



Monday, April 6, 2009 – 6:30 pm

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

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Amy Aldana, Aurora Chavez, Scott Andrews, Justin Scott-Coe, Susie Doss, Christina Duran, Norm Gritton, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Jeff Kraus, Karin Roberts, Taffi Romero, Nancy Sturmer and Robert Treen

Members Absent: Albert Figueroa, Lorraine Hernandez Saint, and Council Member Nancy Hart.

Mayor/Council Members: Brenda Flowers, Mayor’s Office, Andy Melendrez Ward 2, Frank Arreola, Council Representative Ward 7.

Riverside Police Department: West Police Service Representatives Antoinette Alexander

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

1. Call to Order/Introductions –

Chairperson Romero called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for March 2, 2009 –

(Aldana/Andrews/Carried)

3. Mayor’s Office/Visiting Council Members –

Brenda Flowers from the Mayor’s Office gave the following updates:

- May’s Mayor’s Night Out has been changed to May 13 at Orrenma Elementary 3350 Fillmore Street in the La Sierra South Neighborhood.

Council Member Melendrez from Ward 2 gave the following updates:

- Cridge Street Community Association group held a meeting which focused on a problem house in the community. The group has been working to resolve issues on three other properties that have been a cause of concern. The group is now concerned with the illegal dumping that is happening along the alley which parallels Cridge Street and Denton Street, between Victoria Avenue and Grove Avenue.
- Sycamore Highlands Community Action Group held their Annual Soap Box Derby a few weekends ago. They also hosted a cheese and wine event at the local winery.
- University Neighborhood Association has been dealing with RCTC Perris Valley Line and parking restrictions in the community.

Frank Arreola Ward 7 area representative gave the following update:

- Saturday, April 25 in wards 6 & 7 will be partnering with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB) for a community clean up and tree planting at Rutland and Bryant Parks.

4. County of Riverside District Attorney Office – No Show

5. Neighborhood Watch Update –

West Police Service Representative Antoinette Alexander gave the following report:

- Still working on our Senior Fair for that is scheduled in May with over 14 agencies attending.
- Lt. Williams met with all the restaurants at the Galleria. Lt. Williams has been asked to re-start Cops and Clergy. This will be city wide; we have already met with area clergy and have formed a small committee to restart the program.
- RPD attended the Alvord Town Hall meeting with principals from varies schools. The next Town Hall meeting will be on April 28, 2009 at Loma Vista Middle School at 7:00 p.m.
- West Policing Area partner with Arlington Business Partnership (ABP) for a “meet and greet” event at the business complex on the corner of Arlington Avenue and Van Buren. It was a fun

event; ABP bought the businesses a cup of coffee and provided information. Detective Rodriguez and the Police Service Representative were there to answer any questions business managers may have had.

- RPD met with the Auld Dubliner this week as a follow up meeting and hope to continue monthly meetings just to touch base on how they are doing.

6. Housing and Neighborhoods Report –

Eva reported on the following items:

- a) Council/Redevelopment Agency Report(s):
Eva reported on the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and announced that the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program is suspended until further notice.
- b) Attendance Report – Albert Figueroa and Nancy Sturmer each have 2 absences.

7. Subcommittee Reports –

- a) Neighborhood Conference –
Cindy reported on the meeting held on March 30; she handed out meeting minutes. Don asked for RNP members to volunteer for pre-conference set up and assignments for the day of the conference. Don also handed out this year's workshop descriptions and asked for RNP members to be presenters in some of the workshops. Taffi asked if RNP can have a letter of solicitation for conference prizes. Conference subcommittee will meet on Tuesday April 21, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room.
- b) Matching Grant – Wood Streets Green Team applied for a matching grant to help offset the cost of their Community Gardening Workshop on April 19, 2009 at RCC. Pat Silvestri spoke on behalf of the Green Team. Part of the matching grant funds will go to pay for insurance for the workshop. Karin suggested that perhaps Habitat for Humanity can co-sponsor with the Green Team to help with the insurance liability. No further questions or comment. Motion for approval of the Matching Grant Funds carried unanimously. (Gritton/Aldana/Carried).
- c) Bylaws – Proposed amendments to Bylaws were discussed. A motion was made to table the item for the following month in order to give the board time to review. (Aldana/Sturmer/Carried)
- d) Awards – Don asked for members to nominate individuals and groups for the Neighborhood Spirit Award and the Jack B. Clarke Award.

8. RNP Monthly Activity Reports –

- The following members submitted activity reports for the month of March:
Scott Andrews, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Justin Scott-Coe and Nancy Sturmer.

9. Old Business

- a) RNP Report to Council – RNP will begin to report during public comment.

10. New Business

- a) RNP membership application – Robin Treen for the Business Representation seat and Frank Bernard for the Non-Profit/Community of Faith seat. Both Robin and Frank shared a few words as to why they would like to part of the board. Taffi asked for a motion to move forward (Sturmer/Jensen/Carried). Both applicants' names will move forward to the Mayor's Nominating and Screening Committee.

11. Concern from Visiting Neighbors –

- none

12. Future Agenda Items –

- Eastside Neighborhood Plan Draft

13. Announcements.

- Paul Chavez - Villegas Community Center will host a forum for the Ward 4 candidates on April 29 at 7:00 p.m.

- Jeff Kraus – UCR will host a free lecture, Habitat for Humanity: A Model For Tomorrow's Home on April 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room E, UCR Extension building, 1200 University Ave.
- Wood Streets Green Team will be hosting a booth at the Earth Day event at White Park on April 25 from 11 – 4 p.m. The Green Team is asking for RNP members to join them in the booth to help promote the activities of the RNP.

14. Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

Next Meeting May 4, 2009 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room