



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Christie Collins (ABP), Gerald Douglass, Bill Gardner, Mike Gardner, Debbi Guthrie, Laurie Hitt, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Marco McGuire, Andy Melendrez, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, RJ Rodriguez, Charity Schiller, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Shelby Worthington, Al Zelinka

Guest: Roman Valdez

Excused: John Field, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Andrew Lazarz, Brian Percy, Cherie Russell, Ellie Uli, Steve Wollman,

Absent: Michelle Freeman, David St. Pierre

Staff: Janice Penner, Robbie Silver

1) Call to Order

Justin Tracy called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Patrick Brien announced the opening of 'The Library' at the Box, and gave a brief description of the plot.

Debbi Guthrie reported that the Riverside Convention Center was heavily booked in March. She said that the Aquatic Center was also booked.

Kris Whitehead advised that Curves was holding their annual food drive in March.

Bill Gardner commented on the ramp changes and Freeway closures in the next few weeks.

Chuck Beaty announced that Jack Clarke would be honored with the Frank Miller Civic Achievement Award.

Shelby Worthington announced that Loft.84 was holding their bridal expo on March 29th and that they were giving away a \$10,000 wedding package.

Janice Penner said that Steve Wollman broke his leg in an accident and passed around a card for the board to sign.

2a) Introduction of new Board members

Marco McGuire of Bail Hotline, ProAbition, Mezcal, and The Board Walk and Laurie Hitt of the Old Spaghetti Factory introduced themselves.

3) Minutes of February 11, 2015

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

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Justin Tracy introduced himself as living in Riverside since 1961. He said that his parents opened PIP Printing in 1968. He said the business moved to Main Street in 1972 and then to Market Street in 2004. He said that in addition to being a downtown business owner he also lived downtown. He said that his store was a 'safe haven' and said that he was happy to help in any way possible. He encouraged the Board to pass on any ideas they might have on making downtown better.

Justin Tracy commented on the presentation by Cliff Ratkovich on the Imperial Hardware residential and retail project planned for Main Street. He said that he felt it would be an amazing addition to downtown. He commented that the project would be even better if it could include the Pioneer Trust Building and Mission Galleria and extend the entire block.

Justin Tracy said that the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa was a great venue for RDP's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. He complimented Bill Gardner on the Chair's Award.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Board resolution regarding check signers – new signature card

Janice Penner advised that a Board resolution was required to approve check signers for the organization. She said that Marcia Campbell had retired from the Board and that it was recommended that David St. Pierre replace her as an authorized check signer. She said that once the resolution was adopted, it would be provided to Citizens Business Bank.

Motion: To approve Janice Penner, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, and Justin Tracy as authorized check signers for RDP

Motion made by: Debbi Guthrie **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) Results of Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Janice Penner advised that the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa was recognized as an Award Sponsor due to the in-kind contribution with the meal pricing. She said that there was a very small profit thanks to sponsorships and opportunity drawing sales, and noted that the event was not a fundraiser. She said that the 2016 event had been booked there for Wednesday, February 17th. She said that there could be a slight increase in the ticket price next year but that RDP would try to keep the ticket price under \$75.

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

Janice Penner said that RDP was partnering with the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce on a Ward One Candidates forum. She said that the forum would be held instead of the quarterly '*Inside the Downtown Division*' and was scheduled for Thursday, April 2nd at 7:30 am. She said that the forum would be free to attend as the Riverside Convention Center was providing the room, coffee, and pastries as a sponsorship of the quarterly Downtown Business Council meeting. She said that she had sent out a flyer to the board and others.

Chuck Beaty asked if there were other forums. Councilman Mike Gardner said that he understood that the Raincross Group would be doing one in conjunction with the Press-Enterprise. He said that four Wards were up for election and said that Ward One and Ward

Seven had two candidates and Ward Three and Ward Five had only the incumbents. He noted that Steve Adams was not running again.

Councilman Mike Gardner commented about the decrease in the number of candidates for election, noting that when Chuck Beaty decided not to run again, there were nine candidates for Ward One. He said that he felt the decrease was due largely to people not wanting to take on the job due to the challenges of public office.

There was a discussion about other reasons for people not wanting to run. Councilman Mike Gardner said that the salary was just above \$42,000 which did preclude young head of households running. Justin Tracy commented that he felt it was related to the challenges more than to the salary. Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the salary was an issue for younger people but that it was also an issue for everyone due to the hours required. He said that the council position was considered part-time but in actuality was much closer to full time.

6c) RDP activities

Janice Penner said that RDP assisted the Riverside Community Hospital with the fashion show component of their Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo held on Saturday, February 28th at the Riverside Convention Center. She said that the event was very successful, attracting over 1,000 attendees. She said that it was a significant benefit to downtown retailers who were showcased in the show.

Janice Penner said that RDP partnered with the Chamber on a presentation by Ratkovich Properties on the Imperial Hardware mixed use project on Monday, March 9th at 9 am in the Chamber's boardroom. She said that the project had 95 residential units and ground floor retail.

Janice Penner said that the March 24th luncheon would feature Jeff Kraus providing an update on UCR at ProAbition. She said that the April 28th luncheon would be at the Old Spaghetti Factory with an update on RPU.

