



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Ian Davidson, Gerald Douglas, Michelle Freeman, Rafael Guzman, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Geoff Neely, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Shelby Worthington

Excused: Cherie Crutcher, John Field, Katie Leal, Amir Mertaban, Brian Percy, Sergio San Martin, Cara Swearingen, Justin Tracy

Absent: Bill Gardner, Marco McGuire

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: ABP – written report / Mike Gardner, Andy Melendrez

Staff: Janice Penner, Kate Stovicek

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Conducted.

3) Minutes of April 12, 2017

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2017

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Patrick Brien

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington stated that the StreetPlus Safety Ambassador Program boundaries would be adjusted as needed. She said that downtown stakeholders were supportive of the program but pointed out that it was not intended to handle the homeless issue. She stated that the StreetPlus program was geared towards the entertainment district which included restaurants, Convention Center, hotels, night clubs, and the Fox PAC. She noted that the StreetPlus employees had different training than RDP's ambassadors suitable for that focus. She said that RDP had been asked to use of portion of its reserves to assist in funding the Program for two years.

Shelby Worthington stated that if the Board did consider funding the StreetPlus Safety Ambassador Program for two years, funding would need to be contingent on the BID being renewed for the second year. She said that she felt the program was of significant importance to downtown Riverside and needed to be implemented. She noted that the hours and patrol area would be subject to change based on ongoing assessment of the needs, noting that it might be necessary to have patrols starting earlier during the day. She invited the Board to ask questions and raise concerns as they saw fit to discuss the request for funding.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Contribution to StreetPlus Safety Ambassador Program

Bruce Blomdahl commented that he believed the StreetPlus Safety Ambassador Program would be a good addition to downtown. He said that he understood individuals needed to feel safe and that was important to the success and prosperity of downtown. He reiterated that the StreetPlus was not a substitute for the police force.

Janice Penner stated that the increased presence would deter unwanted activities and behavior. She noted that Riverside would not be able to have more police officers on the street by August 1st and the program would have individuals that are trained in observing, reporting and diffusing situations on patrol by that date. She said that the only way to determine how effective the program could be would be to start it and along with the City, monitor the impact.

Ian Davidson stated that he spent three days in downtown Los Angeles and noted the amount of police presence and their responsiveness to any suspicious behavior. He said in light of an increased police presence not being an option as of now, the StreetPlus program would provide a sense of security and safety.

Shelby Worthington added that the City was doubling entertainment venues and increasing downtown rental residency. She said that the new downtown residents would want to feel safe walking downtown.

Lou Monville stated that StreetPlus had a system connected to Police Dispatch, which allowed access to the police department. He added that StreetPlus would adjust staffing depending on certain events needing more coverage. He added that the number one concern from both the Convention Center and the Visitors and Convention Bureau was the perception of safety in downtown. He said his experience with StreetPlus in Long Beach allowed him to see how they handled homeless intervention.

Janice Penner stated that RDP could only formally agree to one year as the BID was subject to annual renewal. Lou Monville said that he would recommend that RDP make a two year commitment subject to the BID being renewed for the second year.

Rafael Guzman stated that the City would agree to monthly payments but that the City was looking for a commitment for the two years in order to proceed with the StreetPlus agreement. He said that the City would not proceed if RDP could not commit to the two years of funding.

Stan Morrison stated that the Riverside Downtown Partnership had worked hard to bring business, industry, new homes, buildings, entertainment and density to downtown and should continue to do so. He said it was incumbent upon RDP to demonstrate that commitment to the betterment of downtown Riverside. He stated that he could not support anything less than the two years of funding being requested.

Janice Penner stated that from a fiduciary point of view, RDP could only enter into one year funding agreements because of the annual BID renewal. She said that monthly payments would allow RDP to fund through operational revenue rather than actually taking money out of reserves. She noted that the increased costs of the StreetPlus Safety Ambassador program were due to the inclusion of parking garage security with entertainment district patrols so that RDP would also be funding additional parking security.

Janice Penner said that RDP was supportive of the StreetPlus Safety Ambassador Program but that RDP also needed to put its interests first. The reserves had been established so that if the BID was not renewed, RDP could meet its obligations. She said that a certain level of reserves needed to be retained for that purpose.

Jeff Kraus stated that if RDP was not satisfied with StreetPlus, there could be a provision to terminate funding. He stated that the City would likely have a provision to terminate the agreement for specified reasons. He said that a provision could be included that second year funding would be terminated if the BID was not renewed or if RDP was in financial distress.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that in his opinion, the program was not to replace police officers but supplement them. He said that the Council appeared to be unanimous in its plans to hire 60 officers over the next five years. He said that it took time to hire officers and having additional security presence would help address current problems downtown.

