



Minutes

Present: Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Gerald Douglass, John Field, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Mike Gardner, Debbi Guthrie, Laurie Hitt, Nanci Larsen, Andrew Lazarz, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Andy Melendrez, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Brian Percy, RJ Rodriguez, David St. Pierre, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Shelby Worthington, Emilio Ramirez for Al Zelinka

Excused: Chuck Beaty, Christie Collins (ABP), Wolde-Ab Isaac, Jeff Kraus, Charity Schiller, Steve Wollman, Ellie Uli

Absent: Marco McGuire, Cherie Russell,

Staff: Janice Penner

1) Call to Order

Justin Tracy called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Self introductions were conducted. There were no public comments.

3) Minutes of March 11, 2015

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of March 11, 2015

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Kirk Lewis

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Justin Tracy thanked Councilman Mike Gardner for recognizing PIP Printing as a downtown success story at the previous City Council meeting.

Justin Tracy said commented on the study about well being in cities. He said that it was important for businesses to contribute to such well being by keeping their storefronts clean and by greeting customers and other business owners. He said that it also sent a message to youth in the neighborhood.

Bill Gardner said that he was often seated in Simple Simon's patio and would greet people from the Convention Center and welcome them to Riverside.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Finance Committee and budget preparation process

Janice Penner said that each year the RDP Board appointed a Finance Committee whose primary purpose was to review the annual budget prior to approval by the Board. She said that the process and time table for the annual budget was for staff to prepare a draft budget and then review with the Treasurer prior to sending out to the Finance Committee. She said that the Finance Committee would then meet in mid-May to review the budget before sending to the Executive for their June meeting. She said the budget would then be presented to the Board at its June meeting for adoption for the fiscal year July 1, 2015.

Janice Penner said that Stephen Wollman would normally chair the committee as Treasurer but was on leave due to an accident. She said that David St. Pierre would step in as chair if Stephen Wollman was still on leave. She said that any Board members who were interested in serving on the Finance Committee should contact her.

MOTION: To appoint the 2015 Finance Committee consisting of Stephen Wollman, Justin Tracy and David St. Pierre as Ex-Officio members and Debbi Guthrie, Shalini Lockard, and Brian Pearcy as Board members.

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Stan Morrison

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) Security Meetings on March 30th

Janice Penner said that RDP had coordinated two security meetings in partnership with the City and the police department on Monday, March 30th at City Hall in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room. She said that the first meeting was on security issues in the downtown core while the second meeting at 12:30 pm was focused on issues of interest to hospitality establishments in downtown and in the Marketplace.

Janice Penner said that she followed up both meetings with an email listing key points. She said that it was agreed that the hospitality meeting should be held at least annually. She said that it was also agreed that once the draft Request for Proposals for the proposed Safety Ambassador program was sent and responses received, a follow up meeting with both groups would be held. RDP staff spoke about the existing Ambassador program.

6b) Ward One Candidates forum – joint with Chamber on April 2nd

Janice Penner said that RDP partnered with the Chamber on the forum. She noted that about 80 people were in attendance.

6c) RDP activities

Janice Penner said that the April 28th luncheon would be held at the Old Spaghetti Factory and would feature an update on Riverside Public Utilities. She said that the May 26th luncheon would be at the Riverside Convention Center and feature an update by the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Center. She said that the June 23rd luncheon would be at the Chabad Jewish Community Center and feature a presentation on business mentoring. She said that the July 28th luncheon would be at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa and feature a presentation on Live Nation and Riverside Live. She noted that there was no luncheon in August and that the September luncheon would be held at Loft.84 with an update by UCR.

Janice Penner said that the planning and arrangements for the May 7th Fashion Show were well underway. She commented that RDP was using contract staff to assist with the show. She said that all of the six Concerts at City Hall had been booked, and that RDP would be holding a Pizza Party for RDP Board and City Council at the July 14th concert. She said that the Movies on Main had been booked for July as well. She added that planning had started for Riverside Restaurant Week running from June 19th to 28th and for the 2015 Summer Street Jam planned for August 1st.

Janice Penner said that they were reaching out to their sphere of influence to recruit candidates for the Communications and Events Liaison position. She said that resumes had been

submitted and that interviews would be started shortly.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial Report as of March 31, 2015

Janice Penner said that the financial report for the month of March showed a surplus of \$18,000 compared to an expected surplus of \$3,700. She said that the BID levy income for the month was almost \$15,000 higher than expected.

Janice Penner said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$28,300 compared to an expected surplus of \$16,400 which was a positive variance of \$12,000. She said that BID levy income for the year to date was higher than budget. She said that she anticipated that expense variances would even out by the end of the fiscal year, and that there would be some drawdown on the positive income variance.

Janice Penner said that she would be looking at including a beautification project in the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as an allowance for more workshops and seminars for downtown businesses. She said RDP would look at partnering with ABP and the Chamber on workshops.

