

RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
RB Branch Library
May 25, 2006

1. **Call to Order.** 7:03 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance led by Alethea Altenbern.
2. **Administrative Matters:**
 - **Roll Call:** All members present except Myrna Reese and Dave Hall, both excused.
 - **Minutes:** Corrections made by Guy Cargulia could not be verified, as they were emailed to Janet, who reported emailing them to Diane, who did not recall receiving them; however, said corrections will have to be reviewed and perhaps incorporated at a later date.
 - **Corresponding Secretary's report.** Alethea sent out five thank you letters last month to:
 - Mayor Jerry Sanders for speaking at our April meeting;
 - RB Foundation for their \$500 donation to the Council;
 - Blue Sky Ecological Reserve in Poway for removing a stray peacock from a yard;
 - Print Pros for printing flyers and brochures for RB Alive, and
 - The Water Department for resolving a problem leak.
 - **CFO's Report:** The Council has eight CDs totaling \$8,472.79; a savings account with \$636.78, and a non-endowed account with \$1,130.95, for a total of \$10,240.52. There were two checks written last month: \$189.64 to Alethea Altenbern for new member plates and badges, and \$15.60 to Diane Peters for storage binders.
3. **President's Remarks:** After her customary welcome and instructions to the guests in attendance, stressing the alarm system parameters and consequences, Robin informed a standing-room-only crowd accordingly.
 - The RB Foundation bestowed the Council with a grant of \$500 to promote the renovation of Fire Station 33.
 - Regarding time limits on remarks: Last month a candidate for Sheriff asked to speak during, but exceeded his 3 minutes by 7 more, ignoring Robin's cues to stop, while he promoted his candidacy. She stressed that the Council, which is a non-partisan body, does not endorse this candidate or any other.
 - Time of remarks would be heretofore monitored using a timer. Speakers were instructed to stop upon hearing the timer's "ding" sound.
 - The Council is comprised solely of volunteers who are elected by RB residents, divided into seven districts, and deals with "quality of life" issues in the community.
 - Several Council Members are new since the March elections. Therefore, we held a social gathering at Janet Hoy's home on Sunday, May 21, where the old and new members could become acquainted. Robin thanked Janet for graciously offering her home for this purpose.
 - Paul Lennon, our Community Relations Officer, responded to a report of speeding on Escala so promptly, that a speed-monitoring device was set up within only two days! There is only one such device in the northeast district, and it is in demand. Paul has been an invaluable asset to RB; however, he and all other Community Relations officers in the city have been "let go" to accommodate SDPD staffing shortages. Residents can write letters to the mayor and police chief and representatives to protest the situation.
 - Presentations are not agenda or voting items.
4. **Resident's Remarks:** Since all of the Speaker Request Forms were relative to the Hooters presentation, Robin decided to allow two—one each for and against—to give statements, reserving the rest to follow the anticipated presentation. Each would be given the allotted three minutes.

Resident Karen Matigon, who described herself as a Christian and parent, spoke in favor of the proposed Hooters restaurant, stating that there are no places to take large groups of people to lunch in the area.

Marv Ahlstrom, who lives in RB, drew parallels between sensitivity training that requires appropriate conduct in the work place and those who witness sexual harassment to speak out against it, and he said we should speak up against the unacceptable in all areas of our lives.

5. Government Relations Reports:

Jim Gonsalves for **County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price** spoke regarding their opposition to SB1627, a piece of legislation that facilitates cell tower installation by short-cutting the application process and by-passing local planning groups. There will be a meeting on June 8, 7 p.m. at the Double Tree Inn in Rancho Penasquitos. There is a need for help at the polls in the up-coming elections, and Jim urged people to find out how they can help.

Andrew Lund for **Assemblyman George Plescia** announced that there are two bond issues that will appear on the November ballot and the governor released the new budget. Lund also answered a few questions.

Gary Powers, president and CEO of the **San Diego North Chamber**, quickly reviewed the Chamber calendar, mentioning the Honorary Mayoral race and its purpose to raise funds for education, scholarships and (this year) other worthwhile causes, such as the renovation of Fire Station 33 and the Historical Society. Final fundraising events are at the RB Winery (May 31) and the RB Alive street fair (June 3). Gary thanked Brian Maienschein for a donation of \$1300. The next mixer is on June 21 at Casa de Las Campañas, annual Installation Awards are on June 29, and the Friends of Youth golf tournament that raised \$55k last year for education will be in August.

