

RB COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Rancho Bernardo Library

January 22, 2009

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

2. Administrative Matters:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Of 17 members; 14 present; Excused were Andrea Thomas and Kimberly Bianco. Unexcused was Jeff Gamble.
- Minutes: Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes.
- Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Thomas was ill so there was no report.
- Treasurer: Dorothy Risheberger reported that the Council has 7 CDs totaling \$8,332.18; a checking account with \$925.30; and a San Diego Foundation account with \$1,083.61; the total in the account is \$10,341.09. In December \$59.60 was paid to cover the Council's portion of the expenses for the upcoming elections. 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. Program: No program was scheduled for this meeting.

5. Resident's Remarks:

- Hal Altenbern spoke about his concerns regarding the Maintenance Assessment Budget (MAD) budget. He feels it is not right and fair that 42% of the funds for any local project go to engineering and city departments.
- Jim Denton presented plans for landscape changes at the Bernardo Heights Country Club. In a proactive measure to conserve water, the BHCC has hired a golf course architect to redesign some of the periphery areas with drought tolerant native plants. Work on the project will begin soon.
- Michael Robinson, CEO of the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce, announced that America's largest professional cycling event, the Amgen Tour of California, is scheduled in Rancho Bernardo on Sunday, February 22. Up to 80,000 people are expected to attend the race which begins at noon and features cyclist Lance Armstrong. This is a unique economic opportunity for local businesses and the Chamber is organizing a mini RB Alive type fair and promotional materials.

6. Liaison Reports: (Non Board Members)

- Council Member Carl DeMaio's representative Chris Hansen introduced himself as our new Rancho Bernardo liaison. He is looking forward to meeting people in the community and helping to solve problems that arise. Chris reported that Carl is very involved at present with cutting the city budget. He is also developing a plan to offer amnesty to small business owners who were unaware that they needed a license. Upon taking office, Carl has refused all previous legislative perks such as car expenses, stadium seats, etc. Carl would like to be briefed about issues in the community, like the MAD budget.
- No other liaisons were present at this meeting.

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

- Frank Auwarter presented the revised by-law amendments. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to accept the new by-law changes. (13-0). (See the new by-laws in an attachment at the end of the January minutes.)
- President Jay Riordan announced the Nominating Committee: Kimberly Bianco, Suzanne Burns, Myrna Reese, Dottie Risheberger, and Andrea Thomas. The Council approved the recommendation. The following council members are up for reelection: Alethea Altenbern, Janet Atkin, Frank Auwarter, Steve DeMatteo, Carol McCotter, Joe Dirks, Jeff Gamble, Dick Katz, Ken Michael, and Jay Riordan.

- Steve DeMatteo presented the Maintenance Assessment Budget (MAD) for the Fiscal Year 2010 (07-01-09 to 06-30-10). Ken Michael expressed his concern regarding the high cost of city expenses to undertake projects. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the budget as presented (13-0).
- Robin Kaufman and the public relations committee proposed that the Council honor outstanding citizens each month. They have developed a nomination form and suggested awarding a certificate. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded that the following procedure be set: A nomination form will be available on the website, this form will be submitted to the public relations committee, they will review applications and select one or more citizens to be honored, all applications, if not chosen, will remain in the pool the entire year, the citizen to be honored will be invited to the next Council meeting and awarded a certificate and perhaps other items such as a restaurant gift certificate, and the media would be notified of the award. This proposal was passed (8-4-1).
- The utility box painting project was discussed. The motion was made, seconded and passed to continue to support the project.
- The committee to research Council donations to community organizations did not present their proposal because chair Kimberly Bianco was unable to attend this month's meeting.

8. Agenda Items (Non-Voting):

- Beverly Judge, the Council representative to the Elections Committee, asked members to volunteer to work on election day. More candidates are still needed. The local newspaper will print a brief profile of each person running for office. Flyers have been posted around the community and on our website.

9. Standing Committee Reports

- Government Affairs: Ken Michael reported that Carl DeMaio was guest speaker at the last meeting. Seventeen people attended and discussed a variety of issues including the MAD budget. Ken is discouraged that the county is not more involved in fire prevention efforts.
- Maintenance Assessment: Steve DeMatteo presented the budget earlier in the meeting.
- Programs: No speakers have been set yet for February or April.
- Public Relations: Press releases are being sent out to the media for all committee meetings.
- Public Safety: Frank Auwarter's committee invited George George to speak about fire prevention initiatives underway since the defeat of Prop. A last November. Sixteen people attended and there was a consensus that nothing had moved forward and that county supervisors should be doing more.
- Traffic and Transportation: Dick Katz had no report.

10. Other Business:

- Robin Kaufman promoted Recycling Day which will be held Saturday, February 7 from 9am-1pm in the Casa parking lot. Batteries will be accepted. Members should contact Andrea Thomas if they are able to work. There is a temporary grant which has set up battery recycling stations at all county libraries.
- Robin Kaufman reported that the Recreation Council had finalized new by-laws and were dealing with some dog park issues.
- Robin Kaufman reported that 8 people attended the last RB United meeting. Of the 365 homes that burned, only 70 have been rebuilt.
- Ken Michael spoke earnestly to the council members about his concerns that the Council did not have a defined purpose and he asked whether the Council was really making a positive difference in the community. He feels a lack in enthusiasm and commitment. He hopes leadership will energize realistic goals and set policy and resolution as the primary council focus.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
Minutes were prepared by Janet Atkin

Bylaw Amendments:

In sec. 3.03 (A), in the next to the last sentence after the word “alternate” add “years”. The last sentence shall be deleted.

The first sentence of sec. 4.01 (A) is amended to read as follows: “The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five Council members to be confirmed by the Council at the Council Meeting which precedes the Rancho Bernardo Community elections by two months.:

The last sentence of sec. 5.02 (A) (8) shall be deleted.

Insert new sec. 6.03 (E) as follows: “The candidate receiving the highest number of votes, or, if two places are to be filled, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes, shall be elected to the Council. In the event of a tie, at the first meeting after the election, after newly elected members are seated and before the election of officers, the Council shall choose between or among the tied candidates by secret ballot, and the chosen candidate shall be seated on the Council.”

At the end of sec. 6.04 (A) insert the following: “If a member moves out of the district from which they were elected, their membership on the Council shall terminate. Provide, however, that a resident of a district who is required to vacate their home because of a natural disaster or emergency, and who intends to return to that home as soon as practicable, shall be deemed to be a resident of that district, and their eligibility to stand for election from that district or, if a member, to remain on the Council shall not be affected.”

Delete sec. 6.04 (D) and insert the following: “A person who has been elected to four consecutive terms on the Council may be elected to the next following term only by a vote of three-quarters of all votes cast for Council candidates in the district. Failing election, such person shall be eligible to fill a vacancy on the Council only after the elapse of three months following the date of the election.”

Ad hoc Bylaw Committee

Andrea Thomas

Beverly Judge

Frank Auwarter