



**Rancho Bernardo Community Council  
Minutes of September 24, 2009  
Rancho Bernardo Library**

1. **Call to Order:** President Frank Auwarter
2. **Pledge:** Led by Dorothy Rischeberger
3. **Roll Call:**

In attendance:  
Gina De Leo; Rosemarie Straight; Dick Katz; Frank Auwarter;  
Deborah Goodrich; Dorothy Rischeberger; John Amodeo; Jay Gedanken; Carol McCotter; Joe Dirks; Beverly Merrill.

Excused:  
All other members were excused by President Auwarter: Kelly Batten;  
Suzanne Burns; Kimberly Bianco; George George; Robin Kaufman;  
Myrna Reese; Stan Robbins; Beverly Judge and Andrea Thomas
4. **Treasurer's Report:**

Council member Dorothy Rischeberger provided the report for August 2009: (figures provided by handout distributed at meeting).  
Beginning Checking Balance: \$594.22;  
Ending Checking Balance: \$531.41  
Non Endowed SD Foundation Account Balance: \$1081.93  
Opening CD Sum: \$7,000; Current CD Balance: \$8411.35  
Expenditures: \$59.81 and \$3.00  
Total Ending Balance: \$10,024.69

A motion was made and seconded to accept Treasurer's report.
5. **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** no report provided this month.
6. **Minutes:** Will be posted.
7. **President's Remarks:** President Frank Auwarter reported that Kelly Batten is on maternity leave. President Auwarter also introduced Council Member Carl DeMaio.

8. **Presentation by Council Member Carl De Maio:**

DeMaio introduced office staff Jeff who is now in charge of community outreach programs, neighborhood walks, community events and educational programs on water, conservation and public safety. DeMaio reported that our district now has four community representatives handling outreach and two community case managers. He noted there were some reorganization efforts toward educational events.

DeMaio also made mention that RB Community Council Member, Kelly Batten (also a DeMaio staff member) is out on maternity leave with her new son: Patrick Batten.

DeMaio spoke briefly on financial issues with regards to San Diego. He explained that Mayor Sanders will provide a five year financial forecast in the coming week. Community forums to be held at Scripps and Rancho Bernardo in November 2009 to further discuss financial issues with the general public. DeMaio noted current financial practices in San Diego are not sustainable.

DeMaio stated San Diego is facing severe financial problems with the largest issue being the city pension plan. He explained pension benefits amount to 28% of the cost of city payroll. Next year that figure will rise to 32% and in ten years, the figure will reach 50%. He mentioned that the State continues to attach infrastructure funds and that we must continue to defend against State cuts. DeMaio noted that his office maintains focused on financial issues as his top priority.

Council Member John Amodeo, asked DeMaio for clarification on the city payroll costs. DeMaio explained the costs amount to existing payroll costs. He noted retiree health care is free to end of life for retirees. DeMaio responded also that several office staff are working on solutions, but efforts are slowed in that three classes of employees are involved. He will suggested developing a benchmark for city employees and retirees based upon the average American family's benefits.

Council Member Beverly Merrill, expressed her gratitude to DeMaio for solving the long standing 'Cars For Sale' on Rancho Bernardo Road issue, and she asked what could be done to prevent this from occurring on other RB streets. DeMaio responded his office monitors the situation and that any other infractions occurring on other streets should be reported to his office.

Council Member John Amodeo, noted that DeMaio's constituents are members of the PHH District. Amodeo inquired of DeMaio if he is up to date on the PHH issue with the concern being focused on the funding provided by our district for the PHH project. DeMaio responded that PHH does not go through his office as PHH is districted in Escondido (out of his area), but that his office does receive annual reports from time to time. Outside of that, his office does not get involved unless there is a direct complaint lodged.

Council Member DeMaio handouts: DeMaio Applauds Reform of City Business Tax Programs

9. **Liaison Report:**

10.

President Frank introduced Oscar Urteaga, representative from Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher's office. Urteaga provided handouts discussed a recent public meeting held by Fletcher regarding the rising unemployment in the State. He noted 2.2MM persons unemployed. He noted that Assemblyman Fletcher believes job creation should be top priority in the State, and that the assembly will go back into session to address the matter. Urteaga also made comments regarding a new Charger's stadium with reference to an effort to pass a bill to omit/exempt normal regulations in order to lure the Chargers to the City of Industry. Urteaga noted the bill was held up in the Senate at this time, and that Assemblyman Fletcher is dedicated to keeping the team in San Diego.

Assemblyman Fletcher handout: New Study Outlines Threats to California Jobs from Regulation, September 24, 2009

11. **Presentation by Dan McAllister:**

President Auwarter introduced San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector, Dan McAllister.

Mr. McAllister explained how the new property tax billing format came about and how it has increased timeliness of tax payment to approximately 97%. McAllister stated the city hit the \$6.3B mark for investments this year, and that preservation of capital is priority in their funding management. He noted the portfolio did not lose any principal in 2008. With regards to investments, McAllister noted in 2006, fund management was moved from the east coast fund managers to local San Diego banks, and noted an improvement in return of approximately 50 basis points using US treasury instruments.

Council Member Goodrich, inquired whether McAllister's office monitors the FDIC watch list and if they have a current Investment Policy Statement. McAllister responded yes to both, and further explained the background and his satisfaction with his investment and accounting personnel.

