



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Ian Davidson, Bill Gardner, Rafael Guzman, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Stan Morrison, Brian Percy, David St. Pierre, Cara Swearingen, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington

Excused: John Field, Michelle Freeman, Debbi Guthrie, Jeff Kraus, Katie Leal, Bob Nagle, Charity Schiller, Kris Whitehead, Sergio San Martin

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Gerald Douglas, Marco McGuire, RJ Rodriguez

Ex-Officio City Council: Mike Gardner

Staff: Janice Penner, Kate Stovicek

1) Call to Order

David St. Pierre called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Conducted

3) Minutes of November 9, 2016

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 9, 2016

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

Motion carried with Wolde-Ab Isaac and Brian Percy abstaining.

4) Chair's Report

There was no report.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Recommendations for Downtown Awards

Janice Penner reviewed the recommendations for the 2017 Downtown Achievement Awards. She noted that once the Board approved the recommendations, the recipients would be formally advised by letter.

Chair's Award – Dr. Wolde-Ab Isaac for his leadership with both Riverside City College and the Riverside Centennial Plaza project.

Arts and Culture – The RCCD Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties for dialogue on historical and contemporary social issues through dynamic exhibits and community participation.

Business Activity – Live Nation for programming at both the Fox PAC and the Municipal Auditorium to bring attendees downtown.

Downtown Event – Show and Go Car Show for Charity for its celebration of cars and contributions to charities.

Downtown Improvement – Riverside Community College District for the Centennial Plaza project.

Downtown Safety and Security – The Riverside Police Foundation founded by Chief Sergio Diaz for its work with youth at risk.

Motion: To approve the recipients as recommended for the 2017 RDP Downtown Achievement Awards.

Motion made by: Patrick Brien **Motion Seconded by:** Brian Pearcy

Motion carried.

5b) Nominating Committee and ballot to be sent to Members

Janice Penner said that the ballots for election of the officers and the at large Directors needed to go out by December 30th, 2016. She said the request for RDP members to run for one of the at large Directors position went out in mid-December with responses due back by December 16th. She verified that Nanci Larsen, Ian Davidson, Bill Gardner, and Chuck Beaty would all be running again this year.

Motion: To approve the following officers for the 2017 term of the RDP Board of Directors; Shelby Worthington as Chair, Shalini Lockard as Vice-Chair, Katie Leal as Treasurer, and Charity Schiller as Secretary

Motion made by: Brian Pearcy **Motion Seconded by:** Patrick Brien

Motion carried

5c) Membership Drive

Janice Penner noted that the number of RDP members had dropped to below 50. She said that the low number of members had both a financial impact as well as limiting the pool from which RDP could draw at large Directors. She said that incentives could be considered such as a free luncheon in the month of joining or renewal. She said that Shelby Worthington had suggested holding periodic mixers. David St. Pierre stated that if anyone had suggestions to contact Janice Penner or him to discuss them.

6) Items for Information

6a) Update on BID renewal Public Hearing

Janice Penner said that the City Council approved renewal of the BID levy for 2017 at the November 15th Public Hearing, and that there were no formal protests or objections filed with the City.

Janice Penner stated that she spoke with Scott Miller, the City's Finance Director, about excluding residential rental properties of less than 4 units in future. She said RDP decided against doing so in 2017 as eliminating geographic parcels where the properties were located would also exclude a number of businesses in converted houses. She stated that there were other options to exclude residential rental properties that could be explored and RDP would do so prior to the 2018 renewal.

David St. Pierre added that there were no complaints from residential rental property owners and noted that the amount of money RDP would lose by excluding those properties would be insignificant. Janice Penner stated that the City had suggested the exclusion to be consistent with the Arlington Business Partnership guidelines.

6b) RDP Holiday Reception December 8th

Janice Penner said that the RDP holiday reception was held on Thursday, December 8th from 11 am to 2 pm at Loft.84 and thanked Shelby Worthington and Cindy Alden for 'hosting'. She also thanked everyone for attending. Shelby Worthington stated that everyone seemed to enjoy it and stated that she and Cindy Alden were happy to host it. Janice Penner stated that there was good representation from the County, the City and other downtown stakeholders.

6c) RDP Annual Meeting

Janice Penner said that the Annual Meeting had been booked at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa in the Grand Parisian Ball Room for Wednesday, February 15th and that she was working with the banquet staff on the menu and pricing.

Janice Penner said that Riverside Community Hospital was returning as the title sponsor. David St. Pierre said that RDP was seeking items for the Opportunity Drawing and sponsorships for the event and the awards. Janice Penner noted that the form for sponsorships and donations was in the Board package.

6d) RDP activities

Janice Penner said that RDP provided parking information for the Festival of Lights to downtown businesses and distributed event information through the Ambassadors. She noted that it was the first year there were no complaints about parking.

Janice Penner advised that she attended the workshop on the results and recommendations from the Downtown Parking Study. She noted that the staff report and parking plan would go to the RDP Land Use committee for review and comments on December 15th. She said that RDP was looking at how best to promote parking availability in Garage 7 next to the Fox PAC.

Bill Gardner inquired if the garage numbers were identified on the buildings. Janice Penner said that there are orange crate labels on the garages but no numbers or street address. She noted that the Downtown Parking Study report and parking plan recommended branding for the garages, commenting that people often forgot which garage they parked in. Justin Tracy added that the garages should be named based on location instead of a citrus label and that the name and location needed to be at the exit where you parked.

