

RiverPark/ Towncenter Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 13th, 2011 @ Rio Vista Middle School

Call to order at 6:38PM

Riverpark Board Members

Michelle Pyfrom, Chair – Present

Christie Tracy-Maier, Vice Chair – ABSENT

Gina Herkel, Secretary/Treasurer – Present

Kristen Looby, Member at Large – Present

Pamela Adams, Member at Large – ABSENT

Scheduled Guests

Senior Beat Officer Daniel Shrubbs, Beat 12 Coordinator, Oxnard Police Department

Ramon Rodriguez- Board Member from Rio School District

Eleanor Torres – Rio School District

Riverpark Residents: sign in sheet on file

- I. Welcome – Michelle at 6:38
 - Welcome the residents to the meeting and thanks them for being here.
 - We will be addressing concerns in the community; we want to handle and resolve them; these include:
 - Soil
 - Bus route
 - Amendment to master plan
 - What we will do is talk as calmly as possible about how we can work together to resolve these issues because the board cannot do it all, we are your neighbors, we need you to step forward to help resolve these issues.
 - Beat officer is here to give us the report.
 - Code compliance is here to update.
 - Concerns will be addressed.
 - School board trustee here and president from Rio School District to give an update and to let know what is going on.

- II. Beat Officer Report - Beat 12 Officer Report-Daniel Shrubbs
 - Hello everyone, there are about fifty maps, so if you are here with someone, please share.
 - This report is for a two month period, the last time we met was in March; so this covers quite a bit of time; he has been here before where he discusses the crimes that have happened.
 - There are usually between three and five incidents per month; he knows we don't want any, but with more housing and more people moving into the area and other activities, it happens.
 - They appreciate the calls they are getting regarding vehicles parked in areas, suspicious folks, etc. They appreciate the calls so they can find out who the suspicious people are and prevent it from happening. They don't want stragglers in the community thinking it is okay to do things and not have any respect for the folks actually living here, so please continue with the calls.
 - Maps were handed out.
 - Auto burglary
 - One resident here had his car broken into, the door was left unlocked and an ipod was stolen; this is typical, individuals will check the doors, it is an easy crime to commit because someone will just go on their bike/skateboard and ride past the cars, checking doors. Should they find one open, they will go back later, they are not looking for anything in particular; just anything of value; be sure to lock your doors.
 - Even though the door is locked, the window doesn't safe guard anything of value you have inside, if you leave things on the seat or center console, lock those things away so it is out of sight and out of mind; this is a crime of opportunity for folks, they may not be a bad person, just see it there, so they go for it.