6. Presentations:

A. San Diego Police Captain Jim Collins, the new Captain of the Northeastern Division, introduced by City Councilman Brian Maienschein, who praised him for being attentive. Brian added that he would not support anything that eliminated Paul Lennon's job. Captain Collins, who told us he was a 37-year veteran of the SDPD, where his father once served and his son now serves, then addressed the Council and residents on a few matters:

- **Crime rates** were good for RB area this year, though car prowls of valuables left in sight are a common problem. So it is important for people to take valuables out of their cars or at least put them in the trunk. Laptops are quite popular theft items. Some home invasions have occurred involving garage door openers found in car. Police recommend people not leave garage door openers in cars or to lock them in the glove box.
- **SDPD staffing**: Paul Lennon has not been fired but reassigned. Many officers on special assignment or task forces are being rolled back into general force to assure adequate coverage for city safety. The city is losing many officers each month.
- **Backflow water valves** have been stolen from city property. There are no suspects, so citizens are asked to report to police when they see someone "working" on valves, even if they seem legitimate.
- Regarding the site of a proposed Hooters establishment, crime stats are very low for that area.

The captain then turned his time over to Vice Detective Stratton, who touched on licensing requirements of the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). Criteria for granting a hearing or grounds for denial of an application include, though are not limited to, high crime statistics in area, over-saturation of alcohol-related businesses, close proximity to a church, etc. He said it is also possible for ABC to issue a license with conditions placed on it. The police department does have input in the process of entertainment licenses.

Q & A: One resident stated that a church has been approved for that area, and asked if it would affect license. Det. Stratton suggested taking this up with ABC. Another asked if the PD has received protests to not grant Hooters' liquor license. There have been some. Another person asked about sexual misconduct charges brought against SD police officers in past three years. The captain said these charges are being aggressively investigated. He added that the department will not lower hiring standards to counterbalance staff losses. The resident said she met with resistance when she asked for Internal Affairs' complaint forms. Captain assured her that these should be available to public. Rob asked if taking officers, like Paul Lennon (Community Liaison), off of specialized positions would put more strain on the rest of police force. The captain wasn't sure what effect this new change would

have. RSVP patrolman and council member, Norm Murkoff called Paul a great asset who will be missed. To Eric Luthard's query about response time standards in SD, the captain gave the following: about 6 minutes for urban, 8 minutes northeastern, and about 9-10 minutes rural areas.

Brian Maienschein said that the San Pasqual Valley and Wild Animal Park drive up the northeastern division's response times. He said they are working with Escondido PD to coordinate additional coverage, as is sometimes done with fire and emergency calls. Brian then took this opportunity to register his official stand in opposition to a Hooters opening in RB, the community where he grew up and lives today with his own family. Loud applause and cheers from the standing-room-only crowd amplified his announcement.

- B. Al Pappas**, a licensing consultant who works for **Hooters** and other businesses and lives in RB, spoke in behalf of the corporation, which in his opinion is under quality management since changing hands years ago. He referred to a letter from Hooters' management read by a resident at the May Planning Board meeting as being 15 years old and not reflective of current management, "Those people are gone." He declared that Hooters are restaurants, as only 23% of their business is beer and wine sales and 70% food. They have no live entertainment, and all special events are cleared through the vice squad. Pappas described the company as charity-minded. When he was asked to bring in a national chain for the old Denny's site, he admitted not wanting to bring in Hooters because of expected negative public response. On that note, he then introduced his employer, Fred Glick, owner of many Hooters franchises.

Fred Glick, CEO of Hootwinc, jokingly held up a toy knight's shield for protection from the angry crowd, then said he opened his first Hooters in the "Bible belt" of Omaha, Nebraska to no opposition. He blamed misconceptions for negative bias, asking for a show of hands of those pro and then those con—the clear majority. Of those in the con group he asked how many had attended a Hooters. Few hands remained raised. He said that in other areas where there has been opposition, initial concerns abated over time.

In the lengthy Q & A period that followed residents asked a great many questions, which quickly gave way to statements and impromptu debates. Some questions regarding crime were answered by law enforcement. Therefore Robin called to resume the Residents Remarks portion of the meeting, and invited those who submitted Speaker Request Forms regarding the Hooters issue to address the Council for their allotted 3 minutes, asking those who made their statements during Q&A session to pass if they had nothing different to add, so they would not repeat themselves.

Stephen Kelly & Susan Van Winkle (against): Said Hooters, by its own admission, is not a restaurant, but rather a place of "vicarious sexual entertainment"; produced a petition to compel the Council to "take a principled position" to oppose Hooters in context with RB Community Plan, and stated that it is "not acceptable for an elected body to remain neutral."

