



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance  
Riverside, California

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

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday, June 18, 2007  
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

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

Dave McNiel, Melissa Brown, Damon Castillo, Joan Donahue, Chani Beeman, Molly Dougherty, Tina Lang, Bettina McMahon, Pat Dean, Jean Wong, Rod Wolfe, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Norm Gritton, Janice Penner, Rick Thomas, Eileen Takata, David Lucas, Gerry Douglass, Pete Kallinger, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Dorette Peterson, Erick Lewis, Jerry Crouch.

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

Welcome and Introductions

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2007.**

- ✓ Motion to approve amended minutes  
M/S/V: Kallinger/Larsen/Carried

### **3. Joan Donahue, reporting for Dom Betro**

Joan reported that the old aluminum façade of the Imperial Hardware building is being stripped off, revealing the original building design, and should be done Tuesday.

The question was raised at the last DANA meeting about how to get email notifications about specific issues on the city council agenda, and Joan found out that a system is already in place; anyone wanting to sign up for email alerts should go to [www.riversideca.gov](http://www.riversideca.gov).

Speed hump issue:

As promised, Joan checked into the proposed changes in the traffic calming (speed hump) program – specifically the plan to increase the share of cost for participating neighborhoods, and changes in the approval process. The changes are scheduled to be discussed at an upcoming city council traffic committee meeting. Previously the public’s share of cost for each speed hump was \$2200; if approved, the share of cost would rise to \$3800, an increase of 33%. Joan was told that the increase was due to the higher cost of asphalt. Traffic Management is also considering increasing the number of cars and the average rate of speed required before approving the installation of speed humps in a neighborhood. Joan stressed that no final decisions have been made yet, but that the issue was not yet considered “public information.” She promised to find out when the issue would come up for a vote.

There was a discussion in the group about the relative effectiveness of speed humps vs. stop signs, and concerns about the lack of transparency and public input in the decision making process, and the increased costs to neighborhoods. Another proposal to build a cul-de-sac on Locust, and its possible effect on traffic on Redwood, was also brought up.

- ✓ Motion to send DANA representative to next council traffic committee meeting.  
M/S/V: Kallinger/McNiel/Carried

Anti-littering signage:

Joan reported that an effort is underway to create or revamp anti-littering signage downtown to increase public awareness of littering, and passed out examples of proposed signage for the group to review.

- ✓ Motion to send request to Public Works from DANA to revamp and increase amount of antilittering signage downtown.  
M/S/V: Castillo/Wing/Carried

Some members questioned the value of signage in reducing littering, especially without beefed-up enforcement, and some commented that too many signs create a cluttered look (“sign pollution”). Various ideas were discussed, among them increasing the number of trash cans in busy areas along with signage, and ticketing offenders.

The group decided to amend the motion to recommend a comprehensive review of littering programs, to include signage, enforcement, awareness, increased number of trash cans, and to involve Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful in the effort.

Janice Penner from Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) reported that motel closures on University are increasing the amount of transient activity at the bus station, shopping center, etc., but there was also a concern that stepping up police presence in those areas could instead push transients and prostitutes into residential areas.

Janice said that RDP and the police department are each purchasing a T3 personal transporter (similar to a Segway) to increase the presence of downtown beat officers.

Other issues: road work at Market Street near Ridge is creating a sunken area around the manhole cover (Joan promised to report this to Public Works); there was a problem with transients living in vacant houses between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> streets, and the police were slow to respond.

**4. Treasurer's Report—Nanci Larsen (for Heather Troxel)**

In Heather's absence, Nanci reported that \$250 was disbursed for DANA's sponsorship of the recent Evergreen cemetery fundraiser. Heather will give an update on the group's finances at the July meeting.

**5. Neighborhood Pride Awards subcommittee report—Dave McNiel**

Dave updated the group on the recommendations of the neighborhood pride award subcommittee, which proposed calling them the DANA Pride Awards and focusing on the appearance, landscaping, and structural features (i.e. driveways, fencing, walls) of neighborhood homes. Homes must be nominated by DANA members, and each year's winner would receive a framed certificate, a letter, and a small yard sign with the DANA logo, stating that the home is the DANA Pride Award winner for that year. Dave estimated that the program would cost approximately \$70 per year to administer.

- ✓ Motion to create DANA Pride Award program, with work to continue on the language and design of the certificate, letter, and signage by the subcommittee.

M/S/V: McNiel/Larsen/Carried

**6. Project Updates/News**

- The next neighborhood walk is scheduled for Thursday, June 28, at 6:30 pm at White Park.
- Tina Lang reminded everyone to take a copy of the Park and Rec Department's summer schedule of activities flier. A fishing derby and Shakespeare in the Park are two of the highlights.
- Historic District project (Brockton area) – Nanci reported that residents are working to define boundaries for the area.
- Mt. Rubidoux Task Force – This was pulled from the council's consent calendar in an effort to increase public awareness of the task force's recommendations. It should be rescheduled for mid-July.
- Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful – Damon reminded everyone to take advantage of upcoming free dump days.
- Evergreen Founder's Day event – Nanci Larsen said the event went well, with the home tour especially well received (including DANA's sponsorship of Jim and Laurie's home). Final dollar figures aren't in yet, but money raised will be used for fencing, irrigation (should go in during the summer) and grass seeding (scheduled for October). Plans are already under way for next year's event.

## **7. Riverside Downtown Partnership – Janice Penner**

Janice reported on some of RDP's plans and activities: Ralph Nunez is scheduled to give a presentation on Fairmount Park improvements at the next RDP meeting; new projects include an effort to name downtown alleys, installing art on the pedestrian mall, historic walking tours, and the Mariachi Festival, among others.

RDP will also sponsor the Trolley to go into neighborhoods on Arts Walk nights and Sundays to bring more people downtown. RDP also wants to increase Trolley ridership by encouraging drivers to drive more slowly, ring the bell, and generally be friendly and welcoming to any potential riders. Janice asked for DANA's help with a survey asking people about usage, interest in riding, suggested routes, etc. Several DANA members chimed in with their own Trolley experiences, which tended to be a little *exciting* – though not necessarily in a good way. An RTA representative will be asked to a future meeting to discuss plans for the Trolley.

**Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 16, 2007.  
Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

**Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Molly Dougherty, DANA Secretary**