
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Aurora Chavez, Susie Doss, Christina Duran, Albert Figueroa, Norm Gritton, Lorraine Hernandez Saint, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Karin Roberts, Taffi Romero and Justin Scott-Coe

Members Absent: Nancy Hart, Jeff Kraus, Nancy Sturmer and Paul Van Doren

Mayor/Council Members: Andy Melendrez Ward 2 and Brenda Flowers, Assistant to the Mayor

Guests: Drazen Alcow, Lisa Diggs, Lisa Golden, Don Gonzales, Sylvia Howell, Donna Krashoff, John Martinez, Joanne Perkins and Ahmad Youngblood

Staff: Eva Yakutis and Hilda Gonzalez, Housing & Neighborhoods Division

1. Call to Order/Introductions –

Chairperson Romero called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for December 1, 2008 –

(Romero/Khalsa/Carried)

3. Mayor’s Neighborhood Governance Proposal-

Item was tabled until February at the Mayor’s Request

4. Visiting Council Members/Mayor’s Office –

Council Member Melendrez from Ward 2 gave the following updates:

- University Neighborhood Association has been dealing with issues resulting from the recently installed soccer field at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). The group has been working closely with UCR and other City departments to help remedy the increase of traffic in the community. The group is meeting consistently and working to resolve the issue.
- Dwight Street Neighborhood Association held their annual Christmas Block party on December 20th. Over 150 neighbors turned out and shared their traditional holiday dishes with each other.
- Sycamore Highlands Association will host a potluck at Island Park on Thursday, January 8, 2009.
- Colony East Neighborhood Association has been dealing with traffic and parties as a result from UCR students that are renting homes in the neighborhood. The group is working with UCR staff and the City’s Traffic Division to help meditate the problem.
- Pearblossom Group has been dealing with traffic issues in the neighborhood. The City has installed a stop sign at the intersection of Pearblossom and Canyon Crest.
- Prince Albert Drive Neighborhood Group had a concern with the school buses that were driving down Prince Albert Dr. in order to access the parking lot to drop off the students at nearby Emerson Elementary. The School District is actively looking into reconfiguring the parking lot to avoid buses on Prince Albert.

Brenda Flowers reported on behalf of the Mayor’s Office as follows:

Distributed a draft of the 2009 Mayor’s Night Out (MNO) Calendar. All dates have been confirmed except September, July and August are dark due to the low community turnout. The Mayor’s Office has decided not hold a meeting in April due to staffing. Every Ward will host a MNO and the Office is staying on the regular cycle throughout the City. Hilda will email out the calendar to the RNP Board.

5. Neighborhood Watch Update –

No Riverside Police Department Representative was available.

6. **Housing and Neighborhoods Report –**

Eva reported on the following items:

- a. Council/Redevelopment Agency Reports – The division anticipates going forward to Council with the Healthy Neighborhoods Assessment report. UCR will conduct the study to help determine the relative strengths and weakness of each neighborhood to assist the city and other agencies and non-profits in directing resources.
- b. City Employee Award Program – Nothing to report
- c. Attendance Report – Wil Lopez will not appeal his dismissal from the RNP. Wil wishes to thank the Board and was thankful for being allowed to participate with RNP. Eva reminded the remaining Board members that they have opportunity to appeal to the Board after three absences. Usually the Board will approve the appeal and the member can stay on. Bob Treen is alternate for RNP Area 5. Chair to contact Mr. Treen.
- d. Roy Hord “Volunteer of the Year” Award – The Riverside Downtown Partnership annually gives this award to the candidate that most exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism. Last year Eva nominated former RNP Board member Nanci Larson who has done so much for the community. This year Nancy put together the Evergreen Cemetery fundraiser and has given so much of herself for the betterment of the community. Eva has asked the RNP to support her in nominating Nanci Larson for the 2009 Roy Hord Award.
(Romero/ Figueroa/Carried)
- e. “Shop Riverside”- Eva handed out literature and bumper stickers on the new “Shop Riverside” Community Card. 1% of all taxable sales within the City returns to the general fund to support city services.
- f. New Neighborhood Groups – No new groups
- g. Neighborhood Conference – First internal staff meeting next week. Subcommittee to meet in the near future.
- h. State of the City on January 22 from 11-2 p.m. – Eva will be sending out email relative to event to invite 4-5 RNP Board Members.
- i. Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) - Eva will send out information about nominating neighborhood groups for an award at this yearly conference. Past “Neighborhood of Year” award nominees are Dwight Street Neighborhood Group, Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance (DANA), Sycamore Highlands and City’s SmartRiverside Digital Inclusion Program that was a finalist for 2008 “Best Neighborhood Program”.

