



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Gerald Douglas, Jason Farin for John Field, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Rafael Guzman, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Katie Leal, Shalini Lockard, Amir Mertaban, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Geoff Neely, David St. Pierre, Sergio San Martin, Charity Schiller, Cara Swearingen Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington, Lou Monville

Excused: Ian Davidson, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Brian Pearcy,

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Marco McGuire

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Andrew Guerra / Lynn Anderson for Mike Gardner

Staff: Janice Penner, Kate Stovicek

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Conducted.

David St. Pierre said he had brought more bricks from the old Imperial Hardware building and invited Board members to take one. He said Gail Egenes recently passed away after battling cancer for a few years. He noted that she was the Executive Director of the Riverside Land Conservancy and had played a significant role in the Save Mount Rubidoux campaign.

2a) Introduction of New Members

Janice Penner noted that two new members had joined the Board, Geoff Neely and Amir Mertaban. Geoff Neely stated that he was from Heroes Restaurant and Brewery and had been with the company for 14 years. Janice Penner added that RDP would be having the June luncheon at Heroes Restaurant and Brewery.

Janice Penner noted that Lou Monville had replaced Debbi Guthrie as the Raincross Hospitality Group representative.

3) Minutes of February 8, 2017

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2017

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington said that she had met with City Manager John Russo and Assistant City Manager Alex Nguyen regarding the downtown entertainment district and family friendly events.

She stated that there was a hold placed on closing University for events due to the new RTA grid system and the number of bus stops on University. She said John Russo would be addressing the situation.

Shelby Worthington said that because of the difficulty in obtaining CUP's, new businesses were being deterred from coming into Riverside and current businesses deterred from expanding. She said that restaurants and hospitality establishments keep downtown Riverside alive and they needed to be supported. She said that businesses were facing challenges such as running around to five different departments to discuss a CUP and resolve a problem or issue.

Rafael Guzman said that the code amendments to the Downtown Specific Plan would affect entertainment such as temporary and permanent events in public spaces/outdoor areas as opposed to interior spaces.

Janice Penner commented that if University Avenue could be closed then the Riverside Arts and Music Festival would face a significant problem as would Saturation Fest at the end of May. She said that she and Patrick Brien would be meeting with Jessica Hernandez on March 9th to get more details from the City.

Bill Gardner stated that he believed that the downtown needed to look good looking with trash picked up and flower beds maintained. Shelby Worthington stated that most of the destruction of the flower beds was due to homeless sleeping in the flower beds and that would continue until the homeless population decreased. She said there were additional problems but noted that they were part of the broader issue of homelessness.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Janice Penner said that the event was the most financially successful to date. She pointed out that the event was not a fundraiser and sponsorships were used to keep the price of the event down, with the most expensive ticket price being \$73 compared to other events at \$125. She said the lower ticket price allowed more people to attend and support the award recipients. She said that thank you letters with a program indicating logo recognition had been sent to all sponsors.

Janice Penner said that the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa had been booked for February 21, 2018. She noted that the week prior was Valentine's Day as well as the day of the February RDP Board meeting so it was deemed best to book the event for one week later

5b) Red Dress Fashion Show

Janice Penner said that RDP coordinated the fashion show component of the RCH Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo held on Saturday, February 18th at the Riverside Convention Center. She noted of the 42 models, 32 wore outfits from downtown retailers. She said that the sponsorship provided recognition, 2 luncheon tables, and complimentary vendor booths (value \$250) for participating retailers. She said that RDP would partner with RCH on next year's show and would meet shortly to set the theme for the show. She said they were looking at 'Fun, Floral, and Fantastic', and involving the Riverside Art Museum to add an art component to the event.

5c) Other RDP activities

Janice Penner said that RDP purchased a table of 10 for the Chief's Breakfast on March 16th and was soliciting items for the event's raffle to assist the organizers.

Janice Penner said the March luncheon would feature Drew Oberjuege of Riverside Art Museum and be held at ProAbition Kitchen and Cocktails.

Janice Penner said that RDP had scheduled a security meeting for hospitality establishments on Tuesday, March 21st at 10:30 am in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room. She said the meeting was to discuss security and other concerns of hospitality establishments, and promote the RADD program which encourages designated drivers amongst college students.

Janice Penner said that planning was underway for the second annual Doors Open Riverside planned for May 11th and that invitations to participate had been sent out to last year's participants.

Janice Penner said that RDP would once again partner with the City on the 2017 series of Concerts at City Hall and Riverside Restaurant Week. She said that the Arlington Business Partnership was also partnering on Riverside Restaurant Week.

Janice Penner said that RDP would start planning with the Riverside Arts Council for the second annual Riverside Art and Music Festival scheduled for Saturday, September 9th.

Janice Penner said that RDP would start planning in early summer for the October 5th fashion show in partnership with Riverside Community Health Foundation and Pink Ribbon Place in support of breast cancer awareness.

