



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance
Riverside, California

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park
Monday, July 21, 2008
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Attendees (per sign-in sheet):

Keith Alex, Pat Stewart, Mike Gardner, Lynn Anderson, Vic Williams, Dave McNiel, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Angelo Caesari, Suzanne Caesari, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Steven McElroy, Nancy Castillo, Molly Dougherty, Damon Castillo, Norm Gritton, Jennifer Gamble, Kim Hodges, Jane Block, Bonnie Reynolds, Bruce Reynolds, Janice Penner, Nicki Sands, Arlin Appleford, Gerry Douglass, Tom Donahue, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Patty Dean, Brent Hale, Darrin Olsen, Erich Lewis, Dorette Peterson, Chani Beeman.

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

Welcome and Introductions.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2008.

- ✓ Motion to approve minutes
- M/S/V: Alex/Peterson/Carried

3. Fairmount Park Improvements—Ralph Nunez

Park and Recreation director Ralph Nunez updated DANA members on the status of projects at Fairmount Park, specifically:

- New lighting is being installed along Dexter
- The old senior center building and boat storage shed have both been demolished
- With lake dredging completed, aeration (including fountains) can begin

- Irrigation system using reclaimed water has been installed in the Rose Garden
- A fountain has been installed in the Rose Garden; volunteers recently painted the fence

Next up:

- Universal playground for able-bodied and handicapped children
 - North Hill improvements – landscaping, walkways, reconfigure Banks Drive traffic area
 - Bandshell/amphitheatre with both fixed and festival seating
 - Izaak Walton parking lot re-surfacing
 - Additional parking – West Lake Evans, Rose Garden
 - Add, expand basketball courts; keep existing tennis courts and add two more
 - Attractive gates at entry points (replacing bright yellow ones); Rose Garden is getting a new laser-cut design for gate;
 - Decking
- All projects will be completed in the next 12 months.
 - Park use is up!

Rick Thomas asked if a non-run off pavement method could be used on the parking lots – permeable concrete, gravel. Ralph said it would definitely be considered.

A nature walk area is still being considered for the park, but the Wildlife Conservancy will no longer be involved in the planning.

Sixteen CCTV cameras will be installed in the park for security.

4. **Councilman's Report—Mike Gardner**

Mike reported that Governmental Affairs is recommending a ballot measure to change the city's elections to a plurality instead of a majority, which would eliminate runoffs in close elections. Mike opposes the idea, saying that a lot of good people would not have been elected under a plurality system. He doesn't think there're enough votes to get the measure on the ballot.

Trilussa wants to have nightclub evenings on Fridays/Saturdays/Sundays to increase business, but police are opposed. RPD wants to support downtown businesses, but there have been problems with 18-21 year olds drinking at other downtown restaurants/clubs, and a general concern about noise and rowdiness.

Developer Mark Rubin said he will rent out the live/work units he built on Market if they don't sell soon. Mike isn't worried about this since Rubin has invested a great deal of money in the condos so he'll likely rent them to good tenants and make sure they're well taken care of.

Mike reported that the Rivera Street repavement will be finished sometime this summer.

Mike was asked about the possibility of expanding the museum at the slated-to-be-demolished Fire Station site; the museum/library committee would like this, but Mike doesn't think it's feasible in the current financial climate. Instead, an office building has been proposed for the site, and the developer would allow evening/weekend parking on the property.

5. National Night Out Event—Jim Talcott

Jim reminded everyone about DANA's planned National Night Out event, which will be held on Aug. 5 from 6 to 9 pm at North Hill on the corner of Locust and Houghton. Root beer floats will be served.

Dave McNiel felt that a vote should be taken about expending funds on the supplies needed for the event – flyers, root beer, ice cream, cups, etc.

- ✓ Motion to approve expenditures related to National Night Out event up to \$150

M/S/V: McNiel/J. Larsen/Carried

6. Riverside Police Department—Vic Williams

Tonight is the first meeting for our new RPD representative, Lt. Vic Williams. Lt. Williams reported that the neighborhood walk on July 17 went well – identified some illegal rentals, various code issues, etc., and said he would like to have a member of the graffiti team on the next walk; taggers are now marking on sidewalks, so they are not readily visible unless you're on foot.

