



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):

Keith Alex, Dave McNeil, Heather Troxel, Jerry Crouch, Molly Dougherty, Jim Talcott, Laurie DeFrance, Kevin Bender, Norm Gritton, Tina Lang, Chani Beeman, Jonathan Yorba, Rick Thomas, Eileen Takata, Harrison Heublein, Jean Wong, Gerry Douglass, Pete Kallinger, Nicki Sands, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Joan Donahue, Bonnie Tovaas, Cathy Cato, Damon Castillo, Dorette Peterson, Erick Lewis, Janice Penner, Rod Wolfe, Angelo Caesari, Susanne Caesari, Eric Tani, Vera Stamenkovic, Frances Fernandez.

- 1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:05 p.m.**
Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2007.**
 - ✓ Motion to approve minutes as submitted
 - M/S/V: Kallinger/DeFrance/Carried
- 3. Guest: Jonathan Yorba, new Director of Arts and Culture in the Redevelopment Department, City of Riverside**

Jonathan Yorba introduced himself as the Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Riverside, a new position, and gave DANA members some details on his background and his plans for the city.

Jonathan comes to the city from the Smithsonian Institution, and has an extensive background in the arts. He hopes to create a partnership between the city and the Smithsonian, to help bring interesting cultural events and projects to the city. He also

wants the city to synchronize its efforts with existing arts groups, and work to involve youth and teens in the arts. He's also interested in food and cooking, and plans to continue and expand food tastings, demonstrations by area chefs, and other culinary events.

4. Guest: Bonnie Tovaas, Leadership Riverside

Bonnie introduced the members of the Leadership Riverside class of 2007, a group sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to create leaders in the business community. The class has been learning the ins and outs of city government and developing content and materials for an emergency preparedness program, among other efforts. Two of the group's members gave a Powerpoint presentation to DANA on safety and emergency preparedness, and presented Chani with a binder filled with information and resources.

The group will be hosting a one day safety/emergency preparedness training on June 23, and Frances Fernandez, Pete Kallinger, Dick Wing, Jean Wong, and Molly Dougherty plan to attend.

5. Neighborhood Pride Awards

Dave McNiel reported that the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership will not be presenting Neighborhood Pride awards this year, and suggested that DANA form a subcommittee to investigate the costs, procedures, standards, etc., with an eye toward possibly taking over the project. Dave, Norm Gritton, Dorette Peterson, and Eva Yakutis volunteered to work on the subcommittee.

- ✓ Motion to establish subcommittee to investigate the possibility of DANA taking over the Neighborhood Pride awards.
M/S/V: McNiel/Gritton/Carried

6. Treasurer's Report--Heather Troxel

Heather distributed a statement of accounts/treasurer's report: the group has \$2,370.96 in the bank.

7. Joan Donahue, reporting for Dom Betro

- City council will have the traffic circle landscaping at University and Redwood on the consent calendar soon. Pete asked about getting email alerts regarding agenda items; Joan said the city is investigating that issue.
- Dave McNiel had concerns about the process for building traffic humps in neighborhoods; he says the city is planning a huge increase in a neighborhood's share of cost, with the possible effect the elimination of the program in less affluent areas. Joan promised to check on the issue and report back to DANA.

8. Future Projects

- The last community walk, held in the Chestnut street area, had a good turnout – about 20 people.
- Mt. Rubidoux Improvements – Nothing new to report.
- Historic District project (Brockton area) – Nothing new to report.
- Outreach to other groups – A visitor from a sober living house on Second and Fairmount shared her concern about abandoned buildings being demolished in

Outreach Team, which

works to find housing and services for the homeless.

- Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful – Damon reported on the Great American Cleanup; he said several DANA members showed up, and although he felt the effort could have been better coordinated, it was still worthwhile.
- DANA Rosebush Project – Heather gave an update on the project; both the fundraiser and thank-you barbecue are planned for this September/October, with the extra money from each rosebush purchased (\$1.09) going to DANA to be used for another project, most likely at the park. Some ideas include a birdbath, benches, art, etc. Ralph Nunez has received many positive comments from the public about the recent work and improvements at the rose garden. Future plans include for the rose garden include irrigation, hardscaping, and the enlargement of an open area to be used for weddings and other events; this would mean reducing the size of two of the rose beds. In light of all the work done on the garden by DANA members, Ralph Nunez asked for the group's input on the plans to reduce the size of the two beds and fill in with turf for public events – the work would take place in July.
 - ✓ Motion to approve reducing the size of two beds to allow for more space for public events.M/S/V: Kallinger/Troxel/Carried

**Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 18, 2007.
Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dougherty, DANA Secretary