

# **RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

## **RB Branch Library**

**January 25, 2006**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alethea Altenbern.
2. **Administrative Matters:**
  - **Roll Call:** All members present except: Dorothy Risheberger, Karen Rott and Kim Johnson (excused).
  - **Minutes:** After two corrections, mentioned by Alethea Altenbern, Patti Perna moved and Joe Dirks seconded to accept the minutes with those corrections; the motion passed unanimously.
  - **Corresponding Secretary's report.** One thank you letter was sent to Mike Aguirre for his presentation at our December 7 meeting; and two letters were sent to the October speakers in November; Robin will be sending annual thank you letters to individuals and groups that help the Council on a regular basis.
  - **Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Treasurer Dorothy Risheberger, who has had back surgery, and a copy of the financial report she emailed, Robin Kaufman gave a brief statement as to the general status of Council assets—totaling \$10,583.97.
3. **General Council Remarks:**
  - Robert Dunlap, who has four great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter, announced that on his birthday (December 27) his 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandson was born and given the middle name of Robert.
  - Joe Dirks announced that as of 7:27 PM EST he became a grandfather for the first time!
  - Myrna Reese mentioned that former Council Member and renowned RB figure, Jacquie Nelson fell and sustained serious injury; she is now in the hospital. Myrna suggested the Council send a card.
4. **President's Remarks:** Following introductory comments to the guests in attendance, Robin Kaufman talked about the following:
  - 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.
  - Community elections in March and the deadline to file is just days away on January 31, 2007.
  - Last chance to sign up for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training program for the winter class that started January 24 and 27 – registration forms on back table and Council website.
  - Pomerado/West Bernardo I-15 Freeway exit is finished only one month over projected completion date! At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Robin, Brian Maienschein, and the mayor of Escondido, who is Vice Chair of SANDAG, gave speeches; Mary Shea of the Recreation Council was also in attendance.
5. **Resident's Remarks:** Mary Shea of the Recreation Council spoke about the Mayor's recent announcement regarding a proposed dismantling of the SD Parks & Rec Department, pointing out that the management of community parks "relies heavily" on the expertise and assistance from the Park & Rec employees. Indicating that loss of this department could be devastating to the condition and maintenance of our parks, she urged residents to contact Brian Maienschein to protest this decision.
6. **Government Relations Reports:**

**Courtney Smith for City Councilman Brian Maienschein** announced that the traffic department and law enforcement representatives, along with residents, have been observing traffic around Bernardo Heights Middle and RB High Schools, now that there are "No Stopping" signs in place of "No Parking" signs. Police are enforcing the No Stopping rule. Furthermore, residents were counseled to turn on lawn sprinklers at peak parking times, such as end of school, which has been a simple and effective deterrent to problematic and illegal parking. Regarding recent traffic deaths on Bernardo Heights Parkway, four more speed limit signs and one warning sign (on View Point Road) will be installed. The deaths were the result of teens street-racing, but hopefully the extra signs will reinforce legal speed limit. A bond measure was approved to refinance the Ball Park to save money. Robin asked about Paseo Lucido sign regarding blocking intersections at a \$101 fine.

Patti thanked Brian's staff for getting the sinkhole on Calle Paracho fixed quickly. Susan Santilena asked about Mayor amending the Appropriations Ordinance, but Courtney said Brian has no position on that yet.

**Stephen Lew** speaking for **Mayor Jerry Sanders** said the Mayor proposed a City Ordinance for consistent district development. Water and Waste Water Management had a public hearing regarding rate increases, cited to pay for necessary water and sewer pipe replacements throughout the city. Per the Mayor's request, Lew will be attending community meetings bimonthly rather than quarterly. He said that because San Diegans voted in favor of Propositions B (67%) and C (60%), the Mayor could not ignore the will of the people in spite of continued opposition. Guy Cargulia asked about the effect of no Parks & Recreation (P&R) on Balboa Park, a significant tourist attraction. In regard to replacing water pipes that were installed in 1890 and are just now breaking down, Robin asked how long the replacement pipes were expected to last. She also asked about a serious parking issue in RB, where people park cars with For Sale signs along our roads. A pilot program had been proposed to disallow this practice, but was shot down by the mayor, Robin said, and then asked if the program would have a chance if re-issued? Lew could not answer any of these questions, but promised to look into them. Regarding the future of the P&R department, Robin stressed how critical this well-working department and its employees to our community parks, citing examples of their responsiveness and indispensable expertise. She said development services would also suffer, as would all 44 communities. Lew said nothing had been decided as yet, and reminded all that our city is still in a dire financial situation, for which the Mayor has to make tough cuts he doesn't want to do. He promised to pass all our concerns on to the Mayor in his weekly brief. Patti Perna said potential loss of tourism dollars to our "showcase" parks, such as Balboa, should be figured in the balance, as well as benefits versus quality of life. Courtney Smith asked if the Mayor planned to outsource P&R services. Lew said it was too soon to say, still reorganizing.