Janice Penner stated that one concern was lack of daytime coverage. Lou Monville stated that representatives from the hotels and the Convention Center were present during discussions regarding hours of coverage. He said that within the first 60 days StreetPlus needed to assess the situation and needs of the area. He added that he agreed with Stan Morrison on sending the message that RDP was in for two years, subject to the provisions noted.

Charity Schiller commented that RDP would be spending a large portion of its reserves on one program. She said that while it was agreed that the program would deal with a major issue facing downtown, by doing so RDP would have less money available for other efforts in the future. She said that she agreed with funding for the first year but for the second year she agreed with Jeff Kraus that there needed to be a termination clause. She said that even if the BID was renewed, there needed to be consideration of RDP having sufficient reserves on hand. She stated that according to the numbers provided, RDP needed \$250,000 in reserves to meet its obligations should the BID not be renewed. She said that the contract should include a 30 day notice regardless.

Andy Melendrez stated that RTA used to partner with the Police Department for the security at the bus terminal and then later RTA paid for security guards at the facility. He added that as far as he was aware RTA was not paying for any security in the downtown area. He suggested that RTA be approached for some of the costs for security in the downtown area with the increased activity at bus stops along University due to the change to a grid system.

Shelby Worthington stated that the City needed a two year agreement to make the deal with StreetPlus. She said that RDP's agreement to funding would need to include that the second year would be dependent on renewal of the BID. Janice Penner stated that RDP must be protected and the agreement would need to include a termination clause as indicted by Charity Schiller. She added that also needed to be a review of hours as people did feel that there should be more daytime coverage. She said that part of the reason that she suggested monthly payments was to pay from operational funds as available rather than directly from reserves.

The Board discussed the wording of the motion. Charity Schiller stated that RDP could not commit to \$100,000 over two years because RDP could not guarantee it would have \$100,000 for that purpose. Janice Penner noted that RDP might have sufficient surplus in operational revenue to fund both years but that there was no guarantee.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he believed that a termination clause was important for everyone involved in the contract. He stated that StreetPlus could end up backing out as well. He said he felt Council would accept a commitment from RDP for \$50,000 for the first year and \$50,000 the following year subject to renewal of the BID levy. He stated that he was confident that the BID would be renewed. Janice Penner added that there also needed to be a financial caveat in the event that RDP was at financial risk.

Motion: To authorize a contribution of \$50,000 to the StreetPlus Safety Ambassador program payable monthly for the first year, and for \$50,000 payable monthly for the second year, subject to renewal of the BID and a 30 day exit clause for extreme financial disaster facing RDP. The RDP Executive Committee will finalize the terms of the agreement with the City and return it to the RDP Board for final approval.

Motion made by: Lou Monville **Motion Seconded by:** Stan Morrison
Motion carried

6) Items for Information

6a) Doors Open May 11th

Shelby Worthington said that the second annual Doors Open Riverside would take place on May 11th. Janice Penner thanked the Mission Inn Museum and Foundation for their docents who would be leading the tours. Janice Penner said that there several new additions including Evergreen Cemetery, Eden Lutheran Church, and Camp Anza.

6b) Membership Mixer June 7th

Shelby Worthington said that the Membership Mixer would be held on June 7th at Loft.84. Janice Penner said a flyer would be emailed out to the Board for them to invite potential members.

6c) Other RDP activities

Janice Penner said that the next RDP luncheon would be held on May 23rd at Mezcal Cantina Y Cocina and would feature the Director of Riverside Public Utilities.

Janice Penner said that Movies on Main would be held on Main Street between Mission Inn Avenue and University as it was determined that there was sufficient room in that area even with the Imperial Hardware Lofts construction.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at April 30, 2017

Janice Penner said that the financial report for the month showed a deficiency of \$2,964 compared to an expected surplus of \$1,915. She said that the report for the year to date showed a surplus of \$65,534 compared to an expected surplus of \$14,705 due largely to BID levy income being higher than expected by \$61,341.

7b) Update on Finance Committee

Janice Penner said that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, May 4th at Noon. She said that the budget would go to the Executive Committee on Tuesday, June 6th and then come to the Board on Wednesday, June 14th.

Motion: To approve the financial report as of April 30, 2017

Motion made by: David St. Pierre **Motion Seconded by:** Nancy Larsen

Motion carried

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the City was in the middle of budget discussions. He said that while there was a lot of agreement between the Budget Engagement Commission and the City, there were some areas of disagreement. He said the most important areas of disagreement were staff recommending construction of parking garages and museum expansion, and the BEC suggesting money for street paving, tree trimming and information technology upgrades. He said that there would be a Council meeting to discuss BEC and staff recommendations on May 16 to give as explicit direction as possible to staff. He added that the actual budget adoption was scheduled for May 20, but if they were unable to do so, there would be a special meeting.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there was a possibility of building a new Main Library with the old library converted into the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture, and Industry. He said that would allow the money to be raised privately for the physical upgrades that the building needs.

