

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2006

7:00 – 8:30 PM., Izaak Walton Club / Fairmount Park

Attendees (per sign-in sheet): Keith Alex, Tina Lang, Chani Beeman, Pete Kallinger, Bettina Brotzen, Damon Castillo, Erich Lewis, Dorette Peterson, Darcy Miller, Dave McNeil, Eva McNeil, Jack Larsen, Walter Reis, Nod Worth, Pat Dean, Lindsay Abercrombie, Norm Gritton Laurie DeFance, Jim Talcott, Tom boyd, Robbie Kennedy, Kim Davison-Morgan, June Lang.

1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chairman Keith Alex at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome and introductions

2. Approval of Meeting minutes April 17, 2006

✓ **Motion to approved Minutes as submitted**

M/S/C: Abercrombie/Kallinger/carried

3. Report-back by Steve Libring, City of Riverside Traffic Engineer

This was not an item on the meeting agenda, but time was given to hear the many alternatives developed to address concerns about traffic flow on Redwood Drive and Pine St. between 14th St. and University Ave.

- A traffic study was done to document traffic flow on the identified streets.
 - Redwood Drive (driving south from University Ave to 14th St.): 3,200/day
 - Pine St. (driving north from 14th St. to University Ave.): 4,700/day (nearest 14th St. and 3,200 near University)
 - Higher than expected traffic flow on Pine St.
 - Seven options for traffic calming were presented:
 - Option A: One lane/one-way with a bilk lane and parking for one side of street
 - Option B: Two-way with parking, which narrows lanes and tends to slow traffic
 - Option C: One lane/one-way with angled parking
 - Option D: Close Redwood Drive to entry, but would increase traffic on other streets.
 - Option E: Narrow access to Redwood Drive with a traffic circle at University Ave.
 - Option F: Make Right lane on Pine St. a right-turn-only lane at Tequesquite
 - Option G: Close Pine St. at Tequesquite with right and left turn only lanes
 - The process for input and discussion of these options should take place at another meeting that is well advertised and specific to this topic.
 - ✓ **Motion to establish a sub committee of DANA to plan and organize a meeting on this topic.**
- M/S/C: Kallinger/Castillo/carried

4. Riverside Police Department – Lt. Chuck Griffiths and Nancy Castillo, Riverside Police Department

- There was a good turn out for the neighborhood walk that started at 5th St. and Fairmount. Code Enforcement had representatives on the walk and they focused on about 10 projects in that area. Several of the problem properties that were identified on the walk are already being cleaned up.
- There have been 6 robberies in Fairmount Park recently, with the last one being reported 2 weeks ago. The RPD is actively working this problem. The robberies have similar suspects in a variety of vehicles. They have occurred Monday-Thursday between 9PM and midnight.
- Nine cars have been stolen between April 7th and May 4th from the area bordered by Mission Inn/10th St./Brockton/Redwood.
- The Transitional Housing Task Force continues to work on cleaning up problem housing in the downtown area. The following properties have been closed or cleaned up:
 - 4211 El dorado
 - 3354 – 3390 Orange St. *
 - 2810 Fairmount Blvd.
 - 5715 Riverside *
 - 2950 2nd St.*
 - 3460 Lime St. (eviction)

* Same owners

- Victoria Market located on Mission Inn Ave. is in escrow.
- Santa Cruz Inn has been given several citations from the Fire Department. Code Enforcement is following up on violations. Lt. Griffiths and Joyce Powers will be meeting with the owners to address problems.
- RPD is holding a Neighborhood Watch Academy at Cal Baptist University.
- National Night Out is coming up in July and DANA may want to organize some activities.

Questions:

- ♣ Are the solicitors in the parking lot at Maxi Foods a police issue? Only if aggressive, otherwise it is a problem to be reported to the business owner.
- ♣ Are the park patrols still happening, if they are they are not visible? Yes. The contract is up for renewal soon, so a new vendor may be chosen. The council has approved money for video cameras in the parks.

