



Monday, February 2, 2009 – 6:30 pm

City Hall – Mayor’s Ceremonial Room
City Hall, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Paul Van Doren

Mayor/Council Members: Andy Melendrez Ward 2, Blake Inman Council Representative Ward 3 representative, and Nancy Hart Ward 6

Riverside Police Department: Police Service Representatives Antoinette Alexander and Tina Shook

Guests: Lisa Diggs, Jacob Hernandez, Donna Krashoff, Dave Lewis, Molly Mathis, and Robert Treen

Staff: Eva Yakutis, Don Smith, Hilda Gonzalez, Housing & Neighborhoods Division

1. Call to Order/Introductions –

Vice -Chairperson Figueroa called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Chairperson Romero arrived and took over the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes for January 5, 2009 –

(Jensen/Doss/Carried)

3. Visiting Council Members/Mayor’s Office –

Council Member Melendrez from Ward 2 gave the following updates:

- Dwight Street – The group would like to form a Citizen on Patrol group. They are also looking to expand their membership to neighboring streets.
- University Drive – The group has been working with the City Traffic Division, various traffic calming tools have been installed to help ease the excess traffic from Sycamore Canyon to Canyon Crest.
- Pearblossom – The stop sign recently installed has been working and the residents are happy with change.
- Colony East – The group has been working to minimize the loud parties caused by the UCR students renting in the neighborhood.
- Sycamore Highland – The group held a Potluck dinner in January.
- University Neighborhood Group – The group will be meeting about the upcoming Perris Valley train line and will be looking to form a task force with other concerned residents.
- Bobby Bonds held the grand opening of skate park and the Youth Opportunity Expo on January 31st; over 500 people were at the day’s festivities.

Council Member Hart from Ward 6 gave the following updates:

- Resident for Responsible Representation held a community meeting about personal safety; over 40 participants attended the meeting at La Sierra Library.
- Park improvements at Challen Park; Parks and Recreation will be installing a dog run, trails, and fencing along the perimeter to name a few. The Council Member extended a thank-you to all those that call in for graffiti removal.
- Hughes Alley behind Tyler mall is completed.
- Approved redevelopment project next to the Toys R Us along Magnolia Avenue will soon begin.

- Although the economy is bad, business at Tyler Mall is going well. Council Member Hart said, “Things are not so bleak in Riverside.”
- Mars’s the Barber in the Arlanza neighborhood will be recognized in March as a “Spark Plug” recipient.

Council Member Bailey’s Legislative Assistant Blake Inman reported the following updates:

- 5 Points intersection, which is Central Avenue, Magnolia Avenue, and Brockton Avenue should be completed soon
- There was a Neighborhood graffiti clean up at Nichols Park; about 50-60 people volunteered for the clean up. The Council Member is looking for volunteers for future clean up projects.
- The Council Member is looking to expand the GREEN Wall Program. This program is designed to landscape block walls in the community.
- Mt. View Park improvements include swings for young children.
- Andeluka Park improvements are on their way and should be completed soon.

4. Neighborhood Watch Update –

- Antoinette Alexander informed the group that she was representing the West Policing Area under the command of Lieutenant Bob Williams. She handed out the RPD’s “Who to Call List,” which has the numbers of various city departments. The West Policing Area has formed a partnership with students from La Sierra University to develop a neighborhood newsletter. The local business watch group along with Vons market will meet to discuss the concerns they have with homeless individuals sleeping at the bus stop in front of the market.
- Tina Shook informed the group that she was representing the Central Policing Area under the command of Lieutenant Bruce Loftus. Tina reported an increase in theft and encouraged residents to secure their personal belongings and please spread the word.

5. Housing and Neighborhoods Report –

Eva reported on the following items:

- Council/Redevelopment Agency Reports – Eva gave overview of the upcoming items going before Council.
- Attendance Report – Paul Van Doren has now missed 3 meetings. A letter from chair will be sent and Paul will be given the opportunity to appeal his dismissal.
- New Neighborhood Groups – Wood Streets Green Team
- Mayor’s Night Out – Good turnout at the event in the Arlington South neighborhood.
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program – Riverside was the first City in the nation to submit for funding through HUD. 160 homes have been identified and the city is currently looking at another 60. The city has 18 months to spend \$6.7 million on homes to sell to low to moderate income families.

6. Subcommittee Reports –

- Neighborhood Conference – Eva and Don reported on this year’s theme for the conference; Riverside’s... Past, Present and Future. Workshops will focus on the past, present and future in separate program blocks.
- Marketing – Jensen is working on an article in the Riverside magazine
- Caucus – The RNP Caucus will take place in the Fall. The caucus will become an annual meeting of the RNP and a keynote speaker will be invited to attend.

7. RNP Monthly Activity Reports –

- The following members submitted activity reports for the month of January:
 - Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Aurora Chavez, Justin Scott-Coe, Norm Gritton, Karin Roberts, and Nancy Sturmer

8. Old Business

- Board Vacancy in Area 5 - Bob Treen who was the Area 5 alternate has agreed to fill the vacancy left by Wil Lopez.
- RNP reports to City Council

- Doss suggested someone report to council in June after the conference. Kraus suggested it should be before the conference. Andrews said it should be more of a monthly report. Andrews agreed to take lead and organize the RNP board members representative for a monthly updates at City Council meetings.
- Andrews asked that the employee award be added to old business.

9. New Business

- NUSA Conference – Don reported that the Housing & Neighborhoods Division will pay for three people to attend. It was suggested that the opportunity be given to board members who have never been to the conference with priority going to Board Officers followed by board membership seniority. Don asked if the board would like to use another criterion; no one replied. Board members were asked to indicate their interest in attending by e-mail before the next meeting.
- NUSA Awards – Application information was share with the group.

10. Concern from Visiting Neighbors –

- Molly Mathis – asked if Taffi Romero’s email address be verified on the website. Molly is working with other neighbors to form a task force to prevent tagging. Molly expressed concern with a possible turf war between taggers. She also said there is not enough police presence at Bushnell Avenue, Campbell Avenue and Norwood Avenue otherwise known as 5 Points.

11. Future Agenda Items –

- Jeff Kraus asked to put the amendment of the Bylaws as an action item on the agenda.

12. Announcements.

- Karen Roberts – Earth Day event on at White Park on April 25th from 11-4p.m. this is a community and family event. Karen extended an invitation to Justin Scott-Coe’s Green Team and the RNP to host a booth.
- Albert Figueroa - Calvary Presbyterian will be hosting a Valentine Dance on February 14th from 6-9p.m. There will also be ballroom dancing
- Nancy Sturmer - Dickens Festival on February 6 in the Downtown Neighborhood
- Jeff Kraus - UCR is promoting the Copernicus Program for kid’s K-12. They meet twice a month at the Cesar Chavez Center; this is a free program.

13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:48p.m.

Next Meeting March 2, 2009 – Mayor’s Ceremonial Room