



January 4, 2010 – 6:30 pm  
City Hall – Mayor’s Ceremonial Room

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## MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Frank Bernard, Taffi Brandriff, Norm Gritton, Erin Snyder, Cindy Jensen, Gurumantra Khalsa, Jeff Kraus, Karin Roberts, Justin Scott-Coe, Robin Treen, Bill Scherer, Paul Davis

**Members Excused:** Damien O’Farrell, Susie Doss, Ed Jones

**Members Unexcused:** Albert Figueroa

**Guests:** Mayor Loveridge, Councilmember Melendrez, Lisa Diggs, Judy Cunningham, Burma Lee Manns, Christina Duran, Nanci Larsen

**Staff:** Eva Yakutis, Hilda Gonzalez, Don Smith, Housing & Neighborhoods Division; Brenda Flowers, Eric Ustation, Mayor’s Office; Chris Manning, RPD

**1. Call to Order/Introductions – Meeting called to order at 6:35**

**2. Approval of Minutes for November 2, 2009**

Correction: Justin Scott-Coe was absent last month. (Treen/Aldana/Carried)

**3. Mayor’s Office /Councilmembers Update**

Andy Melendrez:

- University Neighborhood Associations is putting together a subcommittee to make improvements to Islander Park.
- Sycamore Highlands Community Action Group had a successful “Santa in the Park” event. Lots of kids attended and were provided refreshments.
- Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group presented a Trunk or Treat at the park in October with 100 individuals there with three-day notice. Thanksgiving dinner for over 370 people hosted by neighbors helping other neighbors. Ramon Corona from the neighborhood works at the Marriott and got the kitchen and Maxi Foods to provide food. Maxi was there to receive acknowledgement.
- Santa Claus toy give-away at Lincoln Park with Mr. and Mrs. Claus as well.
- Las Posadas event attended by about 300 people at the church.
- Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group becoming the park advisory group to work both with the park and neighborhood issues.

Paul Davis:

- Holiday toy give-away in Casa Blanca. Always room for more through Lino and the Park Advisory and the CAG.
- Meeting took place in Orangecrest re: Gless Ranch development and they are coming back February 11, 2010, at the community center to look at Gless Ranch plans again. Bringing back ideas that the community requested before going to planning, etc. Begins at 6:30 p.m.
- January 29, 2010, from 2:30 to 4:30, Healthy Communities process, first in town to create umbrella of what people are already doing here at city hall. This is one of many but the first organizational summit. There will be representatives from Ontario and Chino Hills to describe what they do with their process.

- Uptick in graffiti vandalism at Bobby Bonds Park and Orange Terrace commercial buildings.
- February 11, 2010, Overlook Parkway issue, will look at traffic studies.
- CAG meeting next Wednesday night. Need RNP to encourage CAG or attendees to join RNP.
- Thanks to RNP members that came to Orange Terrace, particularly Karin Roberts.
- Justin asks for email re: the Healthy Communities Initiative.

#### 4. Presentation by the Mayor – Neighborhood Governance Initiative

- Mayor Loveridge makes remarks about status of the Neighborhood Governance Initiative. The Mayor provided an overview of the beginning concept of the RNP based on the Roanoke Neighborhood Partnership as the model. Key is recognition and support at city hall for neighborhood attention. One emphasis in reading about neighborhoods that we should have in place is a formal recognition of neighborhood councils.

Overview of Draft Council Report re: Introduction of Formal Neighborhood Council Approach. Intention is to move this report forward on January 19, 2010. Will build on strengths we have in the city relative to neighborhoods and strengthening the RNP. There is a question of staffing the effort, which will enhance the RNP.

The fourth meeting each month at City Council will be an RNP “Neighborhood Success Story.” This will remind the council and city management as to what RNP is and what it represents.

The initiative has been discussed with various people both internally and externally. It builds on the Spokane model. Mayor provided a copy of information from the Spokane website. Mayor spoke with their mayor there about the neighborhood council system they have, and she was extremely supportive and spoke for their council as well.

The Mayor is here to ask for RNP endorsement of the Neighborhood Council approach recognizing that it is a fluid concept with forum for changes here with the RNP.

Mayor read his portion of the State of the City address and relative to neighborhoods. Mention of city council approval of Neighborhood Governance Initiative and the RNP.

Mayor defers to RNP subcommittee. Formal request for endorsement of the Introduction of a formal Neighborhood Governance Approach.

- Gurumantra Khalsa reported that there were a couple of productive meetings had with the Mayor and the subcommittee. Initially the members were skeptical as this potentially being another top-down initiative but have now seen that it isn't that – key is organizing neighborhoods which is also RNP goal. Last meeting the consensus was the RNP should endorse this.
- Taffi Brandriff asked what concerns were brought up at the meeting.
- Gurumantra Khalsa reported that his neighborhood has done a good job with the Neighborhood Plan program. Feels that the plans could be done more quickly than before within the framework of the initiative and could get more representation from people in the neighborhood from those participating. Credited the City in that the City is mindful of the comments of the community and making final changes as suggested. No feedback loop was identified between neighborhood and CM office; however this initiative seen as the missing link to that communication stream.
- Erin Snyder – Situation with Northside, they wouldn't necessarily want to be the council. Asked if their group would drop away if they weren't designated at the council, and the answer was no, that would not happen. Neighborhoods and neighborhood groups can participate at their discretion.
- Mayor sees the Northside as a neighborhood council now. Boundaries are different from DANA but not explicit which is something that the RNP would determine.

