



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance  
Riverside, California

## **Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance** Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday, April 21, 2008  
7:25 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

### **Attendees (per sign-in sheet):**

Nicki Sands, Kathy Swanson, Susanne Cesari, Norm Gritton, Rob Robinson, Keith Alex, Janet Clegg, Marquita Thomas, Robbie Kennedy, Joy Kelly, Erich Lewis, Dorette Peterson, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Sierra Vehann, Laurie Sierra, Patty Dean, Dave McNeil, Phil Neglia, Bruce Reynolds, Bonnie Reynolds, Jennifer Gamble, Kim Hodges, Natalie Stewart, Pat Stewart, Jane Block, Pete Kallinger, Heather Troxel, Molly Dougherty, Michael Smith, Mike Gardner, Chani Beeman.

### **1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:25 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions.

This month's meeting began late because the Walton building was locked and a city employee was dispatched to bring the key.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2008.**

Chair Chani Beeman asked that approval of the March minutes be moved till later in the meeting to address concerns by some DANA members regarding their content and possible changes.

### **3. Councilman Gardner's Report**

- Crime: There's been a problem recently with graffiti and vandalism on both sides of Mission Inn Avenue. There's also been a rash of break-ins in the Mt Rubidoux area. Some suspects have been arrested, but RPD's investigation is ongoing.
- Library/museum expansion: Committee has met once so far, and is approaching the issue from a programmatic viewpoint, looking at what types

- Downtown parking: Mike says he is open to a mix of meters depending on the area. The parking committee is working on recommendations taken from the 250 public surveys that were completed.
- Bus depot relocation: Greyhound is 30 days into the 90-day grace period they were given to decide what to do regarding their new location. One possibility: the Old Highway 215 area frontage road – it has RTA connections, not located near sensitive or undesirable businesses, and Mike feels that the addition of a bus depot would have relatively few negative effects on the area. The issue could be on the council’s agenda in late May or early June.
- Fox Plaza Project: The proposed Hyatt Place hotel at the current Stalder building site is controversial; some feel the building as designed will be too tall, others are upset that the Stalder building would need to be demolished to make way for the project. Also, not all of the antique shop owners are interested in selling, and Mike is against the use of eminent domain for redevelopment. Anyone wanting to express their opinion about the Stalder building demolition should attend the Cultural Heritage Board meetings, which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm.
- Tequesquite Park: The park issue was pulled from the council consent calendar for discussion, and due to some public concerns, a consultant will be hired to do some initial drawings.
- Questions:
  - Some of the old issues are beginning to re-surface at Fairmount Park: vandalism at the Rose Garden, drug sales, illegal parking – could more patrols be scheduled? Phil Neglia asked for more info on dates/times to narrow down the problem activities so police can focus their efforts.
  - There’s a problem with dust coming from a downtown construction site. Mike said he would ask the developer to water the area more thoroughly to reduce dust.

#### **4. Riverside Police Department—Phil Neglia, RPD**

Phil Neglia provided more details on problems in the Mt. Rubidoux area – tagging on Beacon Way, two burglaries on Ladera, cacti stolen from the side of the mountain. The graffiti is done by kids, but the burglaries suggest the work of a “professional” since they were done in the middle of the night when residents were home sleeping.

Some local churches are continuing to feed the homeless in the park, but nothing can really be done from a legal standpoint – there are no laws against it. Drug paraphernalia has been found on the ground and in the trash cans before and after feedings. Also, some churches are telling the homeless to ignore the Homeless Outreach Team, that they have a right to be fed in the park – “you don’t have to do what they say.”

Dave McNiell expressed his concern that we’re losing ground in the park, and said we need the park ranger to be a sworn law enforcement officer. Mike said that probably won’t happen. Dave and Molly both asked why not. Chani asked Mike to ask Don to come to the next DANA meeting to address homeless feeding in the park

At that point, Chani asked if the group wanted to continue past the usual 8:30 ending time since we'd gotten a late start.

- ✓ Motion to continue meeting past 8:30 pm.  
M/S/V: McNiel/Gritton/Carried

Picking back up on the earlier topic, Molly asked if in addition to discussing homeless feeding programs, if the issue of having a sworn park ranger could be addressed at next month's meeting; Mike agreed.

**5. Approval of Minutes—Chani Beeman**

Chani brought up the approval of the minutes from the March meeting, explaining that some DANA members were concerned about the way comments by Pat Stewart and others regarding the Friends of Fairmount meeting were described. Chani read the sections under discussion and proposed new language that addressed members' concerns.

- ✓ Motion to amend March minutes to replace section regarding Friends of Fairmount.  
M/S/V: Beeman/Wing/Carried; three abstentions

**6. Chair's Report—Chani Beeman**

Chani will be giving a presentation about DANA at Riverside Downtown Partnership; she has a guest ticket available for anyone who wants it.

As we saw tonight, the new process for the DANA's use of the Izaak Walton building is sort of a work in progress, but bugs are being ironed out and future meetings are expected to go smoothly.

**7. Treasurer's Report—Heather Troxel**

Heather brought the Lucite award given to DANA by the California Park and Recreation Society, for which the group was nominated by Ralph Nunez.

**8. News, Announcements, Reports, Ideas**

- Neighborhood Walk: The next walk will be held in the area near 4<sup>th</sup> and Redwood. Other neighborhoods "nominated" for walks included the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, Fairmount area, the Buena Vista area, and Heritage Square.
- DANA Pride Awards: Nominations for the DANA Pride Awards are being taken; Doretta Peterson made a nomination form which will be emailed out to members. Dave McNiel told anyone with good candidates to feel to call him, drop by, email, etc.
- Friends of Fairmount: Pat Stewart announced that the next meeting of Friends of Fairmount will be held on 4/28 at the Izaak Walton building, and invited all to attend.
- DANA Web Site: Keith, Chani, and Molly volunteered to work together on content for a DANA web site.
- Riverside Land Conservancy: Jane Block reported that the Conservancy is negotiating for the two remaining parcels on Indian Hill, trying to encourage the current owners to sell.

- Riverside Renaissance: Jim Talcott asked Mike Gardner for an update on the progress/changes in the Riverside Renaissance program at the next meeting.

**Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Molly Dougherty, DANA Secretary**