



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Gerald Douglass, John Field, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Mike Gardner, Laurie Hitt, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Jeff Kraus, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Andy Melendrez, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Charity Schiller, Cara Swearingen, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Steve Wollman, Shelby Worthington, Al Zelinka

Excused: Cherie Crutcher, Debbi Guthrie, Nanci Larsen, Brian Percy, Ellie Uli

Absent: Marco McGuire, RJ Rodriguez, David St. Pierre

Guests: Rafael Guzman, Lea Hernandez, Henry Ayala

Staff: Whitney Waters

1) Call to Order

Justin Tracy called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Self introductions were made.

Bill Gardner commented on the increased trash on Main Street due to the Festival of Lights and suggested that more trash boxes be placed in the Mission Inn block. Janice Penner said that she would contact City staff about the suggestion.

3) Minutes of November 11, 2015

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

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Justin Tracy noted that he had also noticed increased trash due to visitors to the Festival of Lights. He said the expansion of the event activities towards City Hall was successful and more people were visiting that end of Main Street. He mentioned that he was concerned about pedestrian safety with the location of Santa's booth so close to the 9th Street intersection.

Justin Tracy noted the mass shooting in San Bernardino and the need for people to be observant for safety.

Justin Tracy thanked Shelby Worthington and Cindy Alden for allowing RDP's holiday reception to be held at Loft. 84, and their contributions to the event. Janice Penner presented Shelby Worthington with tokens of appreciation that included a coffee mug and gift certificate to Mario's Place.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Recommendations for Downtown Awards

Janice Penner said the RDP Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony was an opportunity for RDP to recognize achievements downtown and to generate positive publicity for both downtown and RDP. She said the following individuals/organizations were being recommended as recipients.

Chair's Award – Stan Morrison for his tireless efforts on behalf of downtown and Riverside organizations and activities

Arts and Culture – Riverside Repertory Theater for providing professional theater utilizing the Box in the Fox Performing Arts Center

Business Activity –Riverside Community Hospital for its impact on the health care sector of downtown Riverside

Downtown Event – Long Night of Arts and Innovation for celebrating arts and science through the City's cultural and education institutions

Downtown Improvement – Loft.84 for its adaptive renovation of the second floor of the historic Aurea Vista building

Downtown Safety and Security – Riverside Police Department for the positive impact of the enhanced foot and bike patrols.

Motion: To approve the recommended recipients for the 2016 RDP Awards

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

Motion carried.

Janice Penner said that the request for nominations for the annual Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' award had been sent out and was available on the RDP website.

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

Janice Penner said the ballots for election of the officers and the at large Directors needed to go out by December 30th which meant the Board had to approve the names on the slate at the current meeting. She said the Nominating Committee met on Tuesday, December 1st and recommended that the slate of officers be as follows: David St. Pierre – Chair, Shelby Worthington – Vice Chair, Stephen Wollman – Treasurer, and Charity Schiller – Secretary.

Motion: To approve the slate of officers for the 2016 term

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

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) BID renewal and Public Hearing

Justin Tracy said that the presentation went well and that the City Council approved the renewal of the BID levy. He said that while there were no written protests or objections filed with the City, one individual spoke about his concern with how the funds from The City were used. He said that Councilman Mike Gardner explained how RDP was funded and the basis of the City funding. Janice Penner said she gave the gentleman her business card and asked him to send her his contact information so that she could send him any requested information.

Janice Penner said the information on how to view the video of the PowerPoint presentation to City Council was sent to the Board.

6b) RDP activities

i) FOL

Janice Penner said she and Councilman Mike Gardner met with the City Parking Services staff and Central Parking staff to discuss parking for the Festival of Lights. She said they were able to get the fee for parking on the Friday waived for those who had garage or lot parking permits. She said RDP provided event and parking information to downtown businesses through email and the Ambassadors.

Janice Penner said RDP was been working as a liaison between the City FOL staff and the downtown businesses to resolve issues that came up. She complimented City FOL staff on their responsiveness to those issues.

ii) Other Activities

Janice Penner said RDP was partnering with a number of downtown businesses and health organizations on the Miracle on Main Street toy drive and health fair to be held on Sunday, December 13th. She said that in addition to providing logistic and other support, RDP was providing \$500 towards the food being provided to the families in attendance by Gram's Mission Bar.B.Q.

Janice Penner said there was no luncheon meeting in December and that the new Community and Economic Department Director, Rafael Guzman, would be the featured speaker at the January luncheon. She said that the luncheon would be at the Marriott at the Riverside Convention Center and sponsored by Riverside Public Utilities.

6c) RDP Holiday Reception December 3rd

Janice Penner said the RDP holiday reception was held on Thursday, December 3rd from 11 am to 2 pm at Loft.84. Approximately 60 people attended which was lower than previous years and below the 90 expected based on RSVPs. It was felt that the events in San Bernardino may have impacted attendance.

