



## **Minutes**

**Present:** Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Gerald Douglass, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Mike Gardner, Laurie Hitt, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Andy Melendrez, Stan Morrison, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Steve Wollman, Shelby Worthington

**Excused:** Cherie Crutcher, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Bob Nagle, Brian Percy, RJ Rodriguez, Charity Schiller, David St. Pierre, Ellie Uli

**Absent:** John Field, Debbi Guthrie, Rafael Guzman, Marco McGuire,

**Arlington Business Partnership:** Lea Hernandez

**Staff:** Janice Penner, Emily Minnick

### **1) Call to Order**

Justin Tracy called the meeting to order.

### **2) Self Introductions and Public Comments**

Shelby Worthington announced that Maddilicious Catering was now operating out of Worthington's Tavern.

Michelle Freeman noted that the elevator at Aurea Vista was waiting for state inspection.

Chuck Beaty commented on Patrick Brien's extraordinary performance playing nine different roles.

Janice Penner introduced Emily Minnick as the new Communications and Events Liaison.

### **3) Minutes of January 13, 2016**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 13, 2016

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

**Motion carried.**

### **4) Chair's Report**

Justin Tracy commented on the cameras in the alley between Orange and Main and University and Ninth and the fact that they were all pointed towards the walls rather than at entrances or exits. He said that cameras needed to be added to parking garages, stating that people coming to downtown should not have to worry about their cars being broken into.

Justin Tracy said there needed to be more lighting downtown. He encouraged people to think of places to add new lightning and to report lights that don't work to the City. He said that RDP could take a lead role in the initiative which could greatly improve downtown security. Bill Gardner commented on a RPU program that installed poles to provide power for lighting.

Justin Tracy commented on problems with Big Belly trash cans and urged people to report trash bins with graffiti.

### **5) Items for Discussion**

#### **5a) Approval of Board Slate**

Janice Penner referred to the final Board Slate for the year March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017 is attached.

**Motion:** To approve the Board Slate for the year March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017 as presented

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

**Motion carried.**

### **5b) Recommendation from Land Use Committee to approve Mission Lofts development in concept**

Justin Tracy said that he had seen the proposal and was impressed. Janice Penner said that the Land Use Committee reviewed the presentation by the Realm Group on the Mission Lofts development proposed for Mission Inn Avenue and Commerce and recommended that RDP support the development in concept as an appropriate land use. She said that the Executive Committee concurred with that recommendation and instructed that the recommendation be taken to the Board for approval. She said a letter advising of the support would be sent to the developer.

**Motion:** To support the Mission Lofts development in concept as an appropriate land use.

**Motion made by:** Patrick Brien    **Motion Seconded by:** Michelle Freeman

**Motion carried with Councilman Mike Gardner and Councilman Andy Melendrez abstaining.**

## **6. Items for Information**

### **6a) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Janice Penner said that the invitations for the event went out on January 16<sup>th</sup>. She said that attendance was expected to be 200 plus. She said that to date cash sponsorships to date were \$6,000. She said they were expecting a surplus for the event. .

### **6b) RDP activities**

Janice Penner said the third session of the Downtown Intern Program was held on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with a record number of businesses attending. She said that representatives from the Arlington Business Partnership also attended as they want to start their own intern program. She said interviews with interested students for placement would start soon.

Janice Penner said that RDP with the Chamber and the City will be holding an information meeting on the Community Benefits District concept on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room. She said that the RDP Board, Land Use Committee, and downtown property owners would be invited by RDP to the meeting.

Janice Penner said that RDP was coordinating the fashion show component of the RCH Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo to be held on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Convention Center. She said that approximately 2/3's of the RCH models would be wearing outfits from downtown retailers.

Janice Penner said that RDP was partnering with the City and Riverside Police Department on a security meeting for hospitality establishments scheduled for Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. Janice Penner said that the March luncheon would feature City Manager John Russo and be held at Mezcal Cantina y Cocina. She said locations for the remainder of the fiscal year were ProAbition for April, Mission Inn Hotel & Spa for May, and the Chabad Jewish Community Center for June with Supervisor John Tavaglione confirmed as the June speaker.

Janice Penner said that the movies had been booked for the 2016 Movies on Main to be listed

in the Park and Recreation Summer Activity Guide. Councilman Mike Gardner noted that the location would need to be moved and said that it might not need to be moved to another block.

Janice Penner said that planning was underway for the new event, Doors Open, planned for May 12, 2016 from 6 pm to 9 pm and featuring free tours of historic buildings downtown. She said that she had positive responses from a number of private building owners.

## **7) Financial Reports**

### **7a) Financial report at January 31, 2016**

Steve Wollman reported that for the month of January, there was a surplus of \$27,628 compared to an expected deficit of \$4,186. He said the variance was due to BID levy income for the month being \$27,849 greater than budgeted and that since BID levy income for the previous month was \$34,204 less than budget this additional amount was expected.

Steve Wollman said that for the year to date the report showed a deficit of \$25,208 compared to an expected deficit of \$24,290. He said that BID levy income for the year to date was lower than budget by about \$4,000 but noted it was expected that the fiscal year end financial results would be close to budget.

