

**RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**RB Branch Library**  
**April 27, 2006**

1. **Call to Order.** 7:02 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by Alethea Altenbern.
2. **Administrative Matters:**
  - Roll Call: All members present except Myrna Reese, excused.
  - Minutes: Rob made a motion and Dorothy made a second to accept the minutes as printed, which passed by a unanimous vote.
  - Corresponding Secretary's report: A thank you letter was sent to Mr. Phil Blauer of Channel 8 News regarding his participation at the April 6 candidates' debate at the Double Tree Resort in Rancho Penasquitos.
  - Treasurer's Report: The report was emailed to the bank manager. Rob's financial advisor has agreed to do our annual audit.
3. **President's Remarks:** After her customary welcome and instructions to the guests in attendance, Robin announced that:
  - After the Mayor's presentation, the floor would be open for questions and comments;
  - Following the Mayor, there would be a presentation regarding the Fire Station 33 Renovation;
  - A speed monitor has been in place on Escala since April 24, and a speed limit sign will be installed within two week's time;
  - The Community Council is looking for a new venue to hold it's meetings, and suggestions from anyone with connections to churches or other large facilities would be welcome.
4. **Resident's Remarks:** None.
5. **Government Relations Reports:**

**Jim Gonsalves** for **County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price** discussed the Gregory Canyon landfill issue and the supervisor's opposition to this proposal, which will affect various North County communities, including Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch. He said up to 8 trucks per day would haul water from 4S Ranch Reservoir down RB Road to Camino del Norte to be used for trash compaction at the landfill. Olivenhain Municipal Water District may provide the water required for the landfill to attain certification. Jim asked residents to write letters to Olivenhain to not proceed with the 60-year contract.

**Erica Holloway** for **Senator Dennis Hollingsworth** announced that there are "major rewrites" underway for the state budget. Erica said Dennis, who is the vice chair of the Budget Review Committee, does not support the budget in its current state, because it is based on a \$6-million deficit. Bonds, which failed to get on the June ballot, are still on the table for the November ballot. Erica distributed a diagram to help residents understand the budget review process. A Fire Break Bill has been presented to set limits regarding brush clearance for public buildings. Bills regarding group homes or halfway houses for paroled sex offenders in Sacramento are also of concern to the senator, who will speak before the Council at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Andrew Lund** (in place of Aaron Pottichen) for **State Senator George Plescia** mentioned a bill regarding tax credits for people who contribute to after school programs for public schools. As the new Assembly Minority Leader, George has become a part of the "Big 5" team, which puts him close to the governor on

all major issues. Andrew said that the Senate passed in a vote split down party lines to name the one-day immigrant protest The Great American Boycott 2006.

**Gary Powers**, president and CEO of the **San Diego North Chamber**, noted that Assemblyman Plescia and Dennis Hollingsworth met with Gary for lunch during the California Legislative Conference. Upcoming street fairs: Rancho Penasquitos on April 30 and RB Alive on June 4. Candidates in the fund-raising RB Honorary Mayoral race: Nancy Canfield for the Historical Society and Karen Rott for Fire Station 33. One can attend events and buy raffle tickets to support a candidate; the one who raises the most funds by RB Alive will win the title of Honorary Mayor.

**City Councilman Brian Maienschein** introduced the Mayor, whom he praised for listening and coming out to speak to the people, noting that the previous mayor never came to RB. Brian reminded everyone that the problems facing San Diego began more than 30 years ago, and they won't be easily resolved.

## 6. Presentation:

**San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders** addressed the Council and residents:

- Working to create a “transparent” budget that reflects all of the city's revenue and expenses. Previous budget did not show all income, employees (approx. 550 people), services, and so on. They have reduced the size of the budget as well, and hope to make it something anyone can review, e.g. the City Council.
- Goals include refinancing, paying down old debts, re-engineering, review contracts, stream-lining organization, etc.; and implementing “managed competition” such as the County has done; tracking of contracts and coordinating various departments and contracts. In the process of reorganization, the Mayor says that employees of divisions that are closing or downsizing can move to other open jobs, of which they have many that they are not rushing to fill—pending the completion of this process.
- Concerning the pension, he would like to find a new pension plan and for residents to vote on the plan. And as for health care, the city currently carries policies under nine different plans, so the Mayor has assigned a group to consolidate some of those down to a few plans. Salary compensation will be revamped next year. He touched on bonds, and their relationship to Tobacco Securities. He said the city employees seem anxious to participate in the re-engineering process.
- The Police Department, which has suffered under the pension problems, staffing turnover, which Sanders says is a problem in all city police departments. Concurred that Fire Station 33 is “uninhabitable” and needs help.

In closing, Sanders complemented community and mentioned that his mother lived in RB. He praised its active residents, such as Gary Powers, CEO of the SD North Chamber. The audience applauded him appreciatively. A question and answer period followed, regarding various issues.

- Audit status: Conducted by KPMG, on track for a June completion.
- Rent revenue: Last year received about \$63 million in rents, which they need to increase. One of the tasks for recent new hire, Jim Ahlstrom, in the Real Estate Assets department, will be rolling over properties for fair market value.
- City debt—how much? Not sure about bonds, but the pension represents about \$1.4 billion. Will know more when the audit is complete.
- Redevelopment projects by Seaport Village and the Embarcadero: Controversial because the Navy owns the property, but they will work with the city to create public park land, moving buildings back and knocking out old warehouses. Lease must be signed by June or it goes into the BRAC process, and many other government agencies are interested in the property.
- Airport situation: The mayor wants San Diego to remain a military town, which receives about \$90 billion in revenue from the military; however, he is not willing to take a stand on the issue.
- Bond issues—\$574 million in bonds—decided upon by voters? (Aguirre says these are illegal.): Mayor Sanders says California cities can do all different kinds of bonds, even “pension-obligation bonds”, until courts declare the pension debt illegal, they will proceed, if only to pay off the legitimate pension obligations.