7. **Subcommittee Reports –**

- a. Bylaws Subcommittee – No report
- b. Non-profit Subcommittee – No report
- c. Neighborhood Conference, Marketing and Caucus Subcommittee met on December 3 in the home of Cindy Jensen. *(See attachment for meeting minutes)*
- d. Neighborhood Matching Grant Subcommittee – University Neighborhood Association submitted an application for a matching grant in the sum \$1000. The group would like to use the funds to set up a neighborhood website to serve as an information and resource guide for the University Neighborhood. The group feels a website will make it easier for them to network and share information. Eva reviews all applications before they go before the subcommittee and moved this one forward as the University Neighborhood Association has a strong history and represents the entire neighborhood. **(Romero/Jensen/Carried)**
- e. Neighborhood Awards Subcommittee – No report
- f. Options for 2009 Neighborhood Caucus- *(See attachment for meeting minutes)*

8. **RNP board member reports/activities/neighborhood assistance**

- New Monthly Activity Log was handed out the group. The log will help track events and meetings that the Board members attend and participate. Hilda will send the board the activity log in both a word and a pdf. format. The log data can also be used for the Healthy Neighborhoods Assessment

- Christina Duran has been working with a new group in the City. She last met with the group on December 22. The group was formed by residents who have had issues with Law Enforcement.
- Gurumantra Khalsa reported that a group member sustained fire and water damage to her home. The neighbors have been working to help her get things back in order. Eva suggested she could apply for the various loan programs the City has to offer for housing rehab.
- Justin Scott-Coe reported that the "Green Team" will hold their first meeting on January 11 at his home located at 3633 Beechwood. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Amy Aldana reported that Park and Recreation installed a new light in the back of Bordwell Park. The light has reduced the nuisance the neighbors had been experiencing.
- Susie Doss reported that at one time her street had five foreclosed homes. Susie is happy to report that four homes have been sold and code is working closely with bank on the remaining unsold home.
- Cindy Jensen reported on the Historic Wood Streets 4th Annual Christmas party. Over 400 in attendance. Mayor Loveridge attended and said that "most neighborhoods put up just Christmas lights, but that their neighborhood puts up friendship and support". The group has also come up with way to reduce cost of the newsletter to only \$1 per sheet. The newsletter has been a tremendous tool to help get the word out.

9. **Concerns from Visiting Neighbors –**

- Lisa Diggs- DANA will hold a forum with the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Metro Link and Greyhound. The group is working with other community groups to help keep the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Riverside. The meeting is on January 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Women's Club on 10th Street.
- John Martinez is looking to find volunteers and sponsors for programs he is looking to start in the City. He gave an overview about the various programs and services, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. Scott Andrews asked how the RNP can assist his organization. John would like the RNP help get the word out his programs and services. He is also looking for volunteers and sponsors. Meetings will start in June. He would like to come back and give report of his progress in the near future.

10. **New Business**

- Activity Log Sheet accepted as discussed

11. **Future Agenda Items –**

- Scott Andrews would like to add "Old Business" to agenda. A past item that has not been addressed was to have a RNP member report to council. **(Romero/Aldana/Carried)**
- Cindy Jensen suggested the new log sheet be used to have members commit in advance to monthly meetings such as council.
- Lorraine Hernandez-Saint said there is a new Superintendent for the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD). She recommended he be invited to attend a RNP meeting. He may also be able to suggest a candidate for one of the two vacancies on the RNP Board representing RUSD.