**Motion:** To accept the financial report at January 31, 2016

**Motion made by:** Bill Gardner      **Motion Seconded by:** Patrick Brien

**Motion carried.**

## **8) City Council Updates**

### **8a) Ward One**

Councilman Mike Gardner said that the Main library was still under discussion as to whether it should move and where. He said that the recommendation from the Board of Trustees was to build a new building near the RTA downtown bus station. He said there was also talk about leaving the library in the present location and renovating the current building, noting that the estimate to renovate was \$22 million and building a new one not including land cost was \$15 million. He encouraged people to voice their opinion at the Council meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Bill Gardner said the estimate included moving the stairs and elevators but as they didn't need to be moved, the estimate should be reduced.

Councilman Mike Gardner said there is interest from Discovery Cube about using the current building as a children's museum. He said one concern was ensuring they understood the amount of work needed to make the building useable for today's needs.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that the City Attorney had suggested that the Council put on the ballot a measure that would give that office the responsibility to prosecute all misdemeanors committed in the city of Riverside. He said that the suggestion came from an effort to get prosecution of lower level crimes and livability problems in the neighborhood. He said that there had been a long and ongoing discussion between the City Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's regarding how to deal with the issue. He said that the Council voted to go ahead and put the measure on the ballot but directed the City Attorney to reopen the discussion and focus on those misdemeanors that were important to the city. He said that the date to submit items to the ballot is March 11<sup>th</sup> so an agreement had to be reached by the City Council meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Chuck Beaty asked how the City would deal with the Department of Transportation issue that

had stopped previous efforts to move the RTA downtown bus station. Councilman Mike Gardner said that the City had started discussions with the DOT. He said that the City owned property by the MetroLink Station and the intent was to make that a multi-modal station including a layover station for RTA buses. He said that when the property was conveyed to RTA, the City would apply to DOT to move the designated dollars over to that property.

Bill Gardner asked for guidance on having his proposed Raincross monuments submitted for consideration during the budget process. Councilman Mike Gardner said that the proposal had been submitted to the City Manager's office and noted that the capital improvements budget was a five year term.

### **8b) Ward Two**

Councilman Andy Melendrez noted that consideration could be given to having a main Library building outside of downtown. He said that an existing branch could be rolled into the main Library building and would generate economic benefits for an area like the Eastside.

Councilman Andy Melendrez commented that he was concerned about the costs involved with having the City Attorney prosecute certain cases. He said that he felt the estimated cost of \$2.5 million was unrealistic.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that he hoped to have semi-pro soccer teams established in Riverside and have them play at UCR. He said the team was in the fourth tier with hopes to rise up to the third tier with larger attendance. Stan Morrison asked about the logistics of adding seating to existing bleachers and stands.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that a new apartment complex was planned by Raceway Ford. He said the complex would include 215 units. He noted that the Nisan Dealership was talking about moving to the Moreno Valley Auto Mall due to low sales and awkward location.

Shelby Worthington commented that there were a number of other issues with the Main Library than functionality and location. She said that it attracted homeless and transients which was an ongoing concern.

Stan Morrison remarked on his recent visit to San Francisco and the number of homeless and transients downtown. He said that he heard from a number of radio and television personalities that they would not return to San Francisco until changes were made.

Justin Tracy said he was concerned about the amount of trash accumulating by North Park. He said that with the opening of El Patron and the new development, appearance was important.

### **9) Security Update**

Bruce Blomdahl said that vehicle theft had reduced by 12% in November and December, and then by a further 15%.

Bruce Blomdahl said that with AB109, money was allocated to training programs to get parolees into jobs. He said that it appeared that money was not allocated or was not effective, so community work programs would be helpful.

Bruce Blomdahl said that planning had started for the 2016 Festival of Lights and that the footprint was going to expand in 2016. He said that 475,000 attended the 2015 event which had

an economic impact of \$47 million. He noted that 2017 would be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival. He said they were still in the early stages of planning for the next couple of years for this event.

Bruce Blomdahl noted that with the number of festivals downtown, it was important to have people feel secure and have a positive interaction with the police. He said that he knew there were concerns about the cost of police but their presence was needed.

Bill Gardner asked about the RPU program for lighting. Councilman Mike Gardner said that he would check and get that information to Janice Penner.

Bill Gardner asked about cameras in the parking garage. Councilman Mike Gardner said the City was looking at installing them in the older City garages but there were challenges with securing them.

Chuck Beaty asked about City police compensation compared to County sheriff. Bruce Blomdahl said he felt Riverside was competitive.

Chuck Beaty asked if the next step with the City Attorney taking on prosecutions would be a City jail. Bruce Blomdahl said that he did not think so because of the issues with other cities dropping off their parolees. He commented on some of the issues with prosecution and other jurisdiction.

#### **10) City Community Development Department Update**

As Rafael Guzman was not in attendance, there was no report.

#### **11) Arlington Business Partnership Update**

Lea Hernandez said that the Physical Improvements Committee was looking for possible projects, and had met with City staff about monuments.

Lea Hernandez said that the ABP office would be moving to a different location with a large enough Board room to hold Board meetings. She said that the Board was also changing the time of the meeting to 5:30 pm.

Lea Hernandez said that the ABP Executive was looking at their strategic plan. She said that ABP would be updating their website.

It was noted that the pocket park and clock at Magnolia and Van Buren would be relocated due to the sale of the property.

#### **12) New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **13) Adjournment and next meeting date**

Justin Tracy thanked the Board for its support.

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7:30 am.