Janice Penner said that allowance would be made for the Executive Director and the Chair to attend the IDA conference in September in San Francisco. She said that an allowance would be made as well as to fund registration fees for those directors who wished to attend and would cover their own travel and hotel expenses. She said that the San Francisco conference would be very worthwhile with the number of California BIDs likely attending. She asked Board members to let her know if they were interested. She said that as RDP had not attended an IDA conference since 2010, there could be some additional money allocated if there were a number of board members interested. Councilman Mike Gardner said he had attended the one in Calgary and recommended that board members consider attending if possible. Brian Pearcy agreed.

MOTION: To accept the financial report at March 31, 2015

Motion made by: Shelby Worthington **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner said that PIP Printing had been recognized the previous evening at City Council as a Riverside Pride business. He gave a brief history of PIP Printing and the Tracy family.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that there had been two community meetings scheduled to discuss possible uses for two downtown land parcels owned by the Successor Agency. He said that they were being rescheduled to a different location due to the old downtown Fire Station not being compliant with ADA requirements for path of travel from the street. He said that the City would advise of the new dates and locations.

Councilman Mike Gardner commented on the public comments at the previous evening's Council meeting. He said that highly inappropriate comments were made by certain individuals

about City staff by name. He said that the interim City Manager had decided to remove the video of the meeting from the City website because of the nature of the comments.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that several of the downtown murals were in poor shape. He said that RDP had repaired the ballet mural twice already. Patrick Brien said that the artist had been observed peeling off paint from the ballet mural. He said that the problem was the graffiti coat and the material of the wall. He said that options could include painting over the mural or putting other materials such as vinyl over the mural with the approval of the building owner. He said that the vinyl panel on the side of Mario's Place also needed replacement.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that the Walk to End Homelessness would take place that weekend. He said that the Salute to Veterans Parade and the Tamale Festival at White Park would take place on the following weekend.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that there would be drought measures brought to Council shortly due to expected state restrictions by Governor's order. He said that the goal was 15% reduction even though the city was self sufficient for water supply.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez thanked RDP for their support of the Cesar Chavez activities at the Culver Center and on Main Street near the monument. He reviewed the activities and said that attendance was very good. He said that the goal of promoting the school for the arts and the music program was achieved.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that UCR was undertaking its long range planning for the next ten years and that it was expected to be completed in eight to ten months. He commented on the UCR sports programs including the women's basketball and soft ball teams.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the crime rate in the East Side had been decreasing due to the efforts of the neighborhood leaders and the police.

Bill Gardner asked about the landscaping around the University underpasses. Councilman Andy Melendrez said he had raised the issue with staff and would provide an update at the next meeting.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl said that he had talked to a number of businesses about one particular individual who was going into businesses and other building for no specific reason. He said that police had arrested him several times but he was usually released within several hours. He said that businesses should contact the police if he entered their buildings and let them deal with him as there were concerns about his stability.

Bruce Blomdahl said that the police had made an arrest of an individual they felt was involved with the vandalism at Citrus Towers. He said that guns were confiscated but that the police were not able to conclusively link him to the actual crime of shooting at the windows.

Bruce Blomdahl said that the police were targeting the FAB group that were cruising Main Street on their bikes, bothering businesses and their customers, and who were believed responsible

for an increase in tagging and vandalism in the garages. He asked people to send him an email if they observed the group in action.

Bruce Blomdahl said that he was working with the County on the sweep of the river bottom in mid-April. He said that there were about 25 encampments that would be removed and that the County was trying to reach out in advance to offer services. He said that there were problems with attempted break-ins at the solar project to steal copper.

Bruce Blomdahl said that a protest against police brutality was being planned for April 14th and they were in the planning process to deal with the repercussions of the protest. He said that police did not want to be confrontational with the protestors.

Bruce Blomdahl said that the police would be holding a meeting to obtain input on their strategic plan. He said that an invitation had gone out to downtown businesses to attend.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Emilio Ramirez reported on behalf of Al Zelinka. He noted that Councilman Mike Gardner had commented on the community meetings for the two downtown parcels and on the Walk to End Homelessness. He said that the downtown Neighbor Fest would be held on Main Street on Saturday, May 16th from 11 am to 3 pm.

Emilio Ramirez said that the plans for the Imperial Hardware Lofts project had been submitted to the City for review. He said that discussions on the Stalder Building mixed use project were proceeding. He said that the Sav-a-Minit property had been sold and would be demolished as part of a larger mixed-use project.

Bill Gardner asked about the property between Sixth and Fifth that included the grass strip on Main and land behind the fence, noting that it was a good site for development. Emilio Ramirez said that he had confirmed that the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa owned the property. Janice Penner said that the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa intended to develop the property when they renovated the annex. She said that it was a significant investment because of the nature of the building. Bill Gardner asked if the Board could be advised if plans were made to develop the property.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Janice Penner said that ABP was in planning for their annual Chili Cook-off.

12) New Business

Debbi Guthrie said that there had been some comments that restaurants were not advised of large groups. She updated on several conferences that were in excess of 1,000 people with no meals. Janice Penner said the information was provided but that not all of the restaurants read the material or passed it down to the staff. Possible communication alternatives were discussed.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

Justin Tracy adjourned the meeting until the next one scheduled for May 13, 2015