- May 2, 10, 31: car burglaries, they occurred more towards the apartments, there were a couple cars there on the street and actually one on Flathead River.
- Things have slowed down, to have one or two is actually a good number considering if you have been over there near the apartments and see how much traffic is there, these are good figures considering there are a lot of people in one area; it is quite dense over there and parking is an issue which is being worked on.
- He doesn't know if Target is going to avail their lot or not, but sure people will try it.
- Stolen vehicle
 - Occurred on Orleans; the vehicle was on the driveway, the individual's truck was burglarized the night before and he had spare key to the other vehicle in it; they simply went back the next night and took it, the car has been recovered.
- Towncenter drive
 - The big glass building; a closet was burglarized during business hours; this was considered a commercial burglary; only thing taken was an aluminum box and it was later found by security guard.
- Car burglary is on his radar because we need to put end to that.
- Garages burglaries as well; Moss Landing, that was someone leaving their garage open and the items taken were a cell phone, blackberry, gps unit; things people know they can get money for quick; watch out for your neighbors garages as well.
- Please keep calling, that is what they need, even if you have a hint something is happening. Please call.
- **QUESTION:** What can you do about the Forest Park Blvd round about; every fourth day after midnight the resident hears screeching, someone is racing; is there any solution, any idea putting a bump into it?
 - That design is to keep traffic moving, the developers thought it would be good to keep traffic moving, so a bump would not be conducive to it; he agrees that people shouldn't be speeding around it; he recently stopped someone going 70 miles an hour; it is a matter of catching people speeding, it is not necessarily not residents, but it is a matter of being in right place at right time.
- **QUESTION:** If I call about a problem because I live across from Central Park; is my info public record; there are concerns regarding repercussions for reporting.
 - NO; if you call in and want to remain anonymous you may do so; just indicate that you are merely reporting, that is what you tell them, and they put it down that way; that is how the call shows up; they don't need to know who it came from, they will just come out and investigate, if nothing, nothing, we move on.
- **QUESTION:** Are you going to get together with Target to find out responsibilities?
 - He already has.
- **QUESTION:** Are you going to tell us (about it)?
 - There has been some talk of whether or not this Target will have the same customers as the Esplanade location; will the problems be transferred here?
 - He has been doing this a long time and thinks moving the Target will make a huge difference for a variety of reasons.
 - a) Just by relocating it to the other side of the freeway, the customers will likely change.
 - b) Currently there is a recycling center on that side which can bring with it some of the issues; there is no plan to have a recycling center at this location.
 - c) There is a transient element on that side which he doesn't see following here.
 - d) The design of this new store is very new age; they will have their own security; they will not have a recycling center; the design is that everything is up on the second floor and parking is underneath, so if someone wants to shoplift, they are going to have to go down a flight of stairs and down an elevator to get out; they cannot simply go straight out the door to the car; this will deter some of the criminal activity because it will not be a simple task.
- **QUESTION:** Will Target allow the parking of vehicles for non-customers?
 - He doesn't know if they will allow the parking of vehicles because they don't want the problems either, especially if they are paying security to watch it; that may be question to be answered later, they haven't closed the gates on the possibility at this point.
- **QUESTION:** Have you caught all the thieves (referring to the beat report discussed earlier)?
 - Yes, we have caught some of them

- **QUESTION:** Are there cameras at Serenade?
 - He doesn't know if outside the perimeter there are cameras; there are some inside where the rental office is located.
 - He does know that Target's cameras system is a pretty good technical system that can zoom in and focus in on that whole street if they wanted to do so.
- **QUESTION:** Where are we here, meaning, what is the ratio of crimes here in RiverPark verses what is going on other side of Vineyard?
 - He can't comment on the other area, because it is not his jurisdiction; he knows they are lot busier with different things, but that doesn't mean it's for car burglaries or domestic violence.
 - This community (RiverPark) calls and reports issues, that gets the word out that the police and the community work together; this tells folks that the chances of coming here and doing bad things and getting away with them, is not good.
- **QUESTION:** This concerns Forest Park Blvd, which he lives on; he is concerned and has a child that walks to school, he drove it the other day, and saw a 35 mph speed limit sign as he exited the first around about, he thought it was 25 mph because it is residential. He then drove down the street and saw a 15 mph before the roundabout; if it is not posted, shouldn't it be 25 mph? He is thinking that as folks enter the neighborhood they see 35 mph, they will just think it is 35 mph throughout the entire neighborhood; then you get to the school and there are two 15 mph signs. He has concerns with the posting.
 - He will look in with traffic folks and traffic engineer to make sure that it is not incorrectly posted; for record, residential areas the speed is 25 if the speed is not posted.

III. Code Compliance Update

- Donna
- No update, really; she wants to let us know that she helps Officer Shrubbs on this beat; she left cards, code regulations and if any has an issue, give them a call, you are the community that has the info; when calling, provide as much info as possible.
- **QUESTION:** Code compliance relates to what? Is it anything to do with the back lot with multiple trailers and weeds?
 - If weeds are an issue, contact property maintenance.
 - Pamphlets are over at the table with what they cover.

