

RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RB Branch Library

June 22, 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 Susan Santilena (excused) and Richard Aufderheide (unexcused).
 - **Minutes:** Accepted as written according to a motion made by Dorothy and seconded by Robert.
 - **Corresponding Secretary's report.** Alethea sent out two thank you letters last month to:
 - SDPD Northeastern division's new Captain, Jim Collins;
 - And SD North Chamber CEO, Gary Powers for the free *RB Alive!* booth.
 - **CFO's Report:** Presented by Robin Kaufman in Rob Knudsen's absence.
3. **President's Remarks:** After her customary welcome and instructions to the guests in attendance, Robin:
 - Suggested people not give money to beggars, but rather to service organizations such as shelters;
 - Announced the RB Library's 10th Anniversary celebration to be held at the library on Saturday, June 24;
 - Congratulated Nancy Canfield as new RB Honorary Mayor and Karen Rott as Deputy Honorary Mayor;
 - Advised residents who have problem confrontations with skate boarders to report incidents to police, including time of event and descriptions of persons involved;
 - Mentioned that Seven Oaks, pleased with handling of the peacock problem, wants to know what we can do about the coyote problem—about which Diane interjected that one must call the USDA, which will only remove coyotes that have proven to be a danger to people;
 - Said the New Members meeting was held last month to orient new Council Members;
 - Instructed Council Members not to discuss voting items outside our meetings; and
 - Apprised us of Rob Knudsen's resignation from the Council due to a change of employment with a company in Orange County, making it impossible for him to attend Council and committee meetings; however, he has committed to performing the duties as our CFO for June and to training his replacement.
4. **Resident's Remarks:**

Nevin "Ike" Gage of Pipo Road opted to speak out about the migrant workers that loiter near Albertsons on Pomerado Road. He says they are trespassing, damaging property, and threatening property owners. The migrants seem to be camping behind the condos on Rios Road, where they relieve themselves and dominate the area. Mr. Gage asked for help and advice on this serious matter, and added that he will return to our meetings until it is resolved.

Gerie Vellios of Roca Drive and president of the condo association added that "most of the condo owners in Seven Oaks are single women" who like to walk to Albertsons for groceries, but are intimidated by the migrants, especially since they have broken through a fence. Gerie asked, partly in jest, if they could have the fence electrified when repaired. Courtney Smith said that would be illegal.

In response Robin referred them to the Public Safety Committee and asked about the possibility of reprising its Migrant Workers ad hoc committee, and suggested all work with RSVP and police. Karen said that there is not much we can do.
5. **Government Relations Reports:**

Courtney Smith for **City Councilman Brian Maienschein** told us that Brian opposes using Miramar CAS for a new airport. Concerning community relations officers, Courtney said that he is working with the Mayor and Police Chief to try to keep Paul Lennon of RB and other CROs in position. She announced a June 29th Punch

& Cookies gathering at the Westwood Club. Robin asked about cars for sell on RB Road, referencing an article about cars for sale on the roadside by Donna Hartings. Courtney said it is not illegal, but the PSNS committee came up with a pilot program to designate some streets as “no sell” roads, with RB Road being one of them. There was some discussion of bike routes versus bike lanes, which are not equal: curbside parking is allowed in bike routes.

Jim Gonsalves for **3rd District County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price** highlighted activities and accomplishments of the Supervisor over the past month, leading with news that the county is in good financial position starting the fiscal year with a surplus and a new budget that passed without a hitch. Concerning offshore drilling near southern California, he said Congress has “backed off” and no drilling plans are yet in place. Jim said Pam also opposes the Miramar airport site.

Erica Holloway for **Senator Dennis Hollingsworth** announced that the budget was defeated and that the healthcare portion of the budget was unacceptable. Dennis is on the committee and he says they are getting close; hopefully by July. The Fire Breaks Bill is before the Assembly. Erica said about 2-3 thousand bills come before the Assembly each year. Janet asked what could be done about and whom to contact regarding the migrant worker issue, saying that it seems to “ping-pong” around. Erica told people to call the Senator’s office, where they have the right contacts.

Gary Powers, president and CEO of the **San Diego North Chamber**, reviewed the Chamber calendar: On June 29 the Chamber has its Installation and Awards Dinner where they welcome new Board Members. There will be a Women’s Wednesday Roundtable with Collette Colson. A networking event is set for July 13, Young Professionals group meets July 11, and in August the Friends of Youth golf Classic which hopes to raise \$12k for youth programs. With Jim Adelman, Gary presented Karen Rott with a check for \$3,502, half the funds she raised in the Honorary Mayoral race, to be donated to the Friends of 33 for the fire station renovation. Photographs were taken for the newspaper.

6. Presentations:

A. Blue Star Mothers by **Sarah Young**, who was not present.

B. San Diego City Budget information presented by **Penni Takade** from the office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA), as hired by the City Council, for the fiscal year 2007. Under the new Strong Mayor form of government, the Mayor is in effect the city CEO and assumes authority of the former city manager in preparing the annual budget. The IBA was hired as per Municipal Code 22.2304(a) to provide an unbiased analysis and advice to the City Council regarding the budget. Highlights of the presentation include:

