

# **RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

## **RB Branch Library**

**December 7, 2006**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Dirks and followed by a moment of silence in memory of Pearl Harbor.

2. **Administrative Matters:**

- **Roll Call:** All members present except: Keith Worthington, Andrea Thomas, Dorothy Rischeberger, Alethea Altenbern (excused); Robert Dunlap, Maria Keith and Kim Johnson (unexcused).
- **Minutes:** After one correction, mentioned by Diane Peters, Janet Hoy moved and Jim Adelman seconded to accept the minutes with the correction; the motion passed with 9 yeas and 2 abstentions.
- **Corresponding Secretary's report.** None.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Robin Kaufman presented the monthly financial statement of the Council, showing a total of \$10,511.21 in assets.

3. **President's Remarks:** Following introductory comments to the guests in attendance, Robin Kaufman said:

- Major freeway closures coming up, for which residents may check Cal-Trans updates on our website;
- Community elections are in March and the deadline to file candidacy is January 31, 2007;
- Council serves Community in many ways, such as (recently): finding a meeting room for the San Diego Foundation, protecting many RB olive trees now designated as historic landmarks, purchasing tarps to protect books in Library from roof leaks, and promoting CERT citizen emergency training program;
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training is a program the Council is promoting to train ordinary citizens as emergency responders for their own communities, authorizing them to cross FEMA lines, for which the next course is in January 2007 – registration forms/information on back table and on Council website;
- In response to our grant application, the San Diego Foundation has sent the Council a \$500 grant check for various operational expenses, including community elections;
- Condolences on the behalf of the Council to our friend Joe Dirks, whose wife passed away very recently;
- The recent stroke of a friend, prompted Robin to warn all of a “beauty parlor” stroke, which can happen to anyone, caused by the pressure on the back of the neck at the shampoo sink edge.

4. **Resident's Remarks:** None.

5. **Government Relations Reports:**

**Courtney Smith** for **City Councilman Brian Maienschein** introduced Brian's Chief of Staff, Lance Witmond, and then reminded citizens of the food drive for Alpha Project that will end on December 17, and that bins for donations are located in the libraries. Two more locations for V-com signs have been selected: Lomica and Avenida de los Lobos. A public safety issue has arisen with toy guns that are realistic replicas of real guns, popular with kids and pose serious risk to children and law enforcement, when mistaken for viable weapons. Vehicles that look like ice cream trucks are selling the gun. Public Safety and Neighborhood Services are working with the City Attorney to prohibit the selling of the guns taken off the market. Robin asked if anymore paving is to be done on West Bernardo. Courtney thinks the paving work is complete as is, but the bike lane will be repainted.

**Andrew Lund** for **Assemblyman George Plescia** introduced newest staff member, Sarah Sykes, and thanked those who voted to re-elect his boss. Proposed legislation co-authored with Senator Kehoe regarding the Airport Authority to transfer the authority for usage and planning to SANDAG. Guy Cargulia reminded Lund that Plescia had publicly stated that he would not take a pay raise in office, yet he did, why? Lund said that he could not go into the reasons for this.

**Dan Dufresne** for **Congressman Brian Bilbray** said that committee assignments are still up in the air, due to the new majority leadership. Bilbray is on the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Government Reform Committees. He served on the Commerce Committee in 1994-2001; assignments are decided by minority leaders. Looks forward to working across party lines on his two main issues: curbing illegal immigration and budget reform. On this and other issues, Bilbray is working with Congressman Collin Peterson (a “blue dog” democrat) from Minnesota. Janet Hoy asked if Bilbray supports the Escondido Housing Ordinance, and Dufresne said that he did, though it is in litigation. Guy Cargulia asked if Bilbray had read the Iraq Study Group report and had comments. Yes, said Dufresne, and there are comments in an article with other congressmen and a press release on his website. Dick Walker asked if Bilbray was on the Budget Committee. No, however, Dufresne said he has introduced a bill to set a 2-year budget cycle. Regarding earmarks on Budget, Bilbray has submitted an aggressive Earmark Reform legislation to require members to sign earmark requests so there is some accountability.

**Sue Behr** for the **San Diego North Chamber** reported on Chamber news and upcoming events, which are listed on the Chamber’s website. SDNCC Educational Foundation is co-opting with Westwood Elementary for an indoor golf tournament will take place in March. Chamber Newsletters were available to all attendees. Robin took a moment to thank the Chamber for all its help and support, most recently lending a laptop and projector to show a DVD at the Public Safety meeting.

Agenda change: **RB Planning Board** (PB) Liaison Report by PB board member **Ellen Willis** regarding a vote by SD Planning Commission (SDPC) today, that approved a conditional use permit (CUP) for Grace Church to open in an industrial zone, though restricted by our Community Plan. This action is of great concern for the viability of our PB, which must abide by all City Council rules and policies for the city to indemnify the PB. Though every Commissioner agreed with the PB’s points, they still voted to ignore our plan. It is believed that other churches, awaiting this outcome, will petition accordingly. Ellen then stated that she hoped the City Attorney would “back them up” in preserving our community plan and PB.

