
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Cindy Jensen, Justin Scott Coe, Nancy Sturmer, Christina Duran, Gurumantra Khalsa, Scott Andrews, Susie Doss, Jeff Kraus, Taffi Brandriff, Aurora Chavez, Albert Figueroa, Norm Gritton, Nancy Hart, Karin Roberts, Bob Treen, Robin Treen

Mayor/Council Members: Mayor Ron Loveridge, Council member Andy Melendrez

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Arredondo, Judy Cunningham, Richard Long, Nikki Sands,

Staff: Eva Yakutis and Don Smith, Housing & Neighborhoods Division; Antoinette Alexander, RPD

1. Call to Order/Introductions – Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Chairperson. Introductions followed.

2. Approval of Minutes for July 6, 2009 – (Scott-Coe/Andrews/Carried)

3. Presentation by Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge. Mayor discussed his request that RNP make a report to the City Council on a regular basis. He asked that RNP makes reports to the City Council not just before the conference but periodically to share accomplishments. He recommends they not do a presentation but rather possibly in the afternoon as a direct report to the city council; however, he would like the larger community to see any presentation because people watch on TV, etc.

How to do this? Difficulty is that other groups and boards would feel that they should get time to report. It may be a slippery slope so mayor asked for input.

Chair reported that the marketing subcommittee wants to get information about the RNP into the community, information about the Neighborhood Caucus on October 24, events, and requested that the RNP have five minutes once a month to talk about what is going on, what has been accomplished and upcoming events like Green Team, etc.'

Mayor asks Andy Melendrez for input. As a chair of the governmental affairs committee, Council member Melendrez would like to explore it some more.

Discussion followed. Mayor suggested after presentations on the calendar but after discussion calendar the RNP would have five minutes – three for brief presentation with a few slide and then two minutes for any questions.

Request made of RNP chair to present on the Tuesday following the monthly RNP meetings which would be the second Tuesday of the month. Mayor suggests every other month. Chair reminds the group that the Neighborhood Caucus this year is in October and the group would like to be sure it is well publicized.

Final consensus: Three minutes maximum for presentation with two minutes for council questions. PowerPoint and visual is good. It will be temporary as a pilot and be done three times, starting in October on October 13.

Second point the mayor makes is a Neighborhood Governance proposition that he presented to the Magnolia Avenue Neighborhood Alliance. The Mayor sees neighborhoods as critical element

in local government. Mayor distributes a memo with ideas he has thought about as mayor and council member. His strong interest in neighborhood capacity building started with attendance at a Neighborhoods USA conference. Discussion followed as to the outline he prepared.

Mayor discusses his proposal. The City has the 26 neighborhoods identified by planning department in the City with six or seven neighborhood-wide organizations that have no formal recognition by the city. He would like to formalize those groups as Neighborhood Councils with the RNP sanctioning those groups first. If approved by the council, the formalization and Neighborhood Governance concept would start after the first of the year with a \$50,000 budget covering the remainder of the fiscal year. He stresses that the concept he is proposing is a work in progress and not all of the elements proposed will necessarily be included in the final and others may be suggested. As conversations happen, it may change. Would like input and will return to the RNP in November.

Mayor goes on to state that if the proposal works, he doesn't expect all 26 neighborhoods to have a council but may end up with 12, 15, 18. Mayor will return to RNP in November for formal support for something like this.

Christina Duran asks where the money to support would come from in light of the economy. Mayor discussed with City Manager and thinks it is possible. Some of it is priority for the council.

Justin Scott Coe said it was very exciting.

4. Visiting Council Members/Mayor's Office –

Brenda Flowers - Announced Mayor's Night Out in the Ramona Neighborhood on September 30 and the Walk with the Mayor on Saturday the 19th at Hidden Valley Wilderness Area. Special guest is Stan Morrison from UCR.

Councilmember Melendrez – National Night out big success at Cesar Chavez Community Center. Helicopter and booths and lots of kids. Also one at Islander Park with 150 people attending. Sparkplug award to the McNalls in University Knolls Neighborhood at Canyon Crest Drive. Many successes with the Dwight Street group. They have a new chair now. Lincoln Park group active and has challenges with loitering but working with law enforcement. Cridge Street group meets on Saturdays and has few local issues. New group is a seniors group at TELACU las Fuentes that meet monthly. Starting another group at J.E. Wall Victoria Manor. First meeting was on Friday and they wanted a recycle bin. 25 to 30 seniors at their first meeting.

5. Neighborhood Watch Update –

Antionette Alexander from RPD – NNO big success in the west end of town. Cardenas Market a partner and provided food and cake for everyone. She has been working with Warren Street and has had three or four meetings. They will be adopting the Bryant Park and starting the Safe Parks program again where neighbors adopt a park and work with police and park and others. Reported on some mitigating efforts to stop crime in a particular apartment area. Cops and Clergy continues to meet and is renamed to PCP (Police and Clergy Partnership). Met with Taco Bell complex which has new security. Riverwalk has a new Neighborhood Watch with Richard Long's help. Had 25 people at first meeting. Met with Kaiser staff who go out to people's homes to give them safety training. Passed out booklets on from Target.

6. Housing and Neighborhoods Report –

Eva gives detailed report on all reports that went to the City Council and Development Agency over the last month from the Division. Cindy Jensen to write a letter for everyone to sign for Aurora. Discussion of how to welcome the new family at Gobreuegge.

7. Committee Reports –

- Bylaws – no report
- Marketing -
 - Wood streets really pushed the leadership academy

- Next meeting at Justin Scott-Coe's home September 28 to discuss
- Caucus planning
- Presentation at council

Don Smith presented on which groups responded to the survey as to whether they were active and passed out caucus postcards. Discussion of adding members from individual groups to our mailing list. Also discussion of email blasts that go out repeatedly because it takes a lot of them to get to people to participate.

8. RNP Monthly Activity Reports –

Everyone was told to email their activity reports in. Don offered to send the blank activity report form out with agenda and minutes.

9. Old Business –

Leadership Academy – RNP is providing trainings for Neighborhood Organizing 101 and Cindy is leading but needs help. Taffi is presenting all about the RNP and would like some help. Sessions are 7 pm to 9 pm, shortened from traditional 6 pm to 9 pm due to budget cut. Would like RNP reps at the six nights where we don't have an RNP rep providing a presentation.

10. New Business

Christina Duran wants to go to SCNP on October 1. Eva taking RSVPs. RNP Link to front page: Eva will ask and also see how we can make it easier to get to neighborhoods page.

11. Concerns from Visiting Neighbors –

White Park Neighborhood Watch reported as to the 6-week surveillance that took place at White Park and there were numerous arrests there. A problem property is being torn down. There was a tenant/police meeting with the tenants over by Maxi Foods to get them to cooperate with No Trespassing program. Shopkeepers are now coming to NW meetings. Discussion of graffiti issues on west end in Steve Adams ward from resident who is the father of the owner of Girard's Restaurant.

Richard Long reported on his NNO event.

12. Future Agenda Items –

- a. Neighborhood Governance on agenda for October meeting for discussion
- b. Move the "concerns from visiting neighbors" to below the city council update
- c. Neighborhood Livability Program - Susie Doss suggests that we learn about this and have a presentation.
- d. C.O.P. program initiative will not be on the next agenda

13. Announcements -

Susie Doss – DA's office offered a class attended by people from all over the county and is very useful and informative.

Cindy Jensen – NNO very successful, 100 people this year.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting October 5, 2009 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room