6) Financial report at February 28, 2017

Kati Leal said that RDP submitted an application for County District 2 CID funding in the amount of \$5,000 but due to CID funding being cut for everyone, would receive the maximum available of \$1,000. She noted that it was expected that funding would be reinstated for the next fiscal year and that RDP would apply at the start of the year.

The Notes to the Agenda showed a surplus of \$8,343 compared to an expected surplus of \$9,077 for the month. They showed that for the year to date, the report shows a surplus of \$64,115 compared to an expected surplus of \$2,642 due largely to BID levy income being higher than expected by \$70,858.

Motion: To approve the financial report as of February 28, 2017

Motion made by: David St. Pierre **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

7) City Council Updates

7a) Ward One

There was no update on Ward One as Councilman Mike Gardner was unable to attend. Lynn Anderson attended as an observer.

7b) Ward Two

There was no update on Ward One as Councilman Andy Melendrez was unable to attend.

8) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl said that people should contact him about problems and issues with the bus stops on University and elsewhere so that he could allocate resources or pass information to the RTA contact.

Bill Gardner inquired if the homeless were sleeping on the benches at the bus stops. Bruce Blomdahl stated that the homeless were not sleeping on the benches but that it was typical for narcotics dealers to be drawn to where homeless or addicts were to sell products.

Shelby Worthington commented that the individuals loitering at the benches were also scoping out items in the back of trucks and then grabbing them before getting on a bus.

Bruce Blomdahl said that one of his personnel was downtown at 6 am attempting to roust homeless individuals away from business storefronts. He asked that anyone seeing an increase in that morning activity let him know so that his personnel could expand the territory to eradicate the morning loitering.

Bruce Blomdahl stated that there had been a multitude of complaints regarding the urination and other activities taking place within the parking structures. He said that he had several operations in place in an attempt to stop that type of behavior.

Bruce Blomdahl commented that he had access to several officers from 5 pm until 3 am and was attempting to get them transferred to his division so that he had more authority over them. He said that unfortunately they were in the draw pool of officers to call on when there are too many problems or too many officers out on patrol. He said that the staffing shortage had put a significant strain on the PD and he hopes that the hiring process would begin shortly.

Chuck Beaty stated that a police officer that stated that there were 500 applicants but only three became officers. Bruce Blomdahl stated that Riverside typically received many applicants due to the pay and the opportunity for different assignments that other police departments do not offer. He added that the Police Department has been picky in the past but might have to be less so depending on applicants and positions available.

Bruce Blomdahl commented on the shooting incident that took place recently, stating that the situation entailed some drug use and gang activity. He stated that when an assailant refuses to come out of a house, the PD must focus on getting the assailant out safely and peacefully.

Janice Penner commented on how destructive the skateboarders are to the garages and hardscape on Main Street. She said that the deterrent of confiscating the skateboards could no longer be used due to the city being sued.

Bill Gardner told Bruce Blomdahl that he was proud and thankful of the PD. Bruce Blomdahl thanked Bill Gardner for his comment and added that Amir Mertaban of Live Nation held a BBQ as a thank you to the police and fire departments. He said that meant a lot to see that and to hear the positive and thankful comments from the community.

Stan Morrison inquired if it was a liability to have an individual who was passed out moved to a less public place to sleep it off. Bruce Blomdahl stated that PD could only move the individual with consent or if there was a reason to arrest. Stan Morrison asked about protesters at events. Bruce Blomdahl responded that the PD had a contingency to deal with any issues that might arise.

9) City Community Development Department Update

Janice Penner stated that RDP was advised that the City approved the Safety Ambassador program starting July 1st and going to at least January 7, 2018. She stated that there would be discussion regarding the patrol route and that StreetPlus would work with the City and others to accommodate the needs of downtown.

Rafael Guzman stated that Imperial Hardware was roughly 40 days behind schedule due to the rain but planned to be back on track in the next couple of months. He said that the Hampton Inn Hotel on Market had started its construction. He said that the Culver Lofts had gone to Planning Commission and was appealed but was expected to go to City Council in April.

Rafael Guzman said that the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa was remodeling its kitchen to provide more services. He said that the Stalder Plaza project would go to the Cultural Heritage Board on March 15th and then to Planning Commission in April or May. He added that City Council was expected to discuss the location of the Festival of Lights' ice skating rink on March 28th.

Bill Gardner stated that there was property on Main St between 5th and 6th that would be ideal for potential businesses. Rafael Guzman noted that the property was owned by the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa and that they had expressed an interest in developing the property but had other priorities before doing so. Janice Penner noted that development on that property depended in part on renovating the annex which was extremely difficult to retrofit. She said that one of the objectives in renovating the annex was to expand the meeting room capacity.

10) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Andrew Guerra said that ABP would be issuing a RFP for a private security program to patrol the BID. He stated that the program would be to assist in dealing with homeless, reporting graffiti and other issues.

Andrew Guerra said that ABP was recruiting for chili cooks from both the community and restaurants for the chili cook-off in May, and that ABP was still looking for vendors and sponsors.

11) New Business

There was no new business.

12) Adjournment and next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, April 12, 2017