Janice Penner said that RDP was the sponsor of the petting zoo at the March 28th Easter Egg Hunt at Bonaminio Park in lieu of holding an Easter event.

Janice Penner said that RDP was coordinating two security meetings on Monday, March 30th at City Hall in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room. She said that the first meeting at 10 am would follow up on security issues in the downtown core, and the second meeting at 12:30 pm was for hospitality establishments to meet the new North Policing Center officers and to discuss relevant issues.

Janice Penner said that planning for Concerts at City Hall, Riverside Restaurant Week, and for the 2015 Summer Street Jam will start this month.

Janice Penner said that planning had started on May 7th Fashion Show. She said that changes would need to be made for future shows due to no longer be able to use certain building space and then further on, construction on Main Street. She said that RDP was exploring various options and that Shelby Worthington had kindly offered Loft.84 for the model dressing room. She said relocating the shows indoors and partnering with another organization such as Riverside Community Hospital would be explored.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial Report as of February 28, 2015

Janice Penner said that the financial report for the month of February showed a loss of \$3,800 compared to an expected surplus of just over \$18,000. She said that the major reason for the variance was that BID levy income was about \$17,000 lower than expected.

Janice Penner said that for the year to date, the results were almost on budget with a surplus of \$10,000 compared to an expected surplus of \$13,000. She said that BID levy income for the year to date was just over \$10,000 higher than budget.

Janice Penner said that there was just over \$300,000 in CD reserves so the organization was financially stable.

MOTION: To accept the financial report at February 28, 2015

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

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner gave an update on several downtown projects. He said the residential project planned on Market Street from First to Second should go through plan check with the City's Planning Department in mid 2015. He said the developer needed to move two houses on the property to Third and Fairmount. He said Path of Life Ministries would rehabilitate the houses with a grant the organization received. He said that it was anticipated that the project would break ground in summer or fall.

Councilman Mike Gardner said the litigation on the Stalder building was close to settlement. He said that once the litigation was settled, the Council would move the rights for a mixed use residential and retail development to the partnership with Mark Rubin and Ted Weggeland. He advised the project would preserve the historical façade of the Stalder Building, noting that the Ratovich Properties project for the Old Imperial Hardware Building would also do the same.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that he recently attended the National League of Cities conference. He said the National League had taken the position that tax exempt municipal bonds needed to be protected to allow cities to borrow funds at lower rates. He added that the National League of Cities was also looking at sales tax income that was being lost due to online purchasing. He said that other items discussed included transportation infrastructure as with cars using less gas, less gas taxes are being collected.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said the Sycamore Canyon area was active with a number of projects taking place.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said the Riverside School for the Arts would be having a fundraiser on March 26th. He said the reception would be held from 6 pm to 9 pm at the UCR Culver Center. Janice Penner noted that RDP was sponsoring \$250 towards the free activities.

Bill Gardner commented on the poor landscaping condition on the 14th Street underpass near

the Marketplace. Councilman Andy Melendrez said he would look into the issue and report back.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl gave an update on the feedback received from the Cal Chiefs Symposium event. He said the Chiefs enjoyed their time in downtown Riverside and were impressed with what the area had to offer.

Bruce Blomdahl said RPD arrested the female that interrupted the Fall Fashion Show. He said they would be looking at probation restrictions that would prohibit her from being in downtown Riverside.

Bruce Blomdahl reported on the number of vehicle break-ins that took place on Monday, March 9th in Garage 1. He said that a group of younger skateboard/BMX riders was behind the vehicle break-ins. He said the group was active in the downtown area and RPD was conducting an investigation. He reminded the Board to hide their personal belongings.

RJ Rodriguez asked if there were security cameras near the parking garages and near the businesses on Main between Mission Inn Ave and 6th Street. Janice Penner said there were no public cameras. She said RDP would be looking at working with the City's vendor on offering discounted security packages.

Janice Penner advised there would be a security guard to patrol Garage 7 on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights due to increased activity at the Fox.

Justin Tracy encouraged the Board to call the non-emergency number 951-787-7911 to report incidents. Bruce Blomdahl also encouraged the Board to email him at bblomdahl@riversideca.gov.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Al Zelinka passed around a working draft for the proposed Safety Ambassador Program. He encouraged the Board to send their feedback to Janice Penner by Monday.

He said a community livability meeting took place and many suggestions came out as a result. He said with the growing number of residents and businesses coming to the downtown area, the focus in downtown would be on quality of life issues and the Safety Ambassador Program would be instrumental in those efforts.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Christie Collins said the City gave the green light for the Walgreens project on the corner of Van Buren and Magnolia. She said that a Sonic Drive-in project was planned for the Arlington area.

Christie Collins said ABP was hosting their first Arlington Morning Mixer event on Thursday, March 19th in partnership with the Small Business Development Corporation.

Christie Collins said that ABP was looking for chili cooks for the upcoming Chili Cook-Off/Cycle Show event.

12) New Business

Shelby Worthington said the Arlington Learning Center was a second chance education facility and that she was partnering with them on providing a prom for those kids that otherwise would not go to one. She said she was providing Loft.84 as the venue for the event. She encouraged the Board to donate clothing that could be used for prom wear.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

Justin Tracy adjourned the meeting until the next one scheduled for April 8, 2015