

DANA Meeting Minutes
February 15th 2015

Attendees: Chani Beeman, Keith Alex, Tom Donahue, Les Twedell, Nancy Sturmer, Lynn Anderson, Barbara Wilson, Donna Wing, Arlen Appleford, Phil Brumenstahl, Erin Snyder (RNP), Pete Elliott (RPD), Adriana Sandoval (RNP), Ann Heinson, Mike Gentile, Denise Hardin, Kevin Dawson

Meeting called to order at 7:05

No Treasurer's Report this month. Minutes in draft form provided to attendees. Motion to approve minutes as written: (Keith), 2nd (Les)

Chani - Attended Bryant mural unveiling and also participated in E3 program. Encouraged anyone interested to get involved in this program.

Tom – Homeless Forum set for March 24th. Save the date reminder will be sent. Timing with City's new interest in ambassador program downtown is fortunate. The ambassador program will be teams of 2 (people) to assist DT Police. Pete Elliott noted there are currently 5 officers stationed/dedicated for DT, but the count is currently down 2 because of injuries.

Other current PD news (Elliott): increases in calls for vehicle thefts (personal property out of cars). New swing shift (post FOL) is in place. Seeing "how it goes" for now. Seems to be working OK. Les: is patrolling Mt Rubidoux once/month still on going? Not in Dec/Jan, but will look to restart probably March timeframe. Not a dedicated or scheduled event – times/dates vary. Usually between 4pm & 2am (Bike patrols)

Santa Ana River Trail cleanup was very successful. Phil, Keith, Tim, Mary, Dick, Donna participated. Discovered and reported vacated homeless encampment. Saw many either prior or current encampments just 25 feet-ish off the trail. Lynn will contact the Livability Task Force and advise them of the situation and will provide Tom with other areas of the City are also concerned w/increase in homelessness (mentioned recent MANA meeting discussion). Keith: homelessness is an on-going issue. Was noted in minutes of first DANA meeting...

Lynn: Riverside County has new Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). Has a bit of a different perspective on how to deal with homelessness (hugs not handcuffs?). Chani: believes County is trying to house them.

By Laws Review: Handout provided. Changes to Sections 4.01, 4.03, 6.02, 6.03, 7.01. Change made as of February 2016. Reason for change: First 2 meetings of each calendar year are on holidays. Shift will push important planning meetings to those months that are better attended. Changes to board were meant to insert continuity into the officers' slate.

Motion to approve minutes as amended: Donna, 2nd: Keith. Vote in favor (all). Motion passed.

DT Library issue:

Essentially, this issue has been discussed for the past 10 years with no change made. Recently, there has been a new direction w/respect to the Library.

Old Riverside Foundation (ORF) and DANA jointly put forth a statement on the Library; i.e. – keep it where it is and renovate the existing building. This all changed on Feb 11th with announcement on Discovery Cube and scheduling of City Council meeting on the 23rd.

A timeline on the Library discussions starting in 2006 was provided to the group. Tom reviewed most recent events, specifically between June 2015 and Feb 2016. City appears adamant about moving the Library to the Mission Inn and Chestnut site. Now with Discovery Cube coming in, the thought is – why doesn't everyone win with a new Library and a Discovery Cube center?

Denise (ORF) reminded the group that the Library Board of Trustees rejected the Chestnut site (twice). Community meeting attendees overwhelmingly wanted the Bus Depot and Chestnut sites to be residential. Tom: Please read the information provided on agenda items 42A (Moving the Library) and 42B (Discovery Cube). The option to keep and renovate current Library is NOT on the agenda; however, if 42A fails then feasibly Library won't move.

Kevin: What if 42A and 42B both pass, but Discovery Cube pulls out? What happened to community input and "Seizing Our Destiny"?

Ann: City Manager Davis appears to be very excited about Discovery Cube (DC) – has been having discussion with DC folks since November (apparently). However, he also stated that since the City has many empty buildings, there might be other locations Discovery Cube could go. So the thought could be that an alternate location for DC might be selected after the Library moves and the Library sits empty... Noted that although the Santa Ana museum is successful, the LA museum filed for bankruptcy in 2009 and its existence since has been fueled by bonds and funds other than their own. With that said, it's not a guarantee that DC will be immediately profit-making. Takes about \$3.3M to run every year, seems to be profitable at first, then wanes.

Kevin: is Discovery Cube a non-profit, or a "for profit non-profit"? Not sure. Discovery Cube Santa Ana has a Corporate sponsorship. DC LA has outside sponsorship as well.

Chani: Thinks Discovery Cube is a great idea for DT, but why not use one of the other 12 sites (former Redevelopment properties) that are already ready to go??

Erin: Riverside had a Children's Museum that eventually closed due to lack of interest. Also, Library is the center of cultural events in DT (1st Sundays, etc). Moving it to either one of the alternate sites loses that "center".

Phil: believes there is something else going on – there is talk of new housing DT. Something having to do with the Redevelopment properties, paying \$ back to the state, getting new housing DT, believes it's all tied together. Keith – there is a deadline on the successor agency – if the properties aren't sold, they go to another agency and out of city control.

Denise: There are many pieces on this puzzle that we (citizens) are not aware of. Agenda of 2/23 is very odd – not standard. Also the statement that these agenda items carry no fiscal impact is extremely odd. DC is good for schools in the City, but not really for DT. “Star Trek” all over again... The Library now suffers from lack of attention. Basic stuff – Heating & air should be re-done. Sky lights... not so much. Thinks the budget estimate for renovation is overstated. A basic renovation is very affordable. Don't need to move elevators for sightline – put in cameras instead! That kind of thing. The City has not made a good case for why the current building cannot be reno'd and used.

Tom: Three (3) recommendations made in 42A do not address keeping and renovating Library at current location. Wants to make sure everyone knows this. Council is not considering keeping the Library at its current site. How does DANA present a reasonable position that addresses the current action? How do we bring it to Council? As the resident stakeholders, do we ask that they reject the current recommendations in their entirety?

Erin: Yes. The community has made its desires well known and besides that, there is NO funding in place.

Chani: this is all dependent on putting a bond measure on the ballot and having it pass. The likelihood of that happening is slim. Feels like politics.

Tom: has sent funding related questions to Al Zelenka. What is Discovery Cube bringing to Riverside? What's the overall plan? How are they going to make it work? Where is everyone going to park? Right now, with what we know (and don't know), the only position we, (the community) can have is to say no.

Ann: Davis (City Mgr) seems to be envisioning that archives would not be on site in the new Library. Would be off site or digitized. Also, new Library would no longer be considered the Main Library, it would be the Ward 1 Branch Library. Hence, a smaller Library would work.

Tom: The entire process appears to suffer from a lack of vision. Need to concentrate on enhancing the Library programs into the future.

Meeting adjourned at...8:45 ish