**Andrew Lund** for **Assemblyman George Pleiscia** announced a new agenda from the governor included a healthcare plan to insure all uninsured in CA, even illegal residents; a \$100-billion budget; growth plan strategies that included bonds, many to fix overcrowded prisons. The governor may put a cap on prison occupancy, if no progress with the overcrowding problem, which could result in early releases. In regard to the Spanking Ban bill, Pleiscia is not a supporter. Governor also declared a State of Emergency for devastated citrus and avocado crops in SD County due to cold weather. The Maryland law on Payroll Tax was declared unconstitutional. Guy suggested changes in sentencing laws might have an impact on prison occupancy, for which Lund had no comment.

**Gary Powers, San Diego North Chamber of Commerce President** reported on Chamber news and upcoming events in RB, which are listed on the SDNCC website. Gary invited the Council members to attend their monthly mixers at member prices. He thanked Robin for work on the MAD projects and her support of the Chamber, which is again considering the installation of "Welcome" and "pull" signs at freeway access points to draw people to RB businesses. Their first Indoor Golf Tournament is set for next month, announcements forthcoming; Jeff Shea is researching these types of events to benefit Chamber causes and Westwood Elementary. Asked all to urge RB shop owners to attend the February Nuts & Bolts on ADA Compliance, so they will know what they have to do to protect themselves against ADA law suits. Next week Chamber will meet with nine businesses in the RB industrial park regarding Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness. At a recent Women's Round Table Andrea Tevlin (SD Budget Analyst) spoke, whose success in raising money for the Park & Rec and Library departments of Phoenix, AZ, prompted Gary to recommend her as an important resource to help us with our threatened Park & Recreation Department.

7. **Presentation: Retired Brigadier General Michael J. Aguilar, Federal Security Director of Transportation Security Agency (TSA)**, recently named FSD of the Year for Western Region by the TSA, outlined the TSA organization and role in airport and transportation security, explaining passenger requirements and rules for issues such as carry on and checked luggage at airports. Aguilar gave a brief history of the TSA, which was formed after 9/11 and later made a part of Homeland Security. TSA took over the security branch of the FAA, and though it is airport-centric, the TSA regulates security of all types of transportation: aviation, rail, mass transit, waterways (out of Coast Guard jurisdiction), highways and pipelines. TSA oversees screening operations, regulatory compliance and law enforcement via contractual agreements with existing agencies. Aguilar talked about jurisdiction, security processes, codes, recent events, intelligence, regulations, and many more aspects of security at our local airports and others around the country and the world. It was a very informative presentation that invoked a lot of questions, comments and discussion.
8. **Agenda Items (Voting) – Approval of MAD 2007/2008 Budget:** Alethea Altenbern announced that the MAD budget, which had been emailed to all Council Members weeks prior, had been reviewed and approved by the committee and asked the Council for its approval. Andrea Thomas moved and Patti Perna seconded to approve the MAD Budget as printed, which passed with unanimous support.

9. **Agenda Items (Non-voting):**

**Update on Olive Tree Replacement:** Robin Kaufman said it was found that three more trees need replacing, noting that all trees slated for removal now bear blue flags.

**Update on Dorothy Risheberger:** At Hillcrest Hospital UCSD, she went in for a 5-hour surgery that took 9 hours, and now recovering quite well.

10. **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Government Relations/Utilities:** Janet Hoy – January meeting postponed until February.

**MAD:** Alethea Altenbern – Changing the day of meetings, now 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7pm. They are earmarking projects to be done over the year, using Capital Improvement funds: 1) Pomerado Road medians, 2) water for plantings on Westwood sound wall, 3) remove grass around olive trees and 4) add holiday lights on Rancho Bernardo Road.

**Programs:** Guy Cargulia – Dave Hall has arranged for the SD Cruise Line Coordinator Rita Vandergaw to speak in February. Janet Hoy said she had not heard back from District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. Robin suggested getting someone from Waste Water Management for a future meeting. No speaker necessary for March.

**Public Relations/Elections:** Jim Adelman said there was a really good article in paper recently! When they get all candidacy applications, they will begin coordinating the elections.

**Public Safety:** Dave Hall reported that they had a Stasia Place, County Emergency Services Coordinator, speak and suggested we take a tour of their EOC facility. CERT training started on January 24 with Council members Dave, Robin and Patti taking the course!

**Traffic & Transportation:** Robin Kaufman – Last meeting was short, as they did not have many agenda items. They discussed traffic issues around the 4S Ranch school, and the traffic and parking problems caused by students of High country West and RB Schools.

11. **Fire Station 33:** Patti Perna – The newly reorganized group will have their kick off fundraiser soon.

12. **Liaison Reports:**

**Planning Board:** Robin Kaufman said they a long meeting this month, adjourned at 10pm! Many issues were on the table: Ad hoc committee to address religious organizations that want to set up churches in the Industrial Park, though the City recently granted one church a 5-year CUP, against RB PB advice and Community Plan. Catholic phase of a SD Water Authority will cut through RB. Vision Plan formed to update the RB Community Plan.

**Recreation Council:** Robin Kaufman – meeting was devoted to discussing the city's Park & Recreation Department issue mentioned earlier in this meeting.

Adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Diane Peters.