

RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Rancho Bernardo Library

July 24, 2008

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Administrative Matters:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Of 18 members; 15 present; Excused was Andrea Thomas. Unexcused were Beverly Merrill and Teri Denlinger resigned.
- Minutes: Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as submitted.
- Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Thomas was ill so there is no report.
- Treasurer: Dorothy Risheberger reported that the Council has 7 CDs totaling \$8,206.23; a checking account with \$1,178.42; and a San Diego Foundation account with \$1,004.94; one check was written for \$168.16 to the San Diego Foundation for RBCC letterhead that was purchased by the AdHoc Fire Station committee; the total in the account is \$10,221.43. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report as presented.

3. President's Remarks: President Jay Riordan began with the usual introductory comments to the audience.

4. Resident's Remarks:

- Gus Davis has created a YouTube demonstration with instructions for building an attic vent screen which will deter wildfire ashes. For information go to: www.youtube.com/gusjoyce.
- Robin Kaufman reported on five topics. The Bernardo Hills pilot project speed bumps have been installed. Our Community Relations Officer warns residents that thieves are drilling holes in car gas tanks in order to steal the gas. He recommends that residents keep their vehicles in the garage. The CERT program still has openings and the first 20 people who sign up will receive free materials. Caltrans has opened the Duenda overpass in both directions. And construction bids are being reviewed for the fire station renovation project. Lastly Robin commended Flo, a Seven Oaks North resident, who has raised \$1300 for the fire station by going door-to-door to solicit donations in her neighborhood.
- Hal Altenbern encouraged council members to attend and promote the upcoming Historical Society fundraising concert to be held Saturday, August 16 at the Bernardo Winery.
- Tom Cook, President of the Rancho Bernardo Historical Society, spoke about a dilemma regarding the installation of a fire hydrant at the site of the new museum. He explained the only financially feasible option was to request that the San Diego Water Department allow a tap from Paseo Del Verano over to the winery. He asked the Council to support this request.

5. Liaison Reports: (Non Board Members)

- Council Member Brian Maienschein's representative Courtney Smith reported that street light repair has been expedited and now will be done within ten days. The Brush Management program has been increased and the priority areas are posted on the council website. An AED, (heart defibulator) recently saved the life of an 85 year old man in our community. Maienschein was the catalyst for installing the AED machines in local centers and so far 50 heart attack victims have been saved.
- Supervisor Pam Salter-Price's representative Erica Hollaway announced that San Diego will have five SuperScoopers on lease for 90 days during the fire season. These airplanes deliver extremely large tanks of water. There are also eight new fire engines. The Supervisor is working on the merger of 12 local fire departments. The county is considering a tax to fund a regional fire agency and, if this initiative is passed on August 5, it will be on the November ballot and require a two-thirds vote for approval.
- Senator Dennis Hollingsworth's representative Ellen Malin reported that the budget process was back on track and information was available at www.CaliforniaBudget.org.

6. Program

Sheryl Bilbrey from the Better Business Bureau spoke about the organizations' mission to set standards, rate business integrity, process consumer complaints and provide arbitration. The BBB evaluates businesses (both members and non-members) and charities. After the wildfires, there were many cases of consumer fraud and contractors making promises they could not deliver. Go to www.BBB.org to research a business profile.

7. Agenda Items (Voting Items): The President abstains from voting, except to break a tie.

- Last month the council expressed interest in establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to review election and voting procedures in the by-laws. It was formally moved, seconded and passed to set up this committee to be chaired by Frank Auwarter along with members Beverly Judge and Andrea Thomas. (14-0)
- It was announced that Teri Denlinger has resigned from District B. There is an open position in District F which previously filled by Michele Stitzel. Resident Kimberly Bianco applied for that position and was unanimously voted in. (14-0)

8. Agenda Items (Non-Voting):

President Jay Riordan passed around a sign-up sheet for new members to designate which committees they would like to serve on. The newest members asked to wait one month before committing.

