



Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance
Riverside, California

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance Meeting Minutes

Izaak Walton Club, Fairmount Park
Monday, October 20, 2008
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Attendees (per sign-in sheet):

Lori Coles, Jennifer Gamble, Kim Hodges, Ronald Velasquez, Norm Gritton, Tom Donahue, Michele Bello, Laurie DeFrance, Dick Wing, Donna Wing, Ross Wiley, Noelle Powell, Ray Diggs, Lisa Diggs, Lynn Anderson, Keith Alex, Chani Beeman, Dave McNeil, Gerry Douglass, Robbie Kennedy, Erich Lewis, Dorette Peterson, Jim Talcott, Frances Fernandes, Jack Larsen, Nanci Larsen, David Lucas, Molly Dougherty, Patty Dean, M. Rubio.

1. Meeting called to order by DANA Chair Chani Beeman at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2008.

✓ Motion to approve minutes

M/S/V: Fernandes/Hodges/Carried

3. Guest speaker: Michele Marie Bello, Bello Salon

As part of the Riverside Downtown Partnership's effort to introduce local downtown business owners, Michele Bello, owner of Bello Salon, spoke about her salon's services, including hair styling for women and men, manicures and pedicures, waxing, and other treatments.

4. Guest speaker: Rob Frye, Frye / Wiles

Rob Frye of Frye / Wiles, designer of the DANA web site, gave an overview of its format and structure. The site's basic structure is based on the site created for the Pick Group, with much of the functionality and features shown there. DANA's site will have its own "look" in terms of color, logo, etc. Chani passed around a sheet asking for permission to photograph houses and use the photos on the website; the idea is to have a revolving database of photos that will populate in a different configuration for each visitor on the site.

5. Planning Meeting Projects / Committees—Chani Beeman

Chani gave a brief explanation of the goings-on at the September planning meeting at the Marriott, and identified the project topics that had been chosen by those in attendance. To go forward with the work begun at the meeting, she had written the name of each project / theme on a giant piece of paper and posted them around the room. She then passed around sheets of sticky colored dots around the room, instructing everyone to take several each and then place the dots on the project sheet(s) they were most interested in, or which they felt had the most merit. After everyone had used up their dots, the different project areas were chosen based on the number of dots each had received. Then the group members were asked to go to the project sheet they were interested in working on, with each project team electing its own chair and vice chair. The project team chairs took down the names of the group members for later contact.

Project committee listing, and their chairs:

- Web site development and maintenance (Molly Dougherty)
- Neighborhood safety (Keith Alex)
- Outreach (no chair designated)
- Hospitality (Dorette Peterson)
- Neighborhood livability (no chair designated)

These committees will stand for 2008-2009, with progress reports provided as needed throughout the year.

6. Councilman's report: Lynn Anderson for Mike Gardner

Lynn reported that work on the downtown mall is nearly complete, and should be finished by early November. Until then, the Farmer's Market will be held on the block between 5th and 6th.

As part of the planning for the expansion of the library and museum, the boards recommended an additional 100,000 sq feet of space, and an additional 70,000 sq feet for the museum. City manager Brad Hudson now has 60 days to come up with his own assessment, including funding options.

The Greyhound station is set to close on Halloween. Alternative sites are possible, but nothing is set yet. No word yet on when RTA plans to move to the Metrolink site.

Renovation of the Fox is on track, and is scheduled for completion in Fall, 2009.

Mission Inn Avenue street surfacing will be finished before the Festival of Lights.

7. Community Walk Results—Arlin Appleford

Arlin gave an update on some of the positive results from the Bubbling Wells community walk. One of the problems was a large weed patch on the right of way, which is owned by the city – the weeds will be cleared and landscaping installed.

Lynn Anderson reported that a Bubbling Wells resident who'd been having ongoing plumbing problems (monthly roto-rooter bills!) is getting help from the Public Works department, which says it can solve the problem without removing the giant oak in his yard.

8. Riverside Police Department—Chani Beeman for Nancy Castillo

Chani channeled RPD community representative Nancy Castillo, who was unable to attend. Chani passed on Nancy's message for everyone to be especially careful in light of the recent robbery of an RCC trustee and her mother at gunpoint after the Inland Empire Hispanic Image Awards at the Mission Inn.

9. Other News

David Lucas spoke about the ongoing problem with drug activity and violence in his Second Street neighborhood, which has recently gotten so bad – with the police department telling him that they can no longer guarantee his safety -- that he has decided to move. David's worried that his efforts at creating a Neighborhood Watch and other work will be lost when he leaves the area, and asked that DANA members keep the neighborhood in mind in the coming year. He feels that without residents like him working to improve the neighborhood, that it's "basically ceding the area to the criminals."

On another topic, Dave McNiel agreed to chair a subcommittee to revisit/potentially revise DANA's current bylaws. Lisa Diggs, Kimberly Hodges, Jennifer Gamble, and Molly Dougherty volunteered to work on the committee with Dave.

Nanci Larsen reminded everyone about the upcoming Evergreen Cemetery fundraiser, "A Celebration to Die For", to be held at the cemetery on November 1. Organized by Kimberly Hodges and Jennifer Gamble, the event will feature Ballet Folklorico dancers, a New Orleans-style Dixieland band, vintage hearse car show, and other activities. Cost for the event is \$10 per person, or \$25 for a family.

Heather Troxel suggested that DANA sponsor the event at the \$250 level.

- ✓ Motion to sponsor Evergreen Cemetery Nov. 1 event in the amount of \$250.
- M/S/V: Troxel/Larsen/Carried

10. DANA 2009 Elections

Nominations were announced for next year's DANA executive board members:

- Dorette Petersen, for Treasurer
- Heather Troxel, for 1st vice-chair
- Nicki Sands, for 1st vice-chair
- Nanci Castillo, for 2nd vice-chair

- Molly Dougherty, for secretary
- Chair, no nominations.

If possible, I would like to break with the normal dignified tone of the minutes to give a brief snapshot of the last few minutes of the meeting, in which potential nominees for the post of Chair were discussed:

“You do it!” “No, you do it!” “If I do it, my boyfriend will kill me!” “I don’t know enough about the job to know if I want to do it” and then another round of You Do Its, No YOU Do Its, until Norm Gritton came up with the diabolical plan of removing Molly’s nomination for secretary and instead nominating her for Chair. To the question of who would take notes at the meetings if Molly was Chair, Lisa Diggs volunteered to stand for secretary in Molly’s place. And with that little problem solved, it was decided by all and sundry to go forward with this plan, while Molly sat in stunned silence, occasionally whimpering in terror.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dougherty
DANA Secretary