

Riviera Association Board Meeting (Draft)
McVeagh House, May 22, 2006

Members Present: Loyd Applegate, Jules Bender, Paul Cashman, Chuck Croninger, Brigitte Forssell, Frank Hotchkiss, Bob Johnson, Art Kvaas, Christine Oliver, Muriel Ridland, and Laura Techentin.

Before the presentation concerning Cottage Hospital's plans for the St. Francis site, residents from Mission Ridge asked the Board to investigate the safety of the new right turn in the road from Lasuen to A.P.S. It is impossible to turn right (no left turn is permitted) without being forced to drive into the oncoming traffic lane going the other way, they reported. They asked the Board to use its influence to press the city to realign and widen that intersection, which has just been reconstructed in front of the Riviera Business Park, and which may obstruct traffic in the event of an emergency evacuation, as well as being unsafe for everyday traffic. It was agreed to take the matter under advisement and Art and Brigitte agreed to investigate the issue.

Paul introduced Ron Biscarro, former Administrator of St. Francis Hospital, and now project manager for both the rebuilding of Cottage to meet state building standards and the development of housing on the St. Francis site. He gave a clear account of the history of the sale of St. Francis, the excessive costs of retrofitting the hospital versus redeveloping it and then described in detail the redevelopment plans. After Ron left at 6.25 PM, Paul and the Board agreed that we would weigh in at the Planning Commission meetings to continue to press for the best possible project. Chuck continues to monitor it.

As there were no **Minutes** ready, it was agreed that they would be sent out and approved by email vote. Laura presented the **Treasurer's Report**, and explained some extra expenditures on printing the Newsletter to reach all of the Riviera, and on the new Logo. Total expenses since April 30 were \$2961.85, and the balance in checking was \$1499.72. Moved Frank and (2) Art to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed.

El Encanto: Brigitte reported that the hotel would shut down totally in June or a little later for its renovations. Pursuant to the demand of the Planning Dept. there will be street improvements for Alvarado, including a three way stop sign at the foot where it meets Lasuen. There will be an improved entrance to the hotel. Discussion followed concerning the parking area above Orpet Park which is used by hotel staff but would better serve the neighborhood if it were limited or merely kept as a bus stop.

Fire Safety: Paul thanked Board members for making calls to get out the vote on the Special Assessment Measure. There was discussion of the confusion over the ballot—many people confused it with the City elections or did not realize that they had already received it. The timing is bad for a special ballot. The ballots are to be opened and counted on June 20.

Francheschi Park: Next month Nancy Rapp will have a report on the fund raising and the cost of repairing the house. Next week there will be a meeting with landscape architects to see who will help with the demonstration garden. Rob Hughes, who started the Franceschi Park Foundation, is willing to use some of that money to pay a fund raiser who would apply for grants for the garden. Brigitte does not know how much money he

has in the Foundation. It would take about \$20,000 to start this process. The rest of the \$450,000 for the garden improvements, for restrooms and handicapped accessibility will not be used for that, it will cover only the parking lot itself, because costs have risen.

Membership: Jules said that the eight people who would make phone calls should arrange a meeting for that purpose. Christine pointed out that the Assessor's lists of Riviera residents were not accurate. Laura has the most current list of members which will be used to call members who haven't paid: they are the obvious target. There have been problems of missing some members when we sent out notices to every resident, but not when we send only to members. If members failed to get on the mailing list, we should tell them that next year's fee is on us. Jules raised an objection to evening calls for membership. Paul thought that most evening calls go to voice mail, but it was left to the committee—Jules, Bob and Christine—to decide whether to send letters or make calls to remind members that they owe their fee.

Roads: This committee will now consist of Art, Michael and Muriel. It will look into the issue of Lasuen joining APS. Jules raised the issue of safety on Arbolado, which was supposedly restricted for parked trucks, and striped some years ago, when Diane Channing was Board President and worked on the issue. But immediately after that, a new stone wall that narrows the road on a crucial corner was built. It remains a traffic nightmare. 35% of roads in the City do not meet requirements and Brigitte said there should not be parking allowed on any of them for safety in the event of an emergency.

Mission Parklands: There has been one meeting of all the stakeholders, representatives from the Natural History Museum, the Mission, the Pearl Chase Society, the Mission Canyon Association as well as the Riviera Association, to discuss a safe walkway from the Mission to the Natural History Museum. Sue Adams, from the Pearl Chase Society, is the Secretary. There are issues with historic walls and walkways. A Historic Report would be needed before any viable plans could be suggested. That would cost about \$4000.00. They hope that the Mission Canyon Association, the Riviera Association and the City might contribute. Brigitte thinks we ought to participate because it is a community matter. "Mission Paseo Historical Committee," is the name chosen for the group, and she and Helena are representing the Board.

Website: There will be a meeting of the website committee the next Thursday. Ron is doing a very good job of setting it up, Paul reported. It will be a great tool for outreach to our current and new members, and create an historical data base, for budgets, minutes, and membership. It will save on postage too.

Marmount: Frank reported that groups have been playing ball over at the school, and they have been loud and vulgar, with a boom box. The three immediate neighbors have written to the school asking for a sign saying this is private property to deter such annoyances. Craig Bissell, the Business Manager has been very helpful, but it is important to get the new principal to recognize the issue, since the retiring one has not been strong on enforcement.

At this point, 7.30 PM, the meeting was adjourned.