Janice Penner thanked Shelby Worthington and Cindy Alden for offering their space.

6d) Annual Meeting

Janice Penner said the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony had been booked at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa for Wednesday, February 17th. She said she was working with the banquet staff on the menu and pricing, but at this point, a ticket price had not been set.

Janice Penner said that Riverside Community Hospital was returning as the title sponsor, and that RJN Investigations had provided a \$500 sponsorship. She noted that sponsorship was still available, particularly for the awards.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at November 30, 2015

Steve Wollman said the draft financial report for the month of November showed a deficit of \$519 compared to an expected deficit of \$3,924. He said that the positive variance was due largely to higher BID levy income for the month offset by the timing of receipt of Promotion sponsorship income.

Steve Wollman said that for the year to date, the report showed a deficit of \$39,123 compared to an expected deficit of \$38,626. He said that BID levy income for the year was slightly higher than budget, and was offset by timing of certain expenses and approved but non-budgeted expenses for the IDA conference in September.

Motion: To accept the financial report at November 30, 2015

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

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner said the proposal for Chow Alley was in discussion. He said the discussion included whether Main St. would be permanently closed or only temporarily during certain times. He said there had also been discussion of moving the ice skating rink during Festival of Lights from the Civic Plaza to in front of the Courthouse. He said that the ice rink needed to be moved elsewhere permanently as once the Imperial Hardware Lofts were built, there was no room for the chillers in the area.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that negotiations were taking place between the City and a company about dining options for the restaurant pad in the Fox Entertainment Plaza. He said that the goal was to have Riverside as a dining destination area for Riverside residents and residents of the surrounding cities.

Councilman Mike Garner mentioned the smash and grab robbery at the Tyler Galleria. He said in light of the San Bernardino shootings, there was confusion as to whether or not there was an active shooter. He said there was not an active shooter, however, the mall was locked down and searched. He said the response of first responders was remarkable, and showed how prepared Riverside is for a situation like this. He noted that it was important for The City to inform citizens of the correct information on social media so as not to spread false rumors.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez said they had a Riverside Arts Academy fundraiser and raised about \$88,000 dollars in contributions. He said they have developed a partnership with the Harmony school in Los Angeles and have extended the program to 6 weeks.

He said there had been a lot of work done on University Avenue and that the City has received offers on two properties. He said that Park Avenue has been cleaned up and that he believes it can become a vibrant corridor.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said they are looking at increasing usage of local parks such as North Park. He noted El Patron was finally opened.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl commented on the incident at the Tyler Galleria. He said that information on social media needed to be correct before sent out. He said that there was a video that was released on social media that would hopefully assist the Police Department in finding the suspects. He added that the Police Department did have some leads.

Bruce Blomdahl said there had been an increase of calls in light of the San Bernardino massacre. He said that the police department was doing everything they could to make sure everyone felt safe. He said they had met with the Festival of Lights staff to enforce strict security, and noted that there was a FOL security debriefing meeting planned for Wednesday, December 9th.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that City Council would be reviewing staff recommendations regarding the Community Livability Task Force and suggested that RDP support having more police presence in the downtown. Janice Penner said that it had been discussed at the Security Committee meetings and she would send an email to him affirming that support.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Al Zelinka introduced Rafael Guzman and said that he had been with the City for three months. He said that the plans for the Imperial Hardware Lofts were moving forward. He said that the City and developers would be having a pre-development meeting on the Stalder mixed use development within the next week.

Al Zelinka said the Culver lot had been approved for development and was going to UCR for due process. He said the contract to complete the study for the event center and the two hotels on Market Street was being completed.

Al Zelinka said they were still discussing the possible relocation of the downtown library. He said their department was working with Public Works to complete a downtown parking study. He said that the City Manager was in conversation with the County on a joint parking structure.

Al Zelinka said Riverside was eligible for a sizable grant to prepare a concept for a transit oriented development/ mobility hub for the Metro link in downtown and create a market based visual for transportation downtown.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Henry Ayala said ABP had its first Winterfest event that past Saturday, and that it brought out about 450 people. He said it was the first year they invited schools and had vendors. He said the next events were December 12th and December 19th and that the event included a complimentary photo with Santa and a teddy bear.

Henry Ayala said in October they welcomed a new board of directors. He said that the Board was working on strategic goals with input from those who helped found the organization. He said they were working on a new version of the Arlington Times to be produced bi-weekly. He said that he and Lea Hernandez went around to different businesses throughout the week to introduce themselves.

Henry Ayala said they held a special event as part of Small Business Saturday and provided materials for the downtown businesses. He said they were looking forward to the Chili Cook off in the upcoming year.

Janice Penner said noted that RDP did not hold a special event for Small Business Saturday as it fell on the first weekend of the Festival of Lights event.

12) New Business

Justin Tracy said that he would like to see the alleys lighted and used as secondary walkways.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:30am.