Ron Bamberger (against): Businessman with office next to proposed site of Hooters, which he believes is "inconsistent with RB" image, and fears its presence will lower the quality of future lessees for that area; said the building needs renovation, which Hooters is not planning to do.

Jeff Hawks (against): Clergyman with family of five kids, expressed concerns about effect Hooters may have on people with sex and alcohol addictions, whom he counsels.

Natalie Kosman (for): Former Miss RB and current Hooters' waitress said she is proud to work for the company, which donates to charities and supports employees in educational pursuits; claimed that many of their patrons are respectable, and include the elderly and families with kids.

Marissa Kanold (for): A Hooters' waitress of 4 years, echoed Natalie's statements, adding that she "loves" her job.

Nancy Zone (against): Former Council member, said [during Q&A] that RB has high standards, and after viewing Hooters' website she has concerns about the prevalent "element of female sex appeal" since families sometimes patronize the place.

Susan Sullivan (against): Said we are not just talking about the present, and asked what precedent we are setting for the future?

Chris Phelps (against): Asked if, given the location, which has its share of accidents, traffic accidents were not a concern? Cap. Collins mentioned other businesses in area with liquor licenses now and in past, and averred that with any business will increase traffic.

Joe Lawrence (against): 20-year RB resident, said men don't go to Hooters for the menu; suggested we take a poll or vote on the issue; added Planning Board did "a great job in the past" on similar matters.

Dan McNeill (against): Gave comments during Q&A session.

Kathryn Humberstone (against): Raised 4 kids in RB (now grandparent of 5), said one never gets a second chance at a first impression; people driving by on freeway will judge RB by what stands out, such as A Hooters' billboard.

Kara Lyn Drake (against): Asked how a business of this "reputation come into our community without our say so?"

Callis Goodrich (against): Mentioned the Hooters' employee handbook they must sign, which implies a waitress must accept sexual banter as part of the job; said this business was "entirely inconsistent" with RB, and asked Council to oppose Hooters as an official position.

7. **Agenda Items – Voting:**

- A. MAD Committee's proposal for one water meter installation for more than \$7k, presented by Alethea Altenbern.** In discussion it was decided, by a motion (by Frank, 2nd by Norm), to table this item until either: an inexpensive monitoring device to determine actual usage and thereby more accurately calculate savings can be found or city insurance coverage of meters can be determined as adequate alternative. All in favor of motion.
- B. Review and approval of annual audit** began with Rob reading a letter written by Konrad Schroder, his personal Financial Advisor, certifying the Community Council's audit. After a motion was made to approve the audit, a discussion ensued regarding language of the letter and qualifications of Mr. Schroder. Guy noted that Rob should be referred to as our Chief Financial Officer, not Treasurer. Rob retorted that no one else offered to find someone willing to certify the audit for free, and added that Mr. Schroder, who donated his services, is licensed in state of California. Gary Powers said some Chamber board members are CPAs, who may be willing to do this work free of charge in the future. Other concerns were put to rest in light of the simplicity of the Council's books. Ultimately, another motion was made and seconded to table voting on this until next month; before which time a copy of the audit shall be sent to Robin, who will email it to all Council Members. In addition, edits to the certifying letter must be made to references to Rob's title as CFO rather than treasurer. All in favor except Rob, who opposed the motion.
- C. Approval of Karen Rott (Friends of 33, Chair) with Rob Knudsen (Council CFO) designated as advisors** to the San Diego Foundation regarding management of Fire Station 33 funds in a special account. Karen explained that the SD Foundation requires two people, one of which must be the Chief Financial Officer, to manage the funds. Eric moved and Alethea seconded to approve Karen and Rob for these positions, which passed with minimal discussion and unanimous support.
- D. Bylaws review and possible approval:** Due to various corrections, additions and changes to the Bylaws, Rob made a motion that was seconded by Janet to table this item pending another review by the Executive Committee; and prior to review before the Council, copies showing original text and changes would be sent to Council Members for comparative preview. This motion passed with full support.

8. **Agenda Items – Informational:**

- A. RB Alive – Sunday, June 4:** The hours of 8 am to 4 pm in 2-hour shifts has been assigned, and a schedule will be emailed to all Council Members.
- 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.

- 9. Standing Committee Reports:** Cancelled to accommodate Library staff and security system technicians, who were called in when some children went downstairs during the meeting and set off the alarm, which was malfunctioning and could not be reset.

10. **Liaison Reports:** Ibid.

Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Diane Peters.