Nancy Castillo discussed an incident with a woman who was harassed while walking on Mt. Rubidoux; a man exposed himself to her, and he was later arrested. Nancy reminded everyone to be aware of their surroundings when walking alone.

Nicki Sands brought up a problem in her neighborhood—a woman who alerted code compliance to problems with her apartment (mold, broken windows) is now being threatened with eviction by the landlord. Nicki has already spoken to Lynn and Mike about it, and Fair Housing is getting involved, but she is worried about encouraging people to speak up about problems when they're later retaliated against.

Eileen Takata asked for a neighborhood walk to be scheduled in her area, at First and Fairmount. The tentative date for the walk is Aug. 21 at 6 pm.

7. DANA Web Site—Molly Dougherty

Molly reported the options for setting up a DANA web site and changing the current email system to one that could be maintained by more than one person in case Keith is out of town or unavailable. She had contacted Earthlink and received pricing information for web hosting, email, domain name, etc.

Some members gave information on possible web designers, issues to check into regarding sending email from multiple locations, etc. A subcommittee will be formed consisting of Molly and Bonnie Reynolds to work on the project

- ✓ Motion to approve up to \$300 for DANA web site
M/S/V: Dougherty/Reynolds/Carried

8. Chair's Report—Chani Beeman

Chani discussed the idea of the September DANA meeting serving as a planning/strategy session, to identify projects, goals and basically figure out what we'd like DANA to do and be in the coming year. Tom Donahue offered to donate a meeting room at the Marriott for the evening so everyone could be more comfortable.

Chani reported that DANA was offered the beer concession by the city at the upcoming mariachi festival at Fairmount Park, which could potentially be a big money maker, and asked for members' feedback.

Pat Stewart opposed the idea, and said she was surprised that alcohol was still being served at the festival; Jim Talcott worried about liability issues related to the group serving alcohol; Mike Gardner wondered how DANA wants to be perceived in the community; Dave McNiel was opposed, and asked "why do we need all this money? What are we going to do with it?"; why not sell soda and water like at the Italian Fest?

Chani pointed out this is an example of the kinds of discussions/ideas we can do at the September planning session – decide where we're going, what we're doing, and what's important to us as a group.

- ✓ Motion NOT to explore beer concession at mariachi festival but instead to investigate water and soda concession
M/S/V: Alex/Castillo/Carried

At 8:30 pm, with more important items still on the agenda, Chani asked if the membership favored suspending the usual schedule and continuing past our usual ending time.

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

9. Treasurer's Report—Heather Troxel

Heather reported that instead of a barbecue, a Thank You breakfast has been planned for volunteers and contributors to the Rose Garden planting. The breakfast will be held at the Rose Garden on Aug. 23, with pancakes, eggs and coffee for volunteers, and a "deadheading party" taking place directly after breakfast. Bring gloves, a hat and some clippers and help keep those roses blooming.

10. Sailboat Project—Dave McNiel

On July 4, Dave and Mike Gardner sailed on Lake Evans for about 90 minutes in two boats "cannibalized" from pieces of other boats. They had a great time. There are five boats ready to sail now.

Dave announced the formation of a new entity specifically for the sailing project, a separate association from DANA or Friends of Fairmount Park. Details to follow.

11. Reports from Representatives

Riverside Downtown Partnership: Janice Penner is soliciting interest from downtown businesses who would like to be introduced/featured at future DANA meetings. RDP is also sponsoring two booths for downtown businesses during the Festival of Lights; businesses can “take turns” in the booths for one week at a time, and must commit to staffing the booth according to a schedule.

Friends of Fairmount Park: Pat Stewart announced fundraising plans for projects such as putting a roof over the train, and reinstalling an interpretive plaque from the Fairmount Citizen’s Committee. F.O.F.P meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Izaak Walton Building.

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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