

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday July 18, 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, David St Pierre, Mary Jerdeman, Lucy Cote, Jerry Crouch, Sheryl Poy, Dave Bayne, Randy Brookins, David Brookins, Bettina Brotzen, Alisa Sramela, Linda Goodman, Joe Findeis, Nancy Johnson, Jim Talcott, Laurie De France, Rob Robinson, Gerald Porter, Bonnie Reynolds, Bruce Reynolds, Meredith Mazur, Lois Anders, Amy Clark, Krista Dixon, Conrad Newberry, Dave McNiel, Nancy Castillo, Andy Roth, Denise Brown, Dave Brown, Pete Kallinger, Arlene Barr, Rick Arden, Mary Arden, Marilyn Grassman, Jane Block, Don Morris, Molly Morris,

Excused Absence: Chani Beeman

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

Self introductions followed.

2. Report from City Council / Dom Betro

- **Parole, Transition Homes.** There are 3 more homes currently on the list that are scheduled for inspection from the task force (consisting of Police, Fire, Code Enforcement & Legal) of the current 24 that are targeted. The city is moving to seize the home on Fairmount that was closed up 2 week ago; the owner has not responded to notices. The City is focusing on one company that owns 10 homes in the area being used as transitional or group homes. 3 on Lime, 1 on Locust, 3rd and the railroad tracks. The City will be visiting all of these houses.
- **Council Meeting Rules.** Councilman Betro explained that the intent of the recent change in formatting of public comments was intended as a way to get control of the Council Meeting. This will not limit speakers as they can speak on any item during oral communications; the only change is the public will not be able to pull items off the consent calendar, the feeling that there is adequate public access to the Council members to express your concern on upcoming issues.

3. North Hill / Quarry Hill

Belinda Graham from the Development Department and Ralph Nunez from Parks and Recreation came to discuss potential plans for the area of Quarry hill. Councilman Betro explained that there has been a lot of miscommunication and misinformation concerning the issue getting out to the neighborhood prematurely. The issue is scheduled for public hearing on July 26 to discuss a plan. Three issues have converged that City staff has been trying to juggle; environmental, recreational and historical preservation. The 3 properties that are involved are Indian Hill, North Hill and the land that is currently planned to house the new fire station on Olivewood to serve the Downtown. The fire station property currently has 3 Victorians and 8 Craftsman bungalows. On the Indian Hill property the challenge was to try to preserve the wetland and trail areas along the river

bottom without violating the rights of the individual property owners. Staff had discussed the possibility of utilizing the area of North Quarry for either a property swap for the Indian Hill lots as well as looking at the possibility of relocating some of the historic Olivewood structures. Belinda Graham discussed the possibility of relocating a maximum of 6 homes to Quarry hill.

Some of the concerns of the residents were;

They would like to see the area remain natural / They would like to see the area improved as a park or a series of trails / The structures being considered for relocation in question do not match the existing homes / They do not want new homes built on the site which would dwarf the existing homes / If homes are built would there still be access for dog walking? / If there is access it would lead to abuse i.e. homeless / There is no homeless problem in the neighborhood now / What about endangered species or wildlife that is currently on the hill? / Does the City even have the right to develop the hill which is park property? / What is the timeline? / Do not think the proposal would enhance the neighborhood / What about security of the hill if improved? / Make quarry into park (little Mt Rubidoux) / Would the City sell the lots to highest bidder? / Concern that the City is using the homeless as an excuse for redevelopment /

Councilman Betro reiterated that at this early stage the City is looking at various options, including whether these houses would even work on the site or even if they can be saved, but wanted to get the topic out to the public to try to flush out a lot of the concerns.

Other questions from the group:

- The Mayor has mentioned a fire station at the current location of the Bus Depot. Is this in addition or a replacement of the proposed Olivewood station? *The Fire Dept feels that the Olivewood site is the best location for response time and where they need to be. It could be discussed if the Olivewood site does not work out. The consensus is that it would not be a good location considering the revitalization of the Fox and noise issue.*
- Timeline for new Fire Station? *1st quarter 06*
- Would the relocated houses be rentals? *No. They would be owner occupied.*

4. Riverside Police Department / Nancy Castillo

Nancy reminded the group that if they have any addresses on possible **6 Pack / Transitional Housing** to please forward the information to Nancy or D.A.N.A. and it will be forwarded to the task force. National Night out is August 2nd. Please join your friends or neighbors. There are many gatherings through out the downtown where the community is welcome to visit and hang out. The Mayor, Council, Police and Fire representatives will be making the rounds and visiting with residents.

5. Treasurers Report / Jim Youden

Current balance: \$427.06

Expenditures: \$200.00 Perez Family Donation

Jim reminded the community members present to please join and that the dues are \$10 annually prorated. He further explained that the reason for dues is to separate voting members and prevent a contingent from showing up to vote.

6. Planning & Development / David St Pierre / Dom Betro

Tequesquite Arroyo: Dom gave a brief overview of the proposed project that is on next weeks City Council Agenda for a 12 month feasibility period to investigate whether the Arroyo can support 600-800 units with Golf Course and senior housing element.

Van Buren Dive In: The council declined the Watt Homes proposal. An alternate proposal of commercial frontage with homes and mixed use in the rear was discussed.

14th / Market: A brief explanation given to the proposed 5-6 story mixed use / office / medical building with a parking structure bordering Almond St. The project is moving forward with Thrifty Oil.

Jim Youden expressed concern over the **lack of free parking over 1 hour** downtown and its potential negative effect on business in the downtown area. Discussed was the issue of the current garages being under utilized and the possibility of installing parking meters.

7. Project Subcommittee Update

Thursday July 21st DANA we be having a bake sale at White Park in conjunction with Concert in the Park

8. New Items / Issues

David St Pierre informed the group that anyone that is interested in becoming a **Docent at the Mission Inn**, the next 9 month course begins in September. The docent program requires a 2 year commitment where it will be required to commit to giving 4 tours a month. The next **Neighborhood Walk** will be scheduled and the information will be available at the August meeting.

A concern from the audience was voiced over the inadequacy of the **pot hole repair program**. It was shared that the City responds to specific addresses only. A questioned was fielded how often the City grades the dirt alleys. The consensus is that it is done on an annual basis when called upon for repair.

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2005

7:00 PM. Fairmount Park Boat House

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