



Monday, June 1, 2009 – 6:30 pm

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

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Aurora Chavez, Susie Doss, Albert Figueroa, Norm Gritton, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Taffi Romero, Justin Scott-Coe, Nancy Sturmer, Bob Treen, and Robin Treen

**Members Absent:** Frank Bernard, Christina Duran, Nancy Hart, Lorraine Hernandez Saint, Jeff Kraus, Karin Roberts

**Mayor/Council Members:** Blake Inman, Field Representative, Ward 3

**Riverside Police Department:** Police Service Representative Antoinette Alexander

**Guests:** Judy Cunningham, Bill Cunnison; Frances Racobs, Nick Heyming, Spencer Allen, Nicki Sands, Yolanda Scurtock,

**Staff:** Eva Yakutis and Don Smith, Housing & Neighborhoods Division/Deanna Lorson, Development Director

**1. Call to Order/Introductions –**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes for May 4, 2009 –**

(Aldana/Khalsa/motion carried)

**3. Visiting Council Members/Mayor’s Office –**

Blake Inman Council Representative Ward 3 gave the following updates:

- Neighborhood Conference – He congratulated everyone on a great conference. He commented that it was well-attended and gave kudos.
- Mt. View Park – Improvements to playground two weeks from completion.
- Fly trap is complete, Councilmember wants new name for it.
- Andulka Park grand opening took place. Some aspects not open yet, but the fencing around those areas to come down next week.

**4. Neighborhood Watch Update –**

Antoinette Alexander reported on:

- Senior Conference
- Good sponsors for light breakfast and sack lunch.
- Meet and greet Arlington Business Partnership from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow welcoming a new Mexican restaurant.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> - Arlanza Cybrary opening
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Warren Street Neighborhood Watch meeting, 30 attendees. Mayor’s Night Out will be in that neighborhood next week.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - Loma Vista had their first family fun day.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> - MAS group meeting was held. Attendance for this meeting had 30 to 35 people, with approximately 20 kids.
- Question about NNO – Not sure if they can get Fire or Code on board but is positive that the Riverside Police Department will be participating and encouraging neighborhoods to have events.

## 5. **Housing and Neighborhoods Report –**

Eva reported on the following items:

- Council/Redevelopment Agency Reports – Eva indicated that reports are going to council on June 9<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> Street management and Neighborhood Stabilization Program update as well. Other reports since last meeting – HPRP, CDBG-R, Mayor’s Healthy Neighborhoods Assessment.

### **Chairperson Romero arrived at this time.**

- Attendance Report – Lorraine Hernandez Saint has decided not to continue on the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership Board.

## 6. **Subcommittee Reports –**

- Neighborhood Conference – The pros and cons were discussed:
  - i. Cindy Jensen brought cake because she was so proud of the great job done at the conference. There was a huge participation of the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership, door prizes, and everyone who participated.
  - ii. Cindy Jensen suggested having a potluck to debrief.
  - iii. There was discussion about lack of enough information on the Neighborhood Caucus.
  - iv. Cindy Jensen mentioned the need to recruit people from each neighborhood for next year’s caucus with flyers.
  - v. Scott Andrews suggested that we may want to offer some of the presentations to large neighborhood groups
  - vi. It was mentioned that we should have room hosts count how many people are in each class.
  - vii. Aurora Chavez mentioned that a lot of people missed close contact with each area to interface and network. RNP should make the caucus that type of event.
  - viii. Cindy Jensen suggested that those elected at the caucus could discuss what others want to see in their area.
  - ix. October 24<sup>th</sup> in Bordwell Park is date of Caucus
  - x. Scott Andrews commented that there were a lot less people in the end, not in the beginning of the conference
  - xi. It was suggested that maybe RNP could do door prizes at the caucus.
  - xii. There is interest in the videography project.
  - xiii. Powerpoints should be available on the website.
  - xiv. The website needs more clarity on how people can connect with neighborhood groups.
  - xv. RNP’s phone number should be more prominently displayed on the neighborhoods’ webpage.
  - xvi. June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the fourth Monday of the month, there will be a subcommittee meeting and potluck at Jensen’s house.
  - xvii. The Green workshop was well attended with 20 or 30 people.
  - xviii. The evaluations of the conference need to be done by the meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - xix. There was not enough impression made where people should go back under the tent for the closing ceremony.
  - xx. Norm Gritton met Rhonda Chatham at the conference. She lives near 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Lemon/Lime in the Townhouse Apartments. A meeting is being arranged at the Women’s Club with Nancy Castillo.
  - xxi. Need all area representatives at the organizing workshop so people could network.
  - xxii. Agenda needs to be put on the website.

## 7. **RNP Monthly Activity Reports –**

Amy Aldana produced spreadsheets that were distributed around the room.

## 8. **Old Business**

- Scott Andrews brought up Riverside Neighborhood Partnership business cards.
- City Staff could provide a template and obtain a cost quote.

**9. New Business**

- Albert Figueroa met a man that started a new magazine, Paper View, and had been invited to attend but did not attend.
- Albert Figueroa suggested a website for RNP, RNP.com, or a link from the city's website.

**10. Concern from Visiting Neighbors –**

- Nicki Sands commented that she is going to the City Attorney, helped a lot in their neighborhood. They have the full attention of the police department. There is a new manager at the problem property. A number of bad actors have been evicted.
  - Had a light put in the alley.
  - An arrest took place during their last Neighborhood Watch meeting.
  - Looking at having the neighborhood declared a drug-free zone
  - charges brought against people in the neighborhood.
  - Suggestion of business watch.
  - Dales Center and Park and Recreation staff helping to move people along.
  - Next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the library of Mt. Rubidoux Manor.

**11. Future Agenda Items –**

- Eastside Neighborhood draft plan for next month.
- Neighborhood Livability Program will be arranged for subsequent meeting
- C.O.P. program initiative – would like a presentation.

**12. Announcements.**

- Gritton is looking at getting a Magnolia Center group together similar to D.A.N.A. for next Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, in the art room.
- Elections are tomorrow.
- Grow Green
  - Nick Heyming and Spencer Allen are the founders of Growcology. They are looking to do Green training on a five-acre property, food production, and drought tolerant garden. Workshop this weekend: nativescapes and edible landscaping with professional landscape designers.
  - My Green Riverside – website to offer all organizations in the city to contribute as to their green activities.
  - Justin Scott-Coe – On June 14<sup>th</sup> there is an energy conservation and solar power workshop at Green Team.
  - Susie Doss gave Eva Yakutis a gift basket from RNP.

**13. Adjournment**

- **Meeting adjourned at 7:45**

**Next Meeting July 6, 2009 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room**