



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance  
Riverside, California

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

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday, June 16, 2008  
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

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

Dave McNeil, Pat Stewart, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Norm Gritton, Brent Hale, Laurie DeFrance, Jim Talcott, Molly Dougherty, Patty Dean, Keith Alex, Janice Penner, Jennifer Gamble, Kim Hodges, Rachael McElroy, Lisa Diggs, Jean Wong, Joan Donahue, Tom Donahue, Nicki Sands.

### **1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:05 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2008.**

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

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

Greyhound Bus Terminal: Councilman Gardner reported that Greyhound had been denied permission to build a new depot at the 215 interchange. The city has decided not to renew Greyhound's \$1 per year lease, so it's uncertain where a new depot would be located, or even if Greyhound will continue doing business in Riverside. If Greyhound moves its operation to San Bernardino, there's a possibility of establishing a shuttle service between Riverside and San Bernardino.

Fox Plaza: Phase 1A of the project has been approved by city council, and the environmental impact report has also been approved. The developer is considering design changes after getting feedback from Cultural Heritage Board and city council.

Fairmount Park: Lake Evans dredging is completed, construction of a walkway around the park will continue, and renovation/construction of the tennis court will probably happen “sometime next year.”

4. **DANA Pride Award—Dave McNiel**

Dave announced the winner of the First Annual DANA Pride Awards at 3941 Fifth Street. The house was chosen because of the large amount of work the owner put into the home, which is in a “challenged” neighborhood. Dave passed around photos of all the nominees and the winning home.

5. **Museum/Library Taskforce Recommendations—Tom Donahue (for Damon Castillo)**

The Museum/Library Taskforce has submitted its recommendations for renovations to the existing library and museum structures. The recommendations can be found at the library website, [www.riversideca.gov/library/](http://www.riversideca.gov/library/), but basically the task force recommended “separate but equal” facilities for each.

Janice Penner commented that this process has been a good example of community input – there was strong attendance/participation at the public meetings, and it showed that this was an issue that the community felt strongly about.

6. **Chinese Pavilion Relocation / Historic Chinatown Development – Jean Wong**

One of the issues surrounding the library expansion/renovation was the status of the Chinese Pavilion – if it should be moved from its present location, and if so, where? The task force’s recommendation #7 stated, “Do not alter or relocate the Chinese Pavilion.”

Jean read aloud a letter submitted by the Chinese Culture Preservation Committee, of which she is a member, to the planning commission regarding the proposal to build of a medical complex at the Historic Chinatown site at Tequesquite and Brockton, and circulated a petition on the issue.

7. **Riverside Police Department—Phil Neglia**

Sgt. Neglia reported that the neighborhood walk in Heritage Square went well, but they spotted a home that is being renovated for use as a “sober living facility.” Mike Gardner reminded everyone that the owner of the house can have no more than 6 unrelated people in the house without securing a conditional use permit – unless it’s a state-approved facility. Dave McNiel felt that progress in Heritage Square is being hampered by the increasing number of vacant/foreclosed homes, which encourage speculators to develop them for SLFs and halfway houses.

Sgt. Neglia reported that RPD has been called out to the Market Street Starbucks quite a bit lately.

Manhole covers are being stolen – presumably for metal recycling? – and Nancy Castillo asked anyone who notices manhole cover-related problems to please email her at [ncastillo@riversideca.gov](mailto:ncastillo@riversideca.gov).

Crime statistics in the area are down, though they are ongoing problems with tagging all around downtown. Anyone noticing new tagging activity should contact the Tagging Unit so they can identify the tagger's style or moniker.

Since this is Sgt. Neglia's last meeting as the RPD's official representative, Chani presented both him and Nancy Castillo with gift certificates to the Mission Inn as an expression of the group's gratitude for their time and service in the downtown area in general and at DANA meetings and events in particular.

A discussion arose about the location of the next Neighborhood Walk, specifically if neighborhoods should be consulted before DANA schedules a walk there. Keith felt that the walks are positive outreach into the community, meeting neighbors, informing people about DANA, but Chani said some people could feel intruded upon or at the very least wonder what they can expect when DANA walks through their neighborhood with representatives from RPD and code compliance, in tow. Chani felt that if the neighborhood isn't interested or doesn't support a walk in their area that it could be seen by them in a negative way.

It was decided to schedule a walk in the Evergreen Quarter on July 17, though Nancy Castillo will check with RPD, code compliance, etc. to see if that date works for them. An email will go out reminding everyone when the date is confirmed.

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

Chani reported that a meeting on the downtown street sweeping issue will be held on June 23 at 7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the Main Branch library.

#### **9. Treasurer's Report—Heather Troxel**

Heather reported a balance of \$2,376.38 balance in the DANA account.

#### **10. New issues/business**

- Distribution of DANA roster: Distributing the DANA roster to all members had been discussed recently, but Heather reported that some people didn't want their contact information emailed to the whole list. If you want/need to reach another DANA member and don't have their information, contact Heather.
- Mike Gardner told the group that the California Riverside Ballet would perform at 4 pm Wednesday at Bobby Bonds Park.
- Project idea: Chani suggested restoring native plants and grasses to Indian Hill as a possible project for DANA to consider in the fall. The area is owned by Park & Rec, the Riverside Land Conservancy and some private owners. Mike suggested starting with Park and Rec first.
- Chani asked for a volunteer to contact Park and Rec regarding selling sodas and water at the summer Fairmount Park concerts.
- Jim Talcott asked that everyone be aware of rentals being turned into group homes; Keith asked DANA members in the real estate industry to keep the group informed, but we all need to be aware of what's going on in our own neighborhoods. Reminder: A conditional use permit is required for so-called "6-pack" houses, which includes notification of residents and approval by the planning commission, then re-notification of neighborhood residents if approval is received.

- Wayfinding signage will be installed to help people find parking downtown.

### **11. Reports from Representatives**

Riverside Downtown Partnership: Janice Penner announced that the last concert in the spring concert series was coming up, also that RDP was one of the sponsors of Fourth of July fireworks. Janice reminded everyone that RDP has money available for beautification projects if DANA is interested.

Friends of Fairmount: Pat Stewart announced that Nanci Larsen and Jennifer Gamble have been placed on the Friends of Fairmount Board of Directors. F.O.F. meets on the fourth Monday of the month at the Izzak Walton Building.

**Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.**

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