

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday October 17, 2005

7:00 – 8:30 PM. Isaak Walton Building Fairmount Park

Attendees (per sign-in sheet): Nanci Larsen, Jack Larsen, Keith Alex, Pete Kallinger, Joe Bohne, Pam Bohne, Nancy Castillo, Rob Robinson, David Lucas, Lindsay Abercrombie, Angelo Cesari, Susanne, Cesari, Jerry Crouch, Bettina Brotzen, Chuck Griffiths, David St. Pierre, Chani Beeman, Molly Dougherty, Heather Troxel, Laurie DeFrances, Jim Talcott, Dave Willman, Crolyn Brodeur, Angie Schwalm, Eric Tani, Ron Kushrer.

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alex at 7:05PM.

- Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Meeting Notes September 26, 2005

Meeting minutes were modified for a typo.

- ✓ **Motion to approved Minutes as modified**

M/S/V: Pete Kallinger/ Lindsay Abercrombie/Carried

3. Councilman Dom Betro's Report

- The **Transitional Housing Task Force** continues to do good work. The house at 2841 Fairmount Blvd is going into receiver ship. A family who owns 21 of the 48 identified "group homes" is selling off the property. This does create displacement for some people, but the city has an obligation to now allow inhabitable, unsafe homes to be occupied. Complaints are down and the team has been very effective.
- Downtown projects are moving along. **Sav-on** construction on Market and Third St. should begin soon with an anticipated completion date of January or February 2006. Construction supplies are short, due to hurricane recovery demands, so hopefully that will not delay the start of construction.
- Property assemblage for the first phase of the **1st-3rd/Market-Orange development** continues. We hope to have construction begin by late spring or summer 2006.
- The **Metro-Pacific and Thrifty Gas projects** continue to progress. The project plans should be brought to the City Council within the next 4 weeks to firm up the plans.
- A contract with an architect for the **Fox Theater project** will be considered at the next City Council meeting. The city is still on a timeline to have the theater open by Fall 2007.
- The City Manager has expanded original **Downtown Beautification Project** to include the entire area of 3rd-14th/Lime-Brockton. The project will create a common theme and feel for the whole area. The project will delay the **"Way-Finder" Project** but should be worth it because it will then be part of a whole package. The community will continue to be consulted by way of a newly formed committee, DANA will be asked to appoint a representative to that committee.

- The **Homeless Shelter** is due to open in the next 2 weeks. We are in a crunch due to the early rain and unavailability of the Armory for the Cold Weather Shelter program. People in need of immediate help have been taken to March Air Reserve Base.
- The city has “found” an extra **\$10 million in the city budget**, mostly due to cost savings for open positions. The money will be used for more law enforcement, code enforcement, addressing livability and quality of life issues.
- Recent concerns have highlighted problems with **Animal Control services** in the city. We only have 5 animal control officers for the entire city. This is one of many “nuts and bolts” issues that need to be prioritized.
- **North Hill** will not be changed in the near future. Staff recommends not change at this time. There will be a meeting on 10/31 at City Hall, 2:00 to discuss options.

4. Honorable Mayor Ron Loveridge

Mayor Loveridge addressed the group regarding his plans for the city if re elected as Mayor. He responded to questions from the group.

5. Riverside Police Department

- City Council has approved 25 new police officer position and 10 additional officers will be reassigned from administrative duties, increasing the number of available patrol officers.
- Bob Foreman and the POP team continue to do sweeps in Fairmount park. In his last sweep his team found only 2 transients loitering near the tennis courts. There were no violations.
- The house on 2841 Fairmount Blvd has been closed and taken over by the city. The house just north of that property has sold.
- The owner of the house on El Dorado has been contacted and is evicting residents preparation to renovate the house and sell as a single family residence.
- The Swiss Inn on Main St. is moving to a new location (unsure of where).
- City Council has approved money to staff city parks with private security officers.
- Fairmount Blvd. is being “worked” by the police department to reduce reported problems.
- The POP team continues to address problems that are reported.
- An attendee asked that officers responding to problems on North Hill do more than drive by .

6. Treasurer Report / Jim Youden

- A check to the Perez family was issued and has been cashed.
- Reported balance (not including cash from summer bake sales): \$457.25*
* See details in attached Treasurer’s report

7. Planning & Development / David St. Pierre

- Development committee focused on Adams St. Plaza project, no decision was reached.
- Downtown parking structure should be opened in 2 weeks.
- There is no update on the Land Conservancy project.
- Signs and banners about eminent domain on building around the Orange St. and University Ave. area are political and do not refer to plans for those buildings.

8. 2005 D.A.N.A. Goals / Visions / Project Subcommittee Reports

2006 Board Nomination Committee Report

- All current DANA officers are eligible and willing to serve. No nominations were made, though nominations are still open and can be made from the floor at next months meeting before the elections.

Adopt-a-Block Subcommittee

- Sub committee is still trying to find a date to meet. Will report at next meeting.

Community Walk Schedule

- Date for next walk will be determined and notification sent via email. The walk will be in the area of 2nd St. and Fairmount Blvd.

9. New Items / Issues

The December meeting will be a Holiday Party Potluck. Molly Dougherty will head-up an organizing committee of: Eva McNeil, Nanci Larsen, Heather Troxel and Laurie DeFrance.

Participants were interested in heading up a sub committee for Neighborhood Beautification, specifically to facilitate Wildflower Plantings. Pete Kallinger will lead this sub committee and he can be reached at: greenpete@mac.com or 781-9245.

- ✓ **Motion to appoint Pete Kallinger to the Downtown Beautification committee.**
M/S/V: ?/ ?/Carried

Sav-a-minit Market is looking much better. The group applauded the owners.

**10. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2005
7:00 PM. Issak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Chani Beeman, DANA Secretary**