- **Total Budget** is \$2.6 billion and **General Fund** is \$1 billion.
- **Police:** To correct historical under funding, \$16.4 million was added for overtime, vacation, information technology, etc. For civilian positions, \$2 million was allocated to hire 30 people to perform non-sworn duties currently covered by officers, who will be returned to streets. Vacancy factor accounts for about \$19 million in “savings”, for which aggressive recruitment plans are being made for new hires.
- **Fire-Rescue:** About \$2 mil funding for 8 fire engines, information technology, maintenance and equipment. As for the historical under funding, there is an \$8 mil increase in overtime, offset by vacancy factor of over \$11 mil.
- **Retirement:** For pension payment they have \$162 mil (full funding as per Charter). Tobacco Securitizations were sold on June 16, 2006 \$100 mil in tobacco bonds sold to fund the City’s Retirement System. There is \$21.5 mil for Retiree Health Care premiums.
- **Deferred Maintenance:** \$15.6 mil in new funding to address backlog of deferred maintenance, including street resurfacing and slurry sealing and facilities. \$2.5 mil for park-related projects.
- **New Facilities:** For operation costs at Park & Rec - \$2 mil at 10 new facilities; Library - \$2 mil for 3 new/expanded branch libraries; and Fire-Rescue - \$1.3 mil to staff temporary Mission Valley FS 45. Police – Northwestern Area Station to be completed by fall ’06, but no funding to support facility, and personnel will be reassigned from other areas for staff; original estimates of operation were \$12 mil.

- **General Fund Reserves:** FY06 - \$16.4 mil surplus and CFO's projected reserve balance for FY2006 is \$34.8 mil. FY07 – Council allocated \$7.5 million to Reserves in Budget, for a total of \$42.3 mil or about 4.2% of General Fund. IBA recommends bolstering reserves for stability; Mayor's goal is 8%.
- **Supplemental Positions:** No funding in past budgets, but for 2007 Mayor added 429 supplemental positions, increasing budgeted costs by \$53 mil and generated \$28.7 mil in revenues.
- **Vacancy Factor:** To reflect turnover, time for recruitment, and salary level differences a factor of 5% has been applied, with a savings in budget approx. \$54.5 mil citywide.
- **Future:** The IBA projects: Salary Increases at \$25-30 mil in FY08; Pension needs at \$1.4 billion and Retiree Healthcare at \$1 billion in unfunded liabilities; Deferred Maintenance yet cost uncalculated; and Revenue to be affected by a strong but decelerated economy.

Q&A session: Jim Adelman asked if the General Fund was more or less a "slush fund", but Penni said there is a breakdown of each allocation. Dave Hall asked why the city didn't know how much of the \$2 million was to go to FS 33, Penni said they do know approximately but are waiting for completion of deferred maintenance evaluation. Karen Rott asked for a breakout for FS33, and Penni said she would have to get back to her on that. Janet Hoy asked 1) what jobs civilians will be hired to do in the police department, and Penni said they would be desk, administrative, HR, and possible community relations liaison positions; 2) if there would be an increase in revenue for public safety — answer, no; and 3) if the city would reconsider tax/fee increases, but because previous budgets did not accurately reflect picture of fiscal situation, Penni said, 2007 has been designated a "time out year" until final evaluation. Penni added that though SD has lowest tax base of California cities, the citizens do not support tax increases.

7. **Agenda Items – Voting:**

- Final approval of annual audit,** a copy of which was sent out to all Council members: Immediately, a motion was made by Karen and seconded by Dorothy to approve the audit as is, which was approved unanimously in a vote.
- Additional item regarding CFO (Treasurer) vacancy:** Janet Hoy moved and Dave Hall seconded to add an item to the agenda to discuss the RBCC CFO vacancy, about which all present were in accord. Diane Peters moved and Frank Auwarter seconded to nominate Dorothy Risheberger for the office of CFO, which passed with minimal discussion and unanimous support.

8. **Standing Committee Reports:**

Government Relations/Utilities: Janet Hoy – Now meeting on a bimonthly basis, the next meeting will be in July, nothing in June.

MAD: Alethea Altenbern – The meter issue is still under review, and the backflows have all been painted blue to deter theft; however, the thieves have been arrested. A resident asked about status of improvement plans for the Pomerado Road median. Robin and Alethea said this is still an open issue with MAD and will be a long-term project. Concrete is too expensive and river rock is hazardous to maintenance workers. Landscaping and irrigation options are currently under review.

Public Relations: Eric Luthard had to leave the meeting earlier for family a commitment.

Public Safety: Karen Rott briefly touched on efforts of its currently-inactive Migrant Worker ad hoc committee to migrant issues on RB and Pomerado Roads in the past. All legal actions have been taken. She talked about the committee's concern over the loss of our CRO, Paul Lennon. Then Karen made a motion for the Council to write a letter to the Chief of Police, the Mayor and Brian Maienschein to get our CRO back. Myrna seconded this motion, which won unanimous support of the Council. Alethea will draft this letter.

Traffic & Transportation: Robin Kaufman – see the minutes from their last meeting on our website.

9. **Liaison Reports:**

Planning Board: Myrna Reese gave a brief run down of issues that the Board is reviewing, which included the following: Plescia's opposition to the budget, San Diego watershed, RB Canyon sewage, an all-way stop proposal in Turtleback school area, and their Bylaws update. The Grace Church's request to move into the

industrial zone was denied, preserving the zone for industrial purposes. Apparently, other churches were watching this decision with particular interest.

Recreation Council: Robin Kaufman – See the minutes on Council website.

10. **Other:**

Irwin Drutt, a longtime RB resident, former Community Council and Recreation Council Member, passed away. Services to be held at Adat Shalom temple on the following Wednesday (June 19).

Code Compliance, a joint organization of the Community Council and the Planning Board, will be meeting at the Swim & Tennis Club on July 10. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Diane Peters.