Force shared the there have been 50 homes through out the City identified as Parolee / Transition homes. 12 have been found to be operating properly. Of the 38 found to be operating improperly 23 have been inspected resulting in 419 code violations and 106 fire violations. The City is moving on Administrative Civil Proceedings on the homes. The owners are looking at a fine of \$1000 per day up to \$100,000. The house on Fairmount the City is moving on to seize, fix up and sell. 3 other homes they are looking to gain control of. The city has found that 16 of the homes are owned by 2 Companies; 11 by one Company.
- **Crime at White Park.** Dom is working with the Police and Private Security to increase patrols in the vicinity of the park and working to get a full time beat patrolman for the area.
- **Homeless in the Park.** There was recent sweep by the police where they collected belongings from under the culvert. It's an ongoing issue that the police will not be letting up on. Dom reiterated that the Armory will not be used this coming winter. Currently the City is looking at the possibility of using March Air Force Base as a homeless shelter.
- **North Hill / Tequesquite.** There was a strong reaction from the community to clean up North Hill. The housing on Locust appeared to be a good idea that will be pursued with the community. Tequesquite is not a project at this time; just a thought. There are substantial environmental issues to get through. The idea is not to dump a bunch of houses in the area, but to make sure all recreation

opportunities are covered as well as cleaning up Pine Center and generally improving the area of the “dump.

- **Lake.** The City will be using a \$300,000 grant from FEMA to purchase a dredge boat to clean the lake.
- **Grade Crossings.** There have been 25 / 27 identified as needed in the City. Priorities are: 1. Columbia, 2. Magnolia, 3. Third St. It is expected to be a 500 Million Dollar project and plan to start 1 per year.
- **Downtown Developments.** The preliminary designs are completed on the **Fox Theatre**, structural tests are proceeding. A Broadway theatre group is interested in including the fox on their 07 tour. **1st to 3rd Project** is moving along. Mark Rubin’s group is ahead of the Cityhome group. The Metro Pacific Project on 5th to 7th is moving forward with a development and disposition agreement. The **14th and Market** project is coming back to the City in September with a proposed 150,000 SF mixed use, office and medical building with parking structure. The commercial property at the **60 and Market St** is planning on using the wedge to include a portion of retail and restaurants.

Questions from the group:

Status of the Toad in the Hole/ Supper Club?

The equation of restaurants before foot traffic is not realistic. More residences are needed down town to support businesses. Also they were hurt by the success of the Plaza. There have been 20 restaurants that have expressed interest in the new downtown development.

Sav-On?

Continuing through the entitlement process. Expected to demo end of August, begin construction in October, projected January completion.

North Hill Status?

In the process of convening with a group of citizens, looking at options.

14th & Market Architecture?

In the design stages, preliminary drawings have an open atrium.

What is going in the 1st floor of the building at Orange and 9th?

The 1st floor is intended for retail, no details available.

What is the time frame for the RCC Art School?

There have been some problems with the staging of the project and are looking at an alternate plan due to the potentially artificially inflated values of the property.

What’s the rental status of the 1st and Market Project?

The City is actively enforcing the “no rent forever” covenants.

What’s going on with the remodel of the Good Will Store?

As this is part of the 14th and Market project it appears that the owner is renovating to increase the property value prior to selling.

Status of RTA / Greyhound Station?

The City is working to cut a deal with RTA to move the Bus Station to the area adjacent to Metro link. Time frame is expected to be 6 months to 1 year. Looking for an alternate location for Greyhound.

Status of the Fox Theatre Shops?

The plan is to renovate the shops as soon as possible after the completion of the seismic testing.

Concern over the lack of a downtown Police Substation

The Councilman would be in favor of a small prescient downtown. The City is currently selling the Police Station to the County for use by the Sheriff's Department. One site that may be looked at is the current Bus Station.

Any activity on the Rouse building on the Mall?

There are 11 Million dollars in projects planned that UCR is competing for grants on. One possibility that has been discussed is to relocate the Sweeny Museum to the Mall while the renovation of the existing museum is taking place. Time frame may be 1-1/2 years.

Plans for the Imperial Hardware Site?

The City is looking for a mixed use building for this site.

4. Riverside Police Department / Nancy Castillo

Nancy reminded the group of the next **community walk** scheduled for:

September 8, 2005, 6:30 Location 2nd & Orange St.

The **National Night Out** was a huge success with 9 gatherings through out the downtown area where mayoral, Council, Police and Fire representation was present.

Officer Castillo reported on a **shooting at 5th and Orange** this afternoon. It appears that it was not a random act of violence, but a specific targeted individual. The suspect (male Hispanic, 160 – 180 Lbs escaped the scene in a grey pick up truck.

The Police Department is working the problem of **solicitation in front of Mt Rubidoux Manor**. There are 2 **burnt out buildings** in the vicinity of Main and 1st that the City is working on leveling.

5. Treasurers Report / Jim Youden

Current balance: \$423.25

Income: \$ 87.00 Due to be reflected next month.

 \$108.50 Bake Sale Proceeds from Swing Night

6. New Items / Issues

The group suggested that we decide on an issue to promote as we have generated funds. There will be another **D.A.N.A. Bake Sale** at the concert in the park on Thursday, August 25th at White Park.

An idea was suggested to form a **welcoming committee** to great new people to the community.

Lindsey Abercrombie volunteered to be the liaison between DANA and the **Evergreen Quarter Historic District**

Sylvia Flores shared her recent experience of a **Pit Bull attack** while walking her dog at 1st & Chestnut and supported the idea of a Breed Specific Ordinance and asked for input from others who may have had the same experience.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2005

7:00 PM. Fairmount Park Boat House

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.