

Riviera Association Board Meeting (draft minutes)
McVeagh House, September 18, 2006

Members Present: Jules Bender, Paul Cashman, Michael Cooper, Brigitte Forssell, Helena Hill, Ron Hirst, Bob Johnson, Jim Knight, Art Kvaas, Christine Oliver, Gwen Phillips, Muriel Ridland, William Stewart.

The **Agenda** was approved by a motion, moved (1) Michael and (2) Jules and passed. The July 24 **Minutes** were approved by a motion (1) Bill and (2) Brigitte and passed. In Jan Tyler's absence, Paul summarized the Treasurer's Report, noting that Jan had liquidated one C.D. as authorized, giving us \$5000.00 in income, making total cash of \$7193 .00 in the checking account with expenses of \$3527.00 leaving us with a account balance of \$3600. With the other two C.D.s we have a total of \$13,800.00 Paul pointed out that the Newsletter had cost about \$3600.00 and that we would have to consider cheaper ways of getting it out. The **Treasurer's Report** was then approved by a motion (1) Bill and (2) Michael and passed.

Paul reported on the EIR Meeting at the Planning Commission for the **St Francis Project**. It took many hours and the room was packed, with an overflow in another room. Paul was unable to read his letter as he couldn't get onto the floor during the first half of the meeting and could not be there for the after dinner extension. In the end it looked as if 50% of those present appeared to oppose and 50% approve it. The Board discussed whether to send the letter to the Commission expressing our concern about the density of the project but decided it was too late, that the Commission has closed the public hearing and no more public comment would be accepted. Ron Biscarro will give a presentation on the project at the General Meeting on October 8.

El Encanto:

Paul talked about the new plans for the corner of Alvarado Place and Lasuen below El Encanto and the Towbes property. The diagram plans that Paul showed were confusing but there will be a three way stop and a crosswalk, and the proposed narrowing of the road for traffic calming has been cancelled. The corners will be pulled back to make the intersection wider and safer, especially for evacuation. The hotel is now closed and it will possibly be two years before it reopens since the main building has to meet seismic regulations as well as be restored for historic reasons.

Fire Safety:

At the Fire Safe Council meeting Russ Cole, the new Fire Marshall will attend and Paul has requested that he be specific about how the assessment money, which has been frontloaded by the Council, will be spent: for instance, when will the chipper program and the road clearance and brush clearance begin? Russ Cole was formerly working in Ventura which has an aggressive enforcement program for fire safety.

Membership:

Jules and Bob reported on their committee activities. It had been agreed by the Board that the Fall Newsletter be sent to everybody in the hope of garnering new members, so a saturation mailing through the post office to every deliverable address has been

conducted. The postage is cheap, only 8 cents per copy, but the cost of printing so many newsletters is very high. It is to be hoped that this mailing will gather more paid up members. There are about 700 households that have been members at one time and about half of them have paid their dues. Among the 1800 households, 300 are absentee owners. The committee decided that Laura's system of having memberships extend from the month people paid to the same month the following year was too labor intensive and confusing, so from now on the memberships will be for that calendar year, regardless of which month they are paid. Brigitte suggested just folding the Newsletter and sealing it with a sticker to save the cost of envelopes. However, the Fall letter contains a membership card so it would need an envelope. The card for membership now has a line for the member's email address. In future we could ask people to check a box if they would like the Newsletter by email. Brigitte asked if the dues are high enough, and that perhaps we could raise the dues to \$30.00 or \$35.00 or even higher. That will be discussed further at later meetings.

Franceschi Park:

Brigitte informed us of the Press Release and fliers to advertise the Workday, which will be October 21 9.00 AM-12.00 PM. On that occasion the plans for the Demonstration Garden will be introduced. Regula Campbell and her husband, of Campbell and Campbell Landscape Architects, offered to donate their services because Regula grew up on Las Tunas Road, and she and her family used to walk to Franceschi Park. The area of the park to be worked on and cleaned up will be where the demonstration garden will be located. Volunteers are asked to carpool or come by shuttle and bring small garden tools to work with. Brigitte offered to bring refreshments for the garden workers. At this point the money raising for the house has not begun, and the \$450,000.00 that the City has allocated is only for the driveway and parking lot. There is a problem of space in the parking lot because the property line is closer to the cars than had been known.

Streets:

The APS/Lasuen intersection has been improved, after our complaints, by moving the center line to the center of the road and realigning the crosswalk. There's no money to move the curb, but the City did everything else we asked for. It would help if slash lines were behind the crosswalk from the bus station to the Riviera Business Park to indicate where not to drive on dark or wet nights, when the markings might still be confusing.

Web Site:

The web designer is currently working on the final parts of the site and it will be ready to go live on October 1. Board members can see it prior to this and make corrections or suggestions. Paul will speak about it at the General Meeting and Ron agreed to make a poster of the first page to put up at the meeting. Helena said the Principal of Marymount had asked if the school could have something about the school at its link. Ron outlined the various local entities that would have links including utilities and city public works. He requested \$500.00 for the web designer. Moved (1)Mike and (2) Art that we authorize this payment. Passed.

General Meeting:

Paul asked for helpers before and after to deal with the refreshments. Brigitte discussed the elections to the Board. Muriel the Secretary and Jan, the Treasurer have agreed to be Board members. Bob, Paul and Christine have agreed to run again. We need a President and Vice President. Both Paul and Brigitte are willing to help a new President but cannot run for that office at this time. Paul asked anyone willing to serve to get in touch with him.

Rattlesnake Canyon and Underground Utilities:

Gwen brought up her concern that the Mountain Bikers would again try to get the use of the trails. It was agreed that if such a move was brought up at the Council, Paul would assist Gwen is opposing it. Roble Lane is heading towards undergrounding its utilities. An article about this could be put in the next Newsletter
The meeting ended at 6.23 PM