- Managed Competition and ensuring a level playing field regarding employee benefits: Will use city employees in consideration of job priority, and the Living Wage law will level things. In the County government, employees win 75% of the contracts/jobs.

## 7. Other:

**Candidate for Sheriff**, Bruce Ruff, was granted a standard three minutes outside of the Resident's Remarks period to make a campaign statement, a limit he exceeded by about ten minutes, ignoring Robin's time cues. He left a campaign pamphlet.

## 8. Agenda Items – Voting:

**A. Fire Station 33 Renovation** presented by **Karen Rott**, kicked off a plan to remodel and upgrade our fire station, led by her ad hoc committee, Friends of 33. Karen introduced people who have donated and/or pledged time and work on the project, such as: Mark Davis (architect), SDFD Deputy Chief Jeff Frazier, and Dan Weinberg with the city to facilitate worthwhile causes. The presentation identified all the problems of the station, which has suffered under many years of “deferred maintenance” policies: leaking roof, mold and mildew damage, cracked walls, cramped quarters (designed for smaller staff), and inadequate facilities for dining, exercising and maneuvering the trucks. It also, touched on the challenges of this station, such as: largest service area in the city, fought the worst fires of California history (2003), managed an 8000-gallon tanker accidental overturning, appear at community affairs (4<sup>th</sup> of July, Parades, RB Alive, school safety fairs, etc.), offer training, and so on. Plans for the renovation include: knocking out walls, enclosing/roofing an un-used patio area to create common room space; enlarging/remodeling kitchen; creating a front entry door for walk-in visitors; drive-through truck bays to eliminate back-and-fill process that involves stopping traffic; and enlarging dormitories to create private sleeping cubicles that block noise and light from other areas. Cost of proposed renovation was figured as \$675,900 in a rough order estimate, but will likely cost more. Financing sources? The community at large, starting with an honorary mayoral race, featuring Karen Rott; private businesses and citizens. Janet Hoy said that this is what we pay taxes for, which elicited a few concurring remarks from others. The city, however, has 40 stations with deferred maintenance issues, some in worse condition, and it simply doesn't have the money. Karen moved the Council endorse the project, Rob seconded, and it passed unanimously.

### B. Council Vacant Seats:

**Frank Auwarter**, a retired lawyer (anti-trust litigation) from Glenview, Illinois, who volunteers at local schools, presented himself to fill a vacancy in District C. His bid for the seat was accepted by a unanimous vote.

**Dave Hall**, a native San Diegan, retired from 30+ years in law enforcement and known by the Mayor as Chief of Harbor Police, presented himself for a vacancy in District D, because he “likes public service.” Dave was also seated by unanimous vote.

**C. MAD Conserve a Tree:** Alethea Alternbern apprised us of the Conserve a Tree nomination to protect the olive trees on Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo and Pomerado Roads as “landmark” trees. Robin explained the reasons for and the conditions of this nomination. She pointed out that our olive trees—some of which are 50+ years old—are transplants from the old Winery and, as such stand as, “signatures” of RB. The Conservation process would prevent removal except in where diseased or dying, in which case a replacement olive tree would be required. Someone noted that the CC address on the form was incorrect and would need to be changed. The proposal was read to declare these trees “Heritage & Parkway Resource Trees”, describing them as “multi-trunk, 50-year-old trees from RB Winery”. Alethea moved to approve this nomination with address change and identifying photos, which Diane seconded. A brief discussion preceded a unanimous approval.

## 9. Agenda Items – Informational:

- A. Bylaws Update:** We are in the process of updating our Council Bylaws, and revised copies will be sent out next month.
- B. Roster Update:** All new council members were asked to choose two committees, which are recorded on the roster. The roster will include all new members. Contact information on roster is for Council use only.

- C. **RB Alive – Sunday, June 4:** This event is attended by about 40k people per year! The Chamber has offered us a booth free of charge, which we need to staff for the hours of 8 am to 4 pm in 2-hour shifts. We will be distributing (new) brochures and various items to promote the three boards and FS 33. More details shall be forthcoming.
- D. **Spring Get Together:** Janet Hoy has offered her home for this gathering, which will feature a pot-luck meal, pool, spa, trampoline, etc. The date of Sunday, May 28 was proposed, but rejected over all.

10. **Standing Committee Reports:**

Programs – Guy Cargulia: presented a tentative list of possible speakers for Council meetings.

Public Relations – Karen Rott: Eric Luthard agreed to research emergency response training options.

Traffic and Transportation – Robin Kaufman: There are several issues to be addressed by this committee at their next Monday (May 22) meeting, such as timing on cross-walks and red curbing.

11. **Liaison Reports:**

Planning Board – They had a short meeting this month, wherein they: launched their new website, filled a vacant seat, and approved parking signs in Bernardo Heights to prohibit overnight parking.

Recreation Council – Robin Kaufman: They meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7 PM at the Recreation Center.

Adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectively submitted by Diane Peters.