12. **Other Items/Public Comment**

- Taffi Romero asked if someone can commit to attending a MNO. Susie Doss said she will attend both in January and February. Taffi also asked that the meeting minutes be delivered within the week for the Board to review.
- Aurora Chavez mentioned that The Friday Morning Group will have representatives from Greyhound at the January 24th meeting at the Janet Goeske Center.
- Albert Figueroa would like to work on a marketing event at the Big 5 parking lot off of Indiana. He would like to brainstorm about this event plus other business mixers to advertise the RNP and any other groups.

Next Meeting February 2, 2009 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room

Adjournment – 7:47 p.m.

Marketing and Neighborhood Conference Committees Meeting

Dec. 3, 2008

Attending: Justin Scott-Coe, Norm Britton, Scott Andrews, Gurumantra Khalsa, Amy Aldana, Taffi Romero, Cindy Jensen

Guests: Hilda Gonzales

Absent: Christina Duran, Susie Doss, Albert Figueroa, Aurora Chavez

Subject: Changing the Annual Caucus and How to get more people to run for election to the RNP Board

Commenced: 6:40 p.m.

- The past Caucus was discussed, we came to an agreement that we didn't feel the separate caucus on Saturday was successful. We decided to go back to having it as part of the annual conference, but to change the format of the caucus.
- Hilda arrived at 7:30, she brought ideas from Don Smith and Eva about the caucus; to have the caucus become a separate conference to be held annually in November with a key-note speaker. Then there would basically be 2 events each year; May and November.
 - Hilda stated that in order to accomplish this we would have to change the by-laws.
 - The Committee expressed a desire to discuss the topic before bringing it to the board.
 - The committee felt that if we were to change the caucus it would only work if it were completely different than it has been in the past. It is a possibility to make these two events as Office of Neighborhoods suggested. We need to explore this further.
- Scott Andrews introduced the idea of using the graduate roster of the recent Leadership Academy (finished in November 2008) as a list of prospective members to the board.
 - Justin Scott-Coe suggested that we send everybody a letter in a timely manner, to invite them to the monthly meetings of the RNP board to let them get an idea of what to expect when elected to the board. Justin volunteered to draft a letter by the end of the week and e-mail it to all of us for our approval and comments.
 - After committee members' approval and comments, the letter will be sent to Eva for her approval and asking her department to mail the letter to Graduates of the Leadership Academy.
 - In the future, the goal would be to introduce all of the grads of the Leadership Academy annually to the RNP board in December after their graduation.
- We discussed bringing in the current alternates to attend the monthly meetings for the purpose of training and to familiarize them with our procedures. This will help them to acclimate and be productive sooner when they become elected members.
 - We discussed the possibility of changing the by-laws to allow them to vote in the absence of their Area Representative.
 - If this is not possible, we would like to further discuss ideas to make them feel more included and to prevent them from losing interest. We want to keep them motivated; we don't want to lose good people.

- We discussed the monthly RNP Meeting minutes; they need to be delivered in a timelier manner to allow corrections and to provide for accurate recall.
 - Presently we receive the minutes a few days before the next monthly meeting.
 - Cindy will inform the Office of Neighborhoods.
- Our current RNP Board roster is incomplete and we need a new one.
 - Cindy will inform Hilda.
- We want to contact Lisa Diggs, Secretary of D.A.N.A. as a possible recruit for the RNP Board.
 - Cindy will talk to her
- Cindy will contact Erin Snyder (alternate for Area 1) to ask her to come to the RNP Meetings again.
- We need Hilda to know that the event-tracking-list that Amy and Aurora have submitted needs to be completed by January, 2009 so we can put it to use immediately.

Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Jensen