IV. Rio School District

- Ramon Rodriguez
 - Board is moving forward on improving test scores; he is aware the community has seen some negative information; they are dealing with budget challenges and labor issues; they will work hard to improve the reputation of the district, they are doing everything they can; they are aware that folks are reading that they have been accused of things, but please wait until the investigation is done.
- Eleanor Torres- President of School Board

V. Neighborhood Watch Patrol Report

- NONE

VI. Concerned Citizens of RiverPark- Ellie and Cheryl

- Flyers recently passed out to the residents concerning changes to the specific plan.
- They have personally talked to a certain council member, which she will not name, he has spoken to them and they had a meeting this past Saturday; he shares their concerns.
- Please attend the plan commission meeting on this Thursday the 16th at City Hall Council Chambers; this is the first chance to change the changes to the master plan.

- It is now in the hands of Gold Coast, so we need to show them how we want it; they are going to ride the bus, you can't just say that you don't want it, you need to listen and say you don't want it this particular way.
- They have no idea why they chose this route; Gold Coast can have the bus go to the mall, through the mall and back out in one direction; they don't need them in two directions; one bus circling around is good for the community.
- Why don't the residents get to vote on this bus thing? They will find out; to vote you need to attend the public meetings, make sure they know about the bus lines; a lot happening on these flyers; 340 residents willing to fight it; it's your objection that counts, when they see nobody, they forget about us, it is important you object, if you don't like it.
- **QUESTION:** Can we get an overview of all meeting times and dates?
 - They have to post ten days in advance; give your email and they can tell you all the meetings; they are also listed on the City of Oxnard website; but it may be cancelled and you may not see the date change until two days before the meeting.
- **QUESTION:** How much weight does the petition carry? Maybe there are folks that can't be there; if they bring the petition is that just as good as showing up?
 - If they don't show it to them until five min before the meeting, it can't be given the due diligence it deserves.
- **QUESTION:** What is being discussed at the planning commission?
 - The amendment to the specific plan, it is the governing document and the second is the amendment to the development agreement; the applicant wants to rezone certain parcels that would allow 340 residential units, and out of that 15 percent, around fifty will be deemed affordable.
- **QUESTION:** Doesn't this violate due process?
 - They don't know; but the planning commission does listen to the residents, the chancellors are very good, and when they see enough people, then they remember what they are supposed to do; we are standing up for our community.
- **QUESTION:** What is low income affordable housing?
 - Low income affordable for a family of four, earning 50 % of median income, this is a state mandated law, every development must have it.
 - It is not Section 8.
- Steve Nash – Planning Commission
- 15% or 50 units of affordable housing—48 low income affordable units and 3 units paid in lieu fees.
- During this meeting they are also going to seek approval of the sign.
 - Ann Walsh – She is with Shea Properties and is also a resident
 - a) If folks object to the LED, they can go to the meeting tomorrow night; why do we need LED?
 - a. Deterrent to tenants is lack of visibility and lack of signage.
 - b) The sign was approved last year as a specific plan amendment, asking here for the addition of LED.
 - c) 3 signs installed recently, skeleton of what the future signs will be.
 - d) It is not the auto center sign, she will show anyone; if you are interested, then have opportunity.
 - e) Only major tenants will have LED.
 - f) The pylon sign was shown in the presentation; she personally went to each house with an invitation to come to her house. Several other residents verified they received this invitation.

- g) She welcomes anyone to call her and she will bring the information to your house and she will educate as to what it is they are proposing and why.
- h) As also being a resident, she supports it.

VII. Recent Neighborhood Concerns

- How many of you are here regarding the recent concerns in the neighborhood?
 - Soil
 - Bus
 - Amendment
- How many of you want to do something about it? Please think about which one you are most concerned with, we will be breaking into groups, discussing who were are going to talk to, who are we going to see, what are we going to do, to figure this out.
- Groups as follows:
 - Soil Contamination: Gina
 - Bus Route through RiverPark: Michelle
 - Amendment to the Oxnard Specified Plan: Kristen
- Disburse to your locations, sign the committee sheets.

VIII. Adjourn at 8:45