- Erin Snyder - other groups in Northside not necessarily represent the Northside.
- Mayor – those groups wouldn't be recognized as a neighborhood council. Any neighborhood group could apply to be the Northside Council, but the RNP would decide if they meet the criteria that the RNP would also develop in an effort to ensure full representation.
- Taffi Brandriff – Is there one council per neighborhood?
- Scott Andrews – Council can be composed of reps of all groups in neighborhood. Also, councils not another layer but rather would report to a liaison that would report to the City Council.
- Gurumantra Khalsa – Lots of organizing still needs to be done.
- Mayor – Additional staff attention would be given. Doesn't change what RNP does or groups but identifies and enhances and strengthens it. Many NUSA conferences have borne out that this is critical.
- Frank Bernard – Subcommittee addressed all of these concerns. They all didn't like this initiative at first. If Gurumantra says the committee has done an about face, this is something ready to be endorsed.
- Jeff Krause – if we have 26 councils, this meeting gets large. He expressed skepticism to Gurumantra but after talking to Gurumantra has turned around and is in support after having talked to him. Direct staff assistance would really be helpful.
- Mayor- would be surprised if we had 26 neighborhood councils. If there were ten at end of two years, that would be significant progress.
- Scott Andrews – plus many people at the table would be representative.
- Erin Snyder - motion to approve to support the neighborhood council approach.
- Frank Bernard seconded the motion.
- Bill Scherer – expressed concern about adding another layer, as brought up by Scott Andrews, No. 5 on the report, RNP should be focal point for communications with neighborhood groups in the city.
- Jeff Kraus/Frank Bernard – The initiative strengthens what we already have. Other groups would trickle up rather than RNP down.
- Robin Treen – Formalizing the councils strengthens them.
- Bill Scherer – Doesn't want to approve something that is a city hall down.
- Mayor – That won't happen. This isn't an effort to capture RNP but to strengthen RNP efficacy and advocacy role.
- Cindy Jensen – All of this was already brought up and hashed over in the three or four meetings that have gone on between the Mayor and subcommittee. Understands trepidation on part of new board members. Assurance that all on board very serious about their role won't rubber stamp but want to help neighborhoods. It has been hashed out and thoroughly investigated. RNP will be a very good watch dog for this.
- Scott Andrews – this isn't set in stone but a work in progress. For sure, this is that and that we will have our say, and if it seems to be going off course, RNP can pull it back.
- Gurumantra Khalsa – In response to Mr. Scherer, expressed that RNP was right where he is were initially, skeptical.
- Norm Gritton – Agreed we can go forward. Some things that have come up, talking about the independence of the groups' structure from each other. There is independence with the groups. Northside is a go-to group when there is an issue, just like in CB. DANA has had some issues over the years that they are the go-to group. Smaller groups won't be something that will be a council but rather place-based like neighborhood watch
- Mayor – the key is the group sitting around this table to develop what the neighborhood councils should look like and take form.
- (Snyder/Bernard/Carried)
- Norm Gritton – Should we write a letter re: our position supporting the initiative?
- Erin Snyder moves that we write a letter in support of the initiative and that the chair draft letter of support and send through Eva for letterhead and it be mailed to council and mayor. (Snyder/Treen/Carried)

## **5. Election of Officers –**

- Erin suggests a secretary position.
- Jeff Krause nominates Scott Andrews for Chair. Scott Andrews nominates Gurumantra Khalsa for Chair. Justin Scott-Coe nominates Cindy Jensen for Chair and Amy Aldana, Taffi Brandriff nominates Erin Snyder for Chair. All accept nomination. Robin moves to close nominations. (Treet/Khalsa/Carried)
- Erin Snyder moves that there be three votes for the three positions. (Snyder/Scott-Coe/Carried)
- Nominees excused. Vote taken on all three independently.
- Results: Scott Andrews, Chair. Amy Aldana, First Vice Chair. Cindy Jensen, Second Vice Chair.

## **6. Neighborhood Watch Update –**

- Lt. Manning – Palm Tree Community Center 13th and Almond, conditional use permit request for live entertainment. 16th Humanity Music Festival at convention center. Medicinal Marijuana Coop opening at 647 North Main.

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

- a. Sign up for subcommittees requested and routed
- b. Staff going to Mayor's Nominating and Screening Committee, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## **8. Committee Reports –** email to be sent re: sign ups for subcommittees

## **9. RNP Monthly Announcements**

- Green Team water workshop, how to use it or lose it, January 24, 2010
- MANA meeting next Thursday at Goeske Center. Speaker will be someone from Riverside County Transportation Commission.
- Wood Streets meeting this Saturday. Someone from the Fox Theatre to talk about what will be going on there in the coming year.

## **10. Concerns from Visiting Neighborhoods**

- Burma Lee Manns - 17th Annual MLK Walkathon announcement
- Lisa Diggs – Give-a-day get a Disney Day event announcement
- Christina Duran - This Saturday at 3:00 at Cesar Chavez Community Center is presentation of Hansel and Gretel
- Nancy Larsen - Community tours of the Fox Theatre 16th and 17th open to public for free

## **10. Future agenda items –** Riverside Strategic Visioning plan presentation and Riverside water quality.

## **11. Meeting Adjourned 8:00**