



Monday, March 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, Justin Scott-Coe, Susie Doss, Christina Duran, Norm Gritton, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Jeff Kraus, Karin Roberts, Taffi Romero, and Robert Treen

Members Absent: Aurora Chavez, Albert Figueroa, Lorraine Hernandez Saint, Nancy Sturmer and Council Member Nancy Hart

Mayor/Council Members: Andy Melendrez Ward 2

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

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

1. Call to Order/Introductions –

Chairperson Romero called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for February 2, 2009 –

(Scott-Coe/Aldana/Carried)

3. Visiting Council Members/Mayor’s Office –

Council Member Melendrez from Ward 2 gave the following updates:

- Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group and Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB) partnered for a clean at and around the park. Over 200 individuals help clean up 1.4 tons of trash. Two families that lost their sons recently planted trees in their honor. Project Bridge is providing counseling for the families.
- A community with an HOA near the intersection of Martin Luther King and 14th Street is working to possibly form a neighborhood group within their community.
- University Drive Neighbors are working with the Traffic Division to install calming measures from Sycamore Canyon Drive down to Canyon Crest.
- University Neighborhood Group conducted a community clean up along Watkins Drive; the group successfully gathered a lot of trash. The group has actively been participating during the public comment hearing pertaining to the proposed Perris Valley train line.
- Sycamore Highlands Community Action Group is making plans for their 2009 Shamrock Run Soap Box Derby on March 28.

Council Member Adams Ward 7 representative Frank Arreola gave the following updates:

- The ward is continuing with their neighborhood cleanups with great success. On February 28 the community held a “Graffiti Paint Out” at Crest and Rutland; about 25 volunteers participated in event. The Council Member would like to encourage residents to volunteer in their community.

4. Neighborhood Watch Update –

West Police Service Representative Antoinette Alexander reported the following:

- She distributed their quarterly newsletter in which they partnered with La Sierra University.
- Forming a business Watch of the restaurants at the Galleria.
- RPD is working with the local schools as part of the *Read Across America* Campaign.
- Follow up neighborhood watch meeting with the residents along Harold Street on Thursday, March 26.
- Senior Information Conference on March 25 from 8-1p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center.

Central Policing Service Representative Tina Shook reported the following:

- Around Washington and Indiana the community is dealing with homeless individuals
- RPD is still reporting an increase in crimes of opportunity

5. **Housing and Neighborhoods Report –**

Eva reported on the following items:

- a) Council/Redevelopment Agency Report(s): The City's is responding to the current foreclosures situation by implementing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The first home has been purchased under this program.
- b) Attendance Report – Paul Van Doran is not going to seek to stay on the Board.
- c) Southern California Neighborhood Partners Quarterly Meeting will be on March 25 from 11:30 – 1p.m. in the City of Monrovia. Participating city's share best practices.
- d) The Downtown Library on the 10th and Lemon will be hosting a free workshop on the basics of HOA's. The County Bar Association will be conducting the workshop.
- e) Mayor's Night Out was held at Pachappa Elementary on February 18.
 - a) Riverside Downtown Partnership honored neighborhood leader Nancy Larson with the Roy Horn Volunteer of the Award at their annual dinner. A number RNP members sat attended the dinner as guests of the H & N Division.
 - b) Association of Volleyball Professionals Tour is coming to the City of Riverside in April.
 - c) Cultural Heritage Board is asking for nominations for individuals, organization, groups or agencies that you feel are deserving of recognition for the work they have done in preserving the City's history.
 - d) The Division is working on Neighborhood Cultural Exchange Course to help promote language learning and cultural understanding within a neighborhood.

6. **Subcommittee Reports –**

- a) Neighborhood Conference – Subcommittee met on 2/23/09 for conference brainstorming. Notes from the meeting were distributed to RNP members. Next conference planning meeting will be held on 3/16/09 at 5:30 pm, 5th floor, City Hall.
- b) Marketing – Cindy Jensen will be working with Eva on an article for the Riverside Monthly. The article will be on the RNP and the upcoming Neighborhood Conference.

7. **RNP Monthly Activity Reports –**

- The following members submitted activity reports for the month of February: Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Norm Gritton, Cindy Jensen, Karin Roberts, and Nancy Sturmer
- Amy will gather the figures from the log and use it towards the yearly report.

8. **Old Business**

- NUSA Conference 2009 – The City is sponsoring Conference attendance for three RNP members along with Eva. Seven members expressed interest in attending - Aldana, Andrews, Scott-Coe, Doss, Jensen, Figueroa, and Romero. Selection of members for sponsored attendance was based on three factors – members who have never attended before, RNP Board officers and Board member seniority. (Albert subsequently identified that he is unable to attend). The following members were selected for sponsored attendance at this year's conference in Spokane, Washington – Taffi Romero, Susie Doss and Cindy Jensen. All other members interested in attending are welcome to join the delegation at their own expense.
- RNP Report to Council – Scott Andrews will organize a system for Board members to give RNP updates to the City Council during public comment period.

9. **New Business**

- RNP Annual Meeting and Neighborhood Caucus – Discussion on promoting, planning and bylaw changes necessary for the event. Bylaw and marketing subcommittee to meet before next RNP. Cindy Jensen offered to host meeting on March 30 at 6:30.

10. **Concern from Visiting Neighbors –**

- Judy Cunningham and Nicki Sams commented on their neighborhood near White Park. They reported an increase in loitering, drug use and prostitution. They have formed a watch group with some of the neighbors, but are having difficulty getting everyone involved. The group is

working with the police department and other city departments to help rid the problem. The group meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Mount Rubidoux Manor, 16th floor beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- Norm Gritton – Wanted to know why Mayor's Night Out (MNO) was not hosting a meeting in Ward1; he will contact Mayor's Office and inquire about MNO.
- Arlington Annual Chili cook off is set for Memorial weekend on Magnolia Avenue between Van Buren and Jackson. Booth space is available for more information contact Sherri Gomez at 951.509.1100

11. Future Agenda Items –

- None

12. Announcements.

- Historic Wood Streets Association quarterly meeting on March 28 at 10:00a.m. in the RCC Alumni House, 3564 City College Drive. The new president at Riverside Community College will be present. Nancy Sturmer is looking for homes for the annual Old Riverside Home Tour.
- Habitat for Humanity is hosting Earth Day at White Park on April 25. Everyone is invited. Booths space is still available for local groups.
- Justin Scott-Coe announced that the Green Team will meet again on April 19
- Jeff Kraus announced that UCR is starting a community garden. The first Saturday in April the campus is hosting the 36th annual U.C. Riverside Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale. March 17 is the inauguration of the new Chancellor.
- In July Habitat for Humanity will host a clean up in ward 6

13. Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.**

Next Meeting April 6, 2009 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room