

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park
Monday September 18, 2006, 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

Attendees (per sign-in sheet): Chani Beeman, Dan Hantman, Norm Gritton, Tina Lang, Nancy Castillo, Bob Williams, Tom Donahue, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Joan Donahue, Steven Kirkpatrick, David St. Pierre, Rod Wolf, Pete Kallinger, Bonnie Reynolds, Bruce Reynolds, Havesand Proud, Jerry Crouch, Him Talcott, Laurie DeFrance, Stan Shannon, Bettina Brotzen, David Lucas, Kim Davidson Morgan,

1. Meeting Called to Order by 1st Vice Chairman Norm Gritton at 7:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes August 21, 2006

✓ **Motion to approve Minutes as submitted**

M/S/C: Hantman/St. Pierre/Carried

3. Report from Councilman Dom Betro

- Dom introduced his new Field Staff person, Joan Donahue. She will be helping him with constituent services, research, event support and will be an additional contact person for community groups.
- The 1st-3rd st. project will be part of an eminent domain package on the council agenda. These are all commercial properties, primarily used car lots.
- Maruvka is moving forward with building 10 condo buildings that will have 100 units.
- In spite of the slowing development in the area, there are still quite a few developers interested in downtown Riverside development.
- Starbucks is open.
- Savon, which will probably be a CVS, is scheduled for November/December. Company has had quite a few changes.
- Coffee Bean and Tea will be open in late November.
- Council will be considering a City Manager proposal to make the Festival of Lights the new signature event, to replace the Orange Blossom Festival. The proposal is to enhance the already successful event by including nightly activities and renting a portable ice skating rink to be placed in the Library parking lot. The Orange Blossom Festival goal of honoring the city's citrus heritage will be an event at the Citrus Heritage Park and will be scaled down. The goal now is to have several smaller, more successful, events around the city.
- There are plans in the works to develop an Arts & Culture night on Thursday nights in Downtown.

- Negotiations are underway for a certified Farmers Market (produce) for Saturday mornings. Hopefully, they can begin in October will be located on empty lot next to the convention center.
- Fairmount Park task force will finalize their recommendations on September 29th at a meeting in the Walton building. The final recommendations are in 7 categories numbering about 30 individual recommendations. The final recommendations will be submitted to the council and will probably be on an agenda in October.
- City Manger is coming forward soon with a big infrastructure plan. The plan will provide improvements to city parks and will help bring many longstanding projects in the city together.
- There will be a charter amendment on the November ballot that will change the cycle for City Council and Mayor elections. Currently, the cycle requires runoff election campaigns be run during the holidays.
- The renovation of the Fox Theater status is that 75% of the construction plans are completed. It is a design build project there are 3 proposals under review. Hopefully, we will see construction begin by December.
- The Greyhound lease at the downtown depot has been condemned and they will have to move to a new station near the Metrolink station on Vine. Move should be in Spring 2007. There is likely going to be some controversy over this issue.
- The Tamale Factory is open and it is beautiful.
- There will be a community meeting to discuss the opening of Main St. at 9th, near city hall.
- There are 4 restaurants being built on Market St. near the 60 freeway.
- Our Homeless shelter is ready for cold weather and prepared to handle increased numbers of occupants.
 - Concern was raised that homeless have begun congregating near the playground area of Fairmount Park.

4. Riverside Police Department – Nancy Castillo and Lt. Bob Williams

- Lt. Williams provided an update on the Transitional Housing project. Reported that he is in charge of the POP officers and Transitional Housing Task Force. Also, Mark Boyer is now the Captain assigned to the North area, which is good because he was the area lieutenant for years.
- Nancy provided flyers for the Downtown Security Forum and a new Homeless Services Resource list.
- There will be increased patrols in downtown, especially in the parking structures.

5. Planning & Development -- David St. Pierre

- Most items were covered in Dom's report.

6. Treasurers Report -- Heather Troxel

- Heather was not present, no report.

7. Bylaw Change / Second Reading & Ratification

- Secretary read the proposed changes.
 - ✓ **Motion to approve Bylaw amendments as read.**
- M/S/C: St. Pierre/Fernandes/Carried

8. Nomination Committee Appointment

- Chairman Alex has requested the following members serve as the Nominations Committee: Heather Troxel, Dan Hantman, Pete Kallinger
- It was recommended that Keith send out a reminder that nominations are open, it will include a description of the offices.

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

- There wasn't much community participation at the last Neighborhood Walk. There were many city staff, including police officers. There will be one more walk this year, due to early darkness; it will be on October 26th @6PM. We will meet at 2nd and Market St.
- The Mariachi Festival was very successful. There were 3,500 attendees and no problems. It was very well organized.
- Jazz Festival is on September 23-24. Very good line-up of musicians.
- There will be an American Heart Association Walk-a-thon on October 1st at Fairmount Park.
- Festa Italiana will be October 20-22nd There will be a film festivals as well as the festival at White Park on the 22nd. There is information on the City's web site.
- Anyone interested in being part of a DANA team for the Mission Inn Run on November 12th, contact Keith Alex.

10. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2006

7:00 PM. Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully Submitted,

Chani Beeman, DANA Secretary