Councilman Mike Gardner said if anyone had a view on spending on Police Officers, they should share their thoughts. He noted that some qualified officers could be lost to other agencies if Riverside was unable to offer positions until after July 1.

Councilman Mike Gardner noted that the Regatta was back and that half the money went to the sailing program and the other half to a charity selected by Council members.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the Budget Engagement Commission discussed public safety. He stated that some individuals at the meeting discussed programming intervention for youth, and taking money out of public safety to provide services to lower income communities. He added that it was clear that the Eastside, Arlanza, Casa Blanca, and Arlington areas needed additional services.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that in the Eastside community, several marijuana dispensaries were closed. Bruce Blomdahl said that the situation was being handled well.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the assessment done on crime in Ward Two in 2007 showed about 2,300 crimes taking place, but the results from 2016 showed crime had dropped to below 2,000. He added that knocking down certain motels, liquor stores, night clubs, etc. that had a negative impact on the community reduced crime. He noted that having the Police Department fully engaged with the community had helped tremendously as well.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl stated that he had moved one of the four detectives that work for him to nights. He added that it would be significant in supplementing the StreetPlus program. He stated that the commitment of RDP was significant to the PD because his detectives are in charge of all property

crimes that happen on the North end and as well as other various crimes. He said that these detectives have 20 cases a week sometimes, with copious amounts of paperwork. He stated that the StreetPlus Program would be beneficial to the PD because of information sharing.

Bruce Blomdahl stated that as a Lieutenant of RPD and a downtown resident, he would like his family to feel comfortable downtown. He stated that while there was always a perception that a new program, feature, ordinance, etc. would solve problems, simple measures such as being aware of one's surroundings and sharing information regarding suspicious activity also helped.

Bruce Blomdahl stated that typically juries now wanted to see video evidence of the crime. He added that video surveillance would be vital to the growth and prosperity of downtown Riverside.

Janice Penner commented that RDP had put money towards cameras in the downtown area for the police but within two years they were obsolete. She said that RDP handed the responsibility over to the City to maintain and make changes as necessary to those cameras.

Shelby Worthington stated that no loitering signs on buildings did deter some of the unwanted behavior.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Rafael Guzman stated that the Riverside Food Lab project was discussed at the RDP April luncheon. He stated that Imperial Hardware would be pouring the ground floor of cement and that there would be massive transformation of the project over the next two weeks. Janice Penner stated that RDP did post regarding the partial lane closure on University on Thursday, May 11 due to construction.

Rafael Guzman stated that he passed out information regarding Stalder Plaza, including the ground breaking, greeting and shoring taking place mid-June. Janice Penner stated that the footprint and construction specifics would be included in the June 2017 BID Bulletin.

Rafael Guzman added that the grading permit for the Hampton Hotel on 5th and Market had been issued. He noted that the architectural firm's building on 10th and Market was going through major renovations.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

A written report was provided. Janice Penner advised it would be emailed to the Board.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Arlington Business Partnership Update

May 2017

- ABP welcomed its first intern to the team in April. Shereena Ho, a current student at UC Riverside is hard at work helping ABP with the Chili Cook-Off event and visiting businesses to build relationships and update them of the programs and events ABP manages.
- ABP will hold its 15th Annual Chili Cook Off Car/Cycle Show on Saturday, May 27th from 9:30AM-5PM on Magnolia Ave. between Van Buren Blvd. & Jackson St. We invite the Riverside Downtown Partnership to attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to taste and judge chili, gaze the cars/cycles/bikes, enjoy the beer gardens, shop various vendors, have fun in the kid's zone and listen to live music.
- On April 27th, ABP hosted a complimentary business workshop in partnership with the California State Board of Equalization on the topic of basic sales, use tax and tax return preparation. A total of 21 small business owners attended.
- ABP's Entry Monument Sign Project is scheduled to be completed by May 10th. Monument signs will be installed placed at all four major entry points into the Arlington Business District: Magnolia at Jackson, Magnolia at Tyler, Van Buren at Arlington, and Van Buren at Lincoln. At 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16th at Lincoln Plaza, ABP will hold an unveiling ceremony.
- ABP is happy to announce a new office/retail/restaurant development is coming to Arlington. Development firm, Van Buren Land & Investments is developing the old Arlington Theater location on Magnolia between Taft and Myers St. A ground breaking event is scheduled for Thursday, May 11th at 11 a.m.
- ABP is excited to once again partner with the City of Riverside and Riverside Downtown Partnership on Riverside Restaurant Week – June 2017.
- ABP is collaborating with Riverside's Parks and Recreation Department to host four Movies in the Park events. Movies will be shown at Arlington Park and Myra Linn Parks between in the months of July and August 2017.