9. Standing Committee Reports:

- Government Affairs: Ken Michael did not have a Government Affairs report for this meeting.
- Maintenance Assessment: Steve DeMatteo distributed copies of the MAD budget. He explained that \$79,000 had been allocated for the new CIP fund that was established last month because that amount was in excess of the maximum reserves allowed to be carried over to the next fiscal year. The council approved that allocation and the budget. The RB monument sign committee is planning to set up focus groups to explore our community image and ways to portray our local flavor in signage and other promotional means.
- Programs: Ken Michael listed upcoming programs including: Logan Jenkins of the Union Tribune will be the August program; and September will feature Rancho Bernardo High School. Dick Katz commended Ken on the excellent programs this past year.
- Public Relations: Brandy Luscalzo's committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. They are developing a program to honor a citizen of the month and also discussing options for promoting more visibility/interest in the March community council elections. All new members must be on this committee the first year.
- Public Safety: Frank Auwarter presented a resolution regarding fire safety to be sent to the City of San Diego and various elected officials. It was moved, seconded and passed that this resolution become a voting item. Then the council voted unanimously (14-0) to send this resolution with the following changes: Paragraph three, after "public safety" add Proposition 172; paragraph four after Rather, add the word it; and furthermore send the document to all county supervisors. (See the original resolution at the end of the July minutes.)
- Traffic and Transportation: This next Monday, Gustavo Dallarda from Caltrans will be speaking about the I-15 lane changes.

10. Other Business:

- Janet Atkin asked the council to support the RB Historical Society's efforts to procure a new hydrant by sending a letter on their behalf to the San Diego Water Department. This was changed to a voting item and passed unanimously (14-0). Janet will draft the letter, send a copy to Jay for approval and Andrea Thomas will mail.
- Joe Dirk asked why he had not received a reimbursement check and Dorothy Risheberger replied that one more signature was needed on the bank account.

11. Liaison Reports:

- Planning Board: Robin Kaufman expressed concern that the Planning Board was purchasing election envelopes on behalf of all the councils when she believed that had not been discussed by the other community groups.
- Recreation Council: No report.

Ajournment; The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Janet Atkin

RESOLUTION
Of the
RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Directed to
The MAYOR, CITY OF SAN DIEGO, the CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SAN DIEGO
and the SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Rancho Bernardo Community Council wishes to add its voice to the increasingly urgent demands by the public that our elected officials take timely and effective action to improve the capability of San Diego and San Diego County to combat wild fires. Our region has experienced two disastrous wild fires in the past five years, the most recent of which had a particularly devastating effect upon Rancho Bernardo. As the fire season lengthens each year we face an almost perpetual risk of another disastrous fire. Yet the fire fighting capability of the City and County remains gravely deficient.

We need not review the deficiencies. They are well documented and indisputable. Most importantly, the amount of the City and County's fire fighting equipment and facilities and the number of fire fighting personnel are far below those that are needed in the light of the danger and those that are possessed by comparable regions in California. Any meaningful correction of those deficiencies will require substantial purchases of equipment and augmentation of personnel and facilities. It will be expensive.

Therefore, in order to achieve adequate fire preparedness, you, as the responsible public officials, will be required to reorder spending priorities or raise new revenue, or both. This is the principal subject of the San Diego County Grand Jury Report 2007—2008 (filed May 29, 2008). The Grand Jury Report reviews the lessons learned in the Cedar Fire, and re-learned last year, and makes several recommendations, many of which relate to funding fire protection. Among other things, the Report recommends that the City prepare a ballot measure raising the transient occupancy tax, the revenue from which would be used solely to improve fire protection levels. As to the County, the Report recommends, for example, that the County should devote to fire safety some of the funds resulting from a 1993 ½ % increase in the sales tax earmarked for "public safety" which the County currently uses entirely for the Sheriff, District Attorney, and Probation Department, as though fire protection were not a matter of public safety. The Report also suggests that interest on the County's reserve fund could be applied to fire protection.

It is not the purpose of this Resolution to urge the adoption of any of the specific recommendations of the Grand Jury Report. Rather, is the Rancho Bernardo Community Council's desire, and its request to you as the responsible public officials, that you carefully consider each and all of the grand jury's recommendations in the light of the urgent need to improve fire preparedness in our city and county, and that you adopt such of those recommendations, or other measures, as may be required meaningfully to improve fire preparedness at the earliest possible time.