



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance  
Riverside, California

## Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday, February 19, 2008  
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

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

Dave McNiel, Norm Gritton, Chani Beeman, Nanci Larsen, Janice Penner, Roger Dahl, Molly Dougherty, Jenny Anderson, Joan Donahue, Vera Stamenkovic, Jane Block, Robbie Kennedy, Nicki Sands, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Keith Alex.

### **1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:01 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2007.**

- ✓ Motion to approve minutes
- M/S/V: McNiel/N. Larsen/Carried

Due to the absence of Secretary Molly Dougherty and a technical glitch with the recording equipment, there are no minutes from the January meeting.

### **3. Project Updates—Dave McNiel**

Dave McNiel reported on the status of several projects he's been a part of, including:

- Boathouse/Sailing Program: The original boathouse building will be demolished due to its poor condition, and a metal structure put in its place. Boats will be rehabbed that are rehabbable; sponsors will be sought for this. Sailing classes most likely will start in 2009 instead of this summer.
- DANA Pride Awards: Nominations for the DANA Pride Awards will be taken from April 1 to June 1; Keith will send a reminder email if Dave supplies him with text.

- Milesquare NW (aka Brockton) Historic District: Old concrete light standards will be taken down soon, but if anyone is interested in having one, they should contact Dave. It might be possible for them to be delivered to your home.

Nanci reported that letters regarding the District will be going out to residents soon, but there's been some opposition building the area, and the committee members could use some help getting the facts out to the neighborhood.

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

Phil Neglia reported that there's been some gathering of homeless people in the Fairmount/Fifth/Sixth street area, and though RPD is monitoring the situation, no laws have been broken.

The homeless encampment in the riverbottom has been cleared out, but some people are already moving back in.

The freeway panhandlers are around and are being cited when seen, but police can't arrest them just for being there; not everyone is breaking the law.

With the early start for daytime saving time, Neighborhood Walks will begin again in March, in the Bubbling Wells area. Keith will work with schedule with Nanci Castillo and send an email notifying everyone.

There was some questions/comments regarding the City of Ontario's establishment of an official homeless campsite; harassment of customers by the homeless at the Starbucks on Market, and if bathroom access at White Park contributed to the problem of transients/homeless congregating in the area. Phil Neglia said he would see that patrols were stepped up in these areas, though it turns out the bathroom at White Park is not available to the public. Ontario's solution to their homeless population differs significantly from Riverside's, which chooses to reach out to the homeless through the homeless street team, shelters, assistance getting home, etc.

#### **5. Chair's Report—Chani Beeman**

Chani reported that DANA will be recognized for its efforts in downtown improvement by the Riverside Downtown Partnership at its annual meeting/awards banquet. The event will be held at the Marriott, and tickets are \$50 each.

Nanci Larsen was presented with a printed copy of her nomination letter for the Roy Hord award. Unfortunately Nanci didn't receive the award, but the competition was pretty stiff and the group will nominate her again next year.

Chani distributed a copy of the op-ed written by the Library board members, expressing their dissatisfaction with the proposed plans for the library/museum expansion. Chani asked if the group was interested in hosting an informational meeting on the issue as we did on the Tequesquite Park land swap; there's lots of passion surrounding this project but not a lot of real information.

Janice Penner said many people are unhappy with the top-down style of the planning, and that real discussion is needed.

- ✓ Motion to hold special meeting on the library/museum expansion, and contacting representatives from Northside and Wood Streets groups to see if they're interested in partnering with DANA in the effort.  
M/S/V: Dougherty/Gritton/Carried

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

Heather reported that the current balance in the DANA account is \$6,103.38, \$4,240 of which is from the rose garden fundraiser. Eula Moore, a Riverside rosarian, has been invaluable in inventorying and cataloging the roses, and found that 740 new bushes are needed to complete the garden. Park and Rec will make up the balance of the cost for the rose purchase. Since it's such a large job, it will probably take two full weekends to finish. March 8 is the tentative date for the first planting.

Heather also reminded anyone who had not yet done so to please pay their membership dues for this year.

**7. Secretary's Report—Molly Dougherty**

Having been out sick for the January meeting, Molly Dougherty had nothing to report.

**8. Mike Gardner's Report**

Councilman Gardner reported that he had asked Greyhound to put an indefinite hold -- a "gentlemen's agreement" -- on its application for building a new terminal at La Cadena and Interchange. He said they were also thinking about Alessandro and 215 as a possible site, but wants to discuss it with Andy Melendrez first.

Gardner said he and Ron Loveridge are talking about forming a committee to address the library/museum expansion space planning, but that there's also an idea about relocating the museum to another site further down Mission Inn, and selling the current library land parcel as a money raiser.

There was some discussion/questions for Councilman Gardner regarding the ramifications of a relocation/land sale, and he said that nothing was decided, but it was something to consider. Chani told Gardner about the group's earlier decision to host a public meeting on the library/museum expansion, and asked that DANA be included when and if a committee or task force is formed.

**9. News, Announcements, Reports from Group Representatives**

- Friends of Fairmount: Keith and Nanci had attended the first meeting of a new Friends of Fairmount group, and the overall feeling was one of anger, complaints, almost a "torches and pitchforks" atmosphere, but no action. The group was emphatic about not wanting to work with DANA on Fairmount Park issues, and feels that the Fairmount Task Force, at which DANA members participated, was a "railroad job."  
Chani proposed that DANA send 2 DANA group representatives to the next meeting of the Fairmount group on Feb. 25; Nanci, Keith, and Jim Talcott volunteered, and other DANA members to attend as well.

- ✓ Motion to send 2 DANA group representatives to the next meeting of the Friends of Fairmount group.  
M/S/V: McNiel/Kennedy/Carried
- Greyhound Bus Terminal relocation: Joan Donahue said her report on the bus situation was now moot in light of the indefinite hold on Greyhound's plans for a new site.
- Evergreen Cemetery: Keith Alex said work on the cemetery is progressing, with masonry, pavers, and lighting most likely completed in the next 60-90 days. The yearly fundraiser is scheduled for June, and a golf fundraiser in April.
- Riverside Downtown Partnership: Janice Penner reported that the White Park concerts would be starting again in May and finishing by summer. Also that the group is looking at getting another T3 "Ambassador" for downtown if funding permits.
- Friends of the Fox: Janice Penner said that Friends of the Fox had formed a partnership with the Mission Inn Foundation for financial record-keeping purposes, and is no longer a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Mike Gardner said it might be possible to get a new theatre organ donated to the Fox, and if not, then space will be made if one becomes available later on. Maybe this could be a potential fundraising project by DANA?
- Riverside Land Conservancy: Chani asked Jane Block if she would be interested in acting as DANA representative on Land Conservancy issues, and she accepted. Jane said that the Land Conservancy was working to purchase an area near Fairmount Park.

**Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.**

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