6. **Presentation: San Diego City Attorney, Mike Aguirre** and Assistant City Attorney, Karen Heumann, were welcomed and introduced by Robin Kaufman. Then Mike addressed the Council and residents regarding many issues of concern to the city. Foremost, the pension plan situation that, according to the SEC, is the largest securities fraud case in the US, and which represents a \$3billion hole in the city budget—\$900m in illegal benefits. Some city employees appreciate and understand what he is doing, but most do not want their benefits reduced regardless of legality or impact on the city finances. Mike is also meeting with Waste Water Management regarding rate increases and water safety issues. RB is in the least advantageous spot for water quality and notification problems. Waste water pipes are breaking down all over the city, and we are not in compliance with a Dept. of Health Services order. SD spends 10 times as much to maintain Qualcomm as on streets and roads; about \$40m annually to subsidize professional baseball and football. Also, Chargers have extended the ticket guarantee and lowered rent, costing SD \$75m. “The only purpose of the government is to serve the people,” Mike said, and that the former city attorney’s office was “one of the worst offenders” in the pension plan saga. So he has replaced almost all of the staff. He praised Karen Heumann for doing a great job, and said that the City Attorney’s office is now a great and in-demand place to work.

Q&A: When asked what illegal about the Affordable Housing Plan, Mike said that there really is *no plan*; the law requires a city to meet obligations for affordable housing, but SD has done nothing. Dick Walker asked who the major “players” are in the Pension Plan case regarding throwing out the illegal benefits, and Mike answered that the folks who created the problem versus the public; and he added that the City Council should be the oversight group for the Mayor, so the Council members are now training to become certified auditors.

## 7. **Agenda Items – Voting:**

- A. **MAD Tree Replacement:** Robin Kaufman informed the Council that MAD wished to replace some withered, dying or damaged olive trees in the RB Road median with new, multi-trunk trees of comparable size at the approximate cost of \$30K, for which MAD has the money, but needs the Council approval. One small, single-trunk tree that is healthy will be moved. The job will require special equipment. Myrna Reese moved and Patti Perna seconded to approve this expenditure. The motion passed with unanimous (11-0) support.
- B. **Donation of Tarps to Library:** The RB Library, which has given so much to the community and the Council, has asked us to purchase about 10 tarps to protect books roof leaks during inclement weather. Robin Kaufman has found a package of 12 for \$20.81. Patti moved and Janet seconded to approve this purchase, which also passed with unanimous support.
- C. **Vacancy in District E:** Jerry Coats stepped down when he had to move out of the district for six months, and Joe Dirks presented himself for that seat. Joe has served in the community in many capacities,

including Planning Board and Council as Corresponding and Recording Secretaries respectively, RIBAR radio operator, Election Committee, and he still has his badge and nameplate! Joe was seated with full support (11-0) of the Council.

**D. Vacancy in District D:** For a seat vacated by Christy Taylor, who also had to move from the district, Brooke Lambert presented herself to fill this post. Brooke is a native of the northeast and moved to RB from Medford, New Jersey a year ago last March. Her husband is a GM retiree, they have children, and she works at the RB Prudential office. The vote to seat Brooke was unanimous (11-0).

8. **Agenda Items – Non-voting: Bylaws** – Robin Kaufman announced that the revised Bylaws are finished and copies are available, and thanked Diane Peters for her work on this project.

9. **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Government Relations/Utilities:** Janet Hoy – they did not have a meeting in November, but will in January.

**MAD:** Robin Kaufman – See minutes on website; the majority of our next meeting will be devoted to reviewing the 2007 fiscal year budget, which is a record of about 200 line items that MAD members annually go through with city staff members.

**Programs:** Guy Cargulia said he was hoping to get someone from the Transportation Security Agency for January. He asked Janet Hoy if she could see about inviting District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis for February. Robin suggested getting someone from Waste Water Management for a future meeting. No speaker necessary for March.

**Public Relations/Elections:** Jim Adelman – last meeting was December 6. They are trying to get things going for the elections. Jim said Maria Keith and Dave Hall have contributed greatly to the efforts of this committee. He is very excited about what the Committee is working on. Others have also been willing to help out. RB News Journal is not giving us much news coverage, which is a problem. Jim says they are putting together a forum to send out information to other committee chairs and organizations – like a press release.

**Public Safety:** Dave Hall reported that they had a Red Cross representative speak about emergency evacuation preparedness for families and individuals at their last meeting with about 31 people in attendance! Discussion of the CERT training and forms were handed out. Joe Dirks talked about his experience in CERT and the costs (supplies only). Robin said George Cooke and Steve Ewart would be setting up a link with downloadable information that people can use, such as an evacuation checklist.

**Traffic & Transportation:** Robin Kaufman – see minutes on website. There was a proposal presented by a Bernardo Heights resident, Tom Reid, for a decorative pavement design to address traffic issues on Paseo Lucido. A motion was passed (9-0 with 1 abstention) and will be put on PB agenda to send letter to the city, asking for the following: 1) signal modification to allow two left-turn lanes to westbound Bernardo Heights; 2) pavement treatment at that intersection and that of Calle Temega and Paseo Lucido to make them bike friendly; and 3) to install bike lanes on Paseo Lucido between the east and west end of Bernardo Heights Parkway. Update on installation of all-way stop in High Country West at Cloud Crest and Lofty Trails will be completed soon; this had been approved but there were complications with a petition. No December meeting.

10. **Liaison Reports:**

**Planning Board:** Given with Government Liaison Reports (item 5).

**Recreation Council:** Robin Kaufman – meeting cancelled due to lack of agenda.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Diane Peters.