



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance  
Riverside, California

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

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park  
Monday, October 15, 2007  
6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

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

Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, Carol Schaefer, Dave McNiel, Gilda Torres, Tom Hunt, Jim Broeske, Hilda Gonzalez, David Lucas, Damon Castillo, Erich Lewis, Dorette Peterson, Gerry Douglass, Molly Dougherty, Jim Talcott, Laurie DeFrance, Eileen Takata, Rick Thomas, Sandy Gosselin, Jamie Whittle, Matthew Anderson, Mary Anderson, Bettina McMahon, Norm Gritton, Connie Crouch, Jennifer Baccari, Rod Wolfe, Cathy Emery, Chani Beeman, Jan Gilmore, Keith Alex, Janice Penner, Nicki Sands, Patty Dean, Robbie Kennedy, Randy Blackman.

### **1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 6:30 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2007.**

Dave McNiel asked to have the reference to the proposed fire station building project amended to show that the new fire station will be built behind the existing structure, instead of adjacent, as was reported.

- ✓ Motion to approve minutes as amended  
M/S/V: Castillo/DeFrance/Carried

### **3. DANA Elections/Nominating Committee—Chani Beeman**

Chani asked for volunteers to form a nominating committee for the next round of DANA elections. Damon Castillo, Dave McNiel, and Bettina McMahon volunteered to serve on the committee. The committee will email the standing executive board members to see if they are still willing to serve.

Nominations for the board were then taken from the floor:

Heather Troxel nominated Nanci Larsen for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-chair; Nanci and Molly nominated Heather for Treasurer; Keith and Nanci nominated Jim Talcott as 1<sup>st</sup> vice-chair; Keith nominated Chani as chair, and Heather nominated Molly as secretary.

The slate will be voted on at the November meeting.

**4. Festa Italiana--Keith**

Keith discussed plans for DANA to sell soda and water at the festival, with 20 cases of soda donated by Connie Crouch (thanks, Connie!) Volunteers are needed to staff the booths in two hour shifts. A meeting will be held at Keith's house on Wednesday at 6:30 for anyone interested in volunteering.

**5. Rose Garden Update—Heather Troxel**

Heather reported that tickets have been printed (donated by Quality Printing) for the rose garden fundraiser, and are available for sale by DANA members. Individual tickets are \$10 each; members can also buy books for \$100 and then sell tickets to friends, family, co-workers, etc.

If all tickets are sold, DANA could possibly raise \$4,000 toward the purchase of bareroot roses, with any leftover money used for public art, fertilizer and other supplies, etc. Roses will be purchased in January, and a separate bank account will be established for these funds.

The planned barbecue has been put on the backburner for now, but will be taken up again when the weather is warmer. Pete and Randy are still working with the Weeks Rose Company regarding a possible donation of roses.

Other news: Dave McNiel reports that the Cultural Heritage Board has an awards program for recognizing people who work to preserve historic buildings. For more details, see Dave.

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

Heather reported that the current balance in DANA's bank account is \$2,430.94.

**7. Guest speakers—Fairmount Project**

Tom Hodgeman, architect, spoke about the Fairmount Project, a planned development of 87 live/work condos across from Fairmount Park, on the site now occupied by the Monte Vista Bldg. Hodgeman's team gave presentations on different aspects of the project, and displayed renderings.

The complex will feature 18 work/offices and 87 condominiums. The plan is for business owners to have offices in the front of the complex, and then purchase a condo in the rear, with other, non-business owners buying the other units.

The design will reflect and complement local architecture, and respect existing neighbors and structures. Prices for the units will range from \$325-\$625,000, and should take 1 ½ years to complete.

#### **8. Dom's Report**

Dom reported that one year after approval of the Renaissance project, more than 50% of the proposed projects are underway, and almost half of the needed funds have been allotted. With reports of an additional 80,000 residents moving into Riverside in the next 20 years, Dom said it's important to start providing denser housing options, and different types of places for people to live, work, and play.

Renovations on the Fox have begun, and the restored theatre is scheduled to open in Spring, 2009. Dom said public uses are planned for the Fox, with a non-profit rental rate for local theatre groups. He would like to revive the Friends of the Fox group, and begin fundraising efforts.

Re: parks – the County is ceding Martha Maclean Park over to the City, which will preserve, intact, 1,000 acres of riverbottom land from Van Buren to Colton. There's also a plan to begin reclaiming runoff water from the plant to Springbrook Wash, which would irrigate Reid Park, Martha Maclean Park, Tequesquite, etc. instead of flowing to the ocean. Dom also promises to keep pushing to open the box culvert at Tequesquite and letting the water flow.

#### **9. Guest speaker—Hilda Gonzalez, Office of Housing & Neighborhoods**

Hilda gave a brief presentation on Project Homeless Connect, a one-day event for homeless people to hook up with services and resources that they need, or, in Hilda's words, "one-stop shopping for the homeless." The event will feature services, representatives from social service agencies, medical/dental screening, housing information, and other resources. Hilda asked for volunteers to help people navigate through the various offerings to find the information they need.

**Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 19, 2007.**

**Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park**

**Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

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