5. Report from Councilman Betro

- A presentation was made to the City Council about putting signal lights on 3rd st. between Market St. and Vine St. Several area neighbors expressed concern about the impact on Orange St. and increasing traffic. Another meeting to explore and discuss the matter is scheduled for Thursday at 2PM at City Hall.
- A review is being done on the role of the Downtown Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission. The City Council approved a template of the scope of the commission.
- The city continues to use redevelopment resources to assemble property to control development and to clean-up neighborhoods. The city will be providing incentives to move homes from Olivewood Ave. to the old railroad spur in the Northside.
- Victoria market is in escrow.
- RCC is closing escrow on the large building at University Ave. and Market St. for their Arts program.

- Working with Max Food owners to clean-up the area and work with redevelopment.
- The Fairmount Park Task Force needs a representative from DANA.
- Reid Park renovations (part of the 1977 Master Plan) were approved by council.
- The city continues to assemble properties for the Metro Pacific development, may need to utilize eminent domain to acquire all the property.
- The city is looking at building a 150,000 sq. ft., class A office tower across from the parking garage on Orange St.

Questions:

- ♣ Who appointed members of the Fairmount Park Task Force? The mayor pushed for the development of the committee. There will be 1 DANA rep and 2 at-large members. Anyone interested should email Dom at: dbetro@riversideca.gov
- ♣ Are there plans to put a café near Fairmount Park? City is purchasing property for a senior housing development with a center.
- ♣ Is there going to be a Nightclub at Tyler? No.
- ♣ Is there a boat to dredge the lake in the park? Army Corp of Engineers has a plan for cleaning the lake and correcting major problems with drainage and circulation. We hope to get that plan funded this year, last year the Katrina disaster wiped out must projects like this one. The city has a boat for maintenance of the lake.
- ♣ When will construction on the Fox Theater begin? Hoping for construction to begin in early Fall. You will see retail space first. On target for Spring '08 tours.
- ♣ What is planned for Market between 1st and Houghton? Maybe condos. A developer expressed interest but have not heard from them.
- ♣ Please call and report graffiti, although it does not seem to be a big problem in downtown area.
- ♣ Is there a Starbucks planned for downtown? Yes. No drive-thru. Should be in late June/early July.
- ♣ What is happening with the Monte Vista apartments, across from Fairmount Park? The plan is for executive condos with the top floor being a day spa and the bottom floor an executive gym.
- ♣ What is happening with the bus depot? That should be moved to the Metrolink station within a year. RCTC seems to have the money this year.
- ♣ What is happening around White Park? The city has purchased the building that houses "Le Sex Shoppe" and the "Cabin Sushi" it will be the new downtown police center.

6. Planning & Development -- David St. Pierre, DANA 2nd Vice-Chair

- On June 8th the planning commission will be considering the plans for a development for 10 live/work units on Market St. between 2nd & 3rd St.

7. Treasurers Report -- Heather Troxel, DANA Treasurer

- Reported balance of \$1,010

8. New / Old Issues / Open Issues / Subcommittee Update

- *Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful*: event had lots of participation
- *Summer BBQ Schedule*: Host at Fairmount Park on July 15th August 19th for the Philharmonic concert with a 60/40 split of money for DANA and funding roses for the rose garden in the park.

- *Mayor's State of the Neighborhood Address Ceremony:* June 3rd and Neighborhood Awards will be given.
- *Neighborhood Conference:* July 8th at Cal Baptist University
- *Friends of Evergreen Memorial Park:* June 3rd 5:30
- *Giant Oranges Project:* White Park on June 1st 5-8PM \$25
- *Bottled Water with DANA Logo:* Chairman Alex would like to develop a DANA logo so it can be used on bottle water labels to be handed out at our events. Everyone agreed.

**8. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 19, 2006
7:00 PM. Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

9. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chani Beeman, DANA Secretary