McAllister also noted that residents should check their new tax bills for current property valuations. Residents have until November 30 and again by May 30 to appeal. He provided a contact # 619 531 5507 to the assessor's office and to start any appeal to go to the county website. He stated there is no harm for a resident to try an appeal. The tax rates cannot go up. They can only go down or remain the same.

McAllister also noted that the Kearny Mesa and Chula Vista offices are now closed due to budget cuts. They will reopen for ten days only December 1 through December 10 for payment acceptance only and will reclose.

McAllister Handouts: Sample property tax bill; San Diego County's Local Banking Initiative, 19 Banking Participants; Business: Dip in Property-Tax Defaults Delights County's Collector (reprint of SD Union Tribune article 8/6/09).

12. **Liaison Report, Senator Hollingsworth's Office:**

President Auwarter introduced Representative Ellen Malin from Senator Hollingsworth's office. Malin noted with regards to activity in the state capitol, 1900 bills were passed through the senate floor, noting further restrictions on businesses, new regulations, and noted the top priority is rising unemployment in the state. Also noted was that an effective water bond has yet to be passed. Lack of storage is a continuing issue. She noted the huge loss of acre feet of water which could supply 5MM families with water due to no other reason than lack of water storage facilities. She also noted that prison overcrowding is in great discussion in Sacramento, and updated the council on the three measures passed related to sex offenders.

Senator Hollingsworth handouts: Hollingsworth E-Report of September 9, 2009 (also available at [www.sen.ca.gov/hollingsworth](http://www.sen.ca.gov/hollingsworth)).

13. **Liaison report by Community Police Officer:**

President Auwarter introduced Community Police Officer, Susan Steffan. Officer Steffan reported good news of an arrest. The person arrested is suspected of 48 residential and business burglaries. She noted also that the recent 'RSVP' graduation this month gave the city 22 new senior graduates. RSVP is a program involving senior volunteer patrol persons who go out in twos to provide residential vacation checks. She noted that residents can visit the county website and click the police department link to sign up for various free services such as the 'knock and rattle' residential vacation check; the YANA service which is a 'knock an talk' for to check on seniors and also a safety program which will email a criminal activity report to any resident which covers their residential area. All services available by signing up online.

Officer Steffan also noted that while Rancho Bernardo does not have a high crime problem, we do have the MADD officer of the year, Officer Steve Rocha. Officer Rocha covers RB, Scripps and Mira Mesa.

14. **Voting Items:**

President Auwarter said that it is his duty under the bylaws to appoint an Election Committee, subject to approval by the Council. The immediate duty of the committee will be to consider and make recommendations to the Council concerning whether Council elections should remain joint elections with the Planning Board, or be held separately, and in what ways, if any, the voting procedure might be improved. The president said that he is appointing everyone who has volunteered to be on the committee, and that the bylaws require that one member of the Election Committee not be a member of the council (the 'member at large').

The president made the following appointments to the Election Committee:

Jay Gedankin, Chairman  
Suzanne Burns  
John Amodeo

Robin Kaufman  
Myrna Reese  
Andrea Thomas  
Ken Michael, member at large

On motion duly made and seconded, the appointment of the foregoing persons to the Election Committee was unanimously approved.

Jay Gedanken asked if it would be acceptable for the committee to consider amendments to the bylaws in addition to those concerning elections. There was no objection to that suggestion.

15. **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Government Relations:** Council Member Joe Dirks, stated a detailed memo had been forwarded to Kelly Batten with regards water issues. He also noted that there is a method to pay water bills through direct debit of checking accounts. He noted that Council Member John Amodeo, will work on the PHH concerns to ensure Rancho Bernardo gets a good return from its investment in the PHH project. And Dirks noted that those residents who do not care for the installation procedures of the new meters can deal with SDG&E directly, and that this was not a pressing concern for the Government relations committee.

**MAD:** President Auwarter noted the RB entrance sign was demolished by a driver and that approximately \$12K (paid from the driver's insurance company) would be credited to our MAD fund; however, approximately \$55K is needed to repair the sign completely.

**Public Relations:** Vice President Kaufman was not present to provide report this month.

**Traffic & Transportation:** Council Member Dick Katz, mentioned a request to make a speed profile of Bernardo Oaks Drive. He noted there would be not meeting on Monday due to the Jewish holiday, and stated no other issues to present.

**Public Safety:** Council Member George George, was not present to provide a report.

16. **Ad Hoc Reports:**

**Utility Box:** Council Member Suzanne Burns, was not present to provide a report.

16. **Other Liaison Reports:**

**Planning Board:**

Council Member Dirks, stated that the planning board would like to know more about the MAD committee. He did note that Andy Field explained MAD and noted how well MAD has handled their funding. Dirks noted the planning board would like to stay on the same election track as the community council. President Auwater noted that the relations between planning board and community councils have improved.

17. **Upcoming Committee Meetings:**

Council members are noted to refer to [www.rbcommunitycouncil.com](http://www.rbcommunitycouncil.com) for dates, locations and times.

18. **Other Business:**

No other business reported

19. **Adjournment:**

President Auwarter called for adjournment at 8:27PM

Minutes by: D. Goodrich, Secretary Pro Tem