Bill Gardner asked if it would be helpful to have RDP adopt a motion to identify the garages by number and/or address. Janice Penner suggested waiting until Land Use had reviewed the recommendations, and made their recommendation.

Brian Percy noted that the City had dissolved the Downtown Parking Committee that had provided comments and recommendations on parking. He suggested that it could be reformed to assist with the proposed changes. Janice Penner commented that some of the changes should be made as soon as possible and not deferred to 2018.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that one of the key recommendations was implementing a 'wayfinding' program, including naming of the garages and signage inside the garages to remind you of which garage you are in. David St. Pierre asked if the City had paid to have a wayfinding plan done previously. Janice Penner said that a plan had been done under the Downtown Parking Committee but not implemented.

Council Mike Gardner said that increasing the parking rates would make it harder for minimum wage earners to work downtown as there were fewer and fewer free places to park. He noted that initially the objective was to make it more expensive to park on the street long term to free up spaces for short term parkers. He said the City needed to assess the situation and asked the Board to provide their opinions on the matter.

Brian Percy stated that there was now a different City management team than when the Downtown Parking Committee existed. He said that this team might be open to reforming the committee to handle parking issues and concerns from a business and visitor perspective. He expressed disappointment that the spaces that would be lost in the Justice Center from the closure of Main Street from 10th to 11th for Chow Alley were not referenced in the Downtown Parking Study plan.

Janice Penner said that RDP was a partner in Miracle on Main Street toy drive and health fair held on Sunday, December 11th and provided \$500 towards the event.

Janice Penner noted that there would be no luncheon meeting in December and the January luncheon would be at the Life Arts Center with John Griffin and Denise Griffin of Encore High School for the Arts as the speakers. She said that she had locations and speakers booked to June 30, 2017.

Brian Percy inquired about clean up during Festival of Lights. Janice Penner stated that the cleanup was handled through the City. She noted that there had been complaints about the portable restrooms. Ian Davidson commented that the problem with spilled hot chocolate around his building had improved dramatically. Brian Percy commented that the clean-up should be more like Disneyland. Justin Tracy agreed as the event was one of Riverside's signature events.

Councilman Mike Gardner added that there would be more changes next year to address issues such as larger crowds. David St. Pierre stated that the vendors might be contributing to some of the mess left behind. Janice Penner noted that trash bins used during the event are made of cardboard and are not designed for the amount of trash that gets dumped into them (especially the amount of liquid). She stated that there needed to be more emphasis on the vendors keeping their areas clean. Brian Percy noted that it was important to give a good first impression.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at November 30, 2016

Janice Penner said that the financial report for the month of November showed a surplus of \$1,806 compared to an expected surplus of \$1,165. She said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$36,057 compared to an expected deficit of \$19,177 due largely to BID levy income being higher than expected by \$56,573.

Janice Penner stated that RDP reserves included three CDs with Pacific Premier Bank totaling \$233,533 and one with Provident Bank of \$83,858.

Motion: To approve the financial report as of November 30, 2016

Motion made by: Stan Morrison **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there were changes to the Festival of Lights events with a 'Century' Wheel and Carousel replacing the ice rink. He noted that there was significant discussion about where the ice rink could go next year such as near the County Court House or in White Park. Janice Penner noted that spreading the activities out to City Hall helped manage the influx of visitors. David St. Pierre commented that he saw more traffic down by 9th Street this year than in previous years due to the Century Wheel and Santa Claus being there.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the City was putting together a Budget Commission to provide advice to the City on financial issues including Measure Z income. He stated that there were more applicants than positions available, and that there would be one business representative and one resident representative from each Ward and two each City-wide.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there was a fire at Mount Rubidoux Manor. He commented on the cooperation between the fire department and the police department, noting that roughly 200 individuals were evacuated with only two minor smoke inhalation injuries. He said that sprinklers in the building should have been mandated, but the owner at the time decided they were too expensive. He noted that a retrofit or building a new structure did require sprinklers.

Chuck Beaty asked why Maxi Foods now had a recycling center. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that it was a state mandate and they did not have a choice in the matter, and that the City had no say in the matter. Justin Tracy added that there was pressure for Clarks to put in a recycling center.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez was unable to attend and so there was no report.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl stated that a press release went out December 13 about an operation PD did at the bus depot for roughly two months with an undercover officer. He said that the operation was undertaken due to complaints from RCC and others about narcotic deals. He said that PD ran the operation federally so that the individuals would actually get jail time.

Bruce Blomdahl stated he was aware that the homelessness issue was a prevalent concern among downtown residents, businesspeople, and visitors. He said he was trying to maintain the four officers working during the evening hours but that it was difficult with current PD staffing levels. He asked that people reach out to him to report problems as he needed the data to justify allocating resources. He commented on the graffiti that was occurring downtown and asked people to use the 311 app to report it.

Stan Morrison inquired what the punishment for graffiti was. Bruce Blomdahl stated that it was a "Cite and Release" usually without any jail time although that depended on their priors and the judge.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Rafael Guzman stated that Romano's would be ready to open on December 20th. He said that the Brickwood, formerly called Brew Crew, was expected to open January 2017.

Rafael Guzman commented that Greyhound had signed a lease in Jurupa and that the City was trying to move them out as fast as possible. He said that negotiations were ongoing.

Rafael Guzman said that there was trenching going on at Market and 5th St for the new hotels.

Stan Morrison stated that there was parking available in Pacific Premier Bank's parking garage during the Festival of Lights. He said that the arm went up at 7:00 pm and was up all weekend.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the Sav-A-Minit building would be going down in the next week or so.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

There was no report.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, January 11, 2017