



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Christie Collins (ABP), Gerald Douglass, John Field, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Mike Gardner, Debbi Guthrie, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Cara Swearingen for Andrew Lazarz, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Stan Morrison, RJ Rodriguez, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Steve Wollman, Shelby Worthington, Al Zelinka

Guest: Roman Valdez

Excused: Marcia Campbell, Barry Hildebrandt, Bob Nagle, Brian Percy, Cherie Russell, Ellie Uli

Absent: Miguel Cruz

Staff: Janice Penner, Robbie Silver

1) Call to Order

Kris Whitehead called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Councilman Mike Gardner advised that Al Zelinka was now an Assistant City Manager.

David St. Pierre said that Riverside Repertory Theater's West Side Story would close out on February 15th at the Box.

3) Minutes of January 14, 2015

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2015

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Kris Whitehead thanked the RDP Board for allowing her to represent the organization this past year. The Board thanked Kris Whitehead for her leadership as Chair.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Approval of Board Slate for 2015 – 2016 Term

Janice Penner referred to the proposed Board Slate for the year March 1, 2015 to February 28, 2016. She noted that there were three retiring Board members; Marcia Campbell, Miguel Cruz, and Barry Hildebrandt. She noted that there were two new Board members; Laurie Hitt of Old Spaghetti Factory and Marco McGuire of McGuire LLC.

Motion: To approve the Board Slate for the year March 1, 2015 to February 28, 2016 as presented.

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Motion Seconded by:** Shelby Worthington

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Janice Penner said the invitations for the event were sent out on January 16th. She encouraged Board members to make their reservations as soon as possible.

Janice Penner advised that dinner was a plated meal with a salad, choice of entrée and choice of dessert. She said each guest would be provided with two tickets for complimentary wine from the bar and each table would have lip balm and letter openers as small gifts for the guests.

Janice Penner advised that RDP was anticipating a small loss on the event based on sponsorships to date and projected ticket sales. She said sponsorships and other donations would be accepted up until the event. She said Riverside Community Hospital was the Event Sponsor and the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa was the Arts and Culture award sponsor for their in-kind contribution through discounts on the meal and corkage. She advised that Friend Sponsors to date included Best Best & Krieger, Citizens Business Bank, the Gardner Family, Kathy Wright, Loomis Insurance and Tilden-Coil Constructors, along with PIP Printing as an in-kind sponsor. Janice Penner thanked all those who were sponsors.

6b) RDP activities

Janice Penner said Tilden-Coil Constructors had contacted RDP about security concerns and damages to their building. She said a meeting was arranged with them, Mario's Place, the Metropolitan Museum, the Police, and Councilman Mike Gardner to discuss the concerns and how to address them. She advised that a second meeting would take place on Monday, February 9th at 1:30 pm in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room with invitations extended to a broader group. She mentioned that RDP staff would work with Councilman Gardner's office to schedule a separate meeting with hospitality establishments.

Janice Penner said RDP would be partnering with the Small Business Majority on a seminar for small businesses on access to capital. She said the seminar would be held later that morning from 9:30 am to 11 am at The Center for Arts and Philanthropy following the Board meeting. She added that other partners included the Arlington Business Partnership, the City of Riverside Office of Economic Development, the Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She mentioned that an evening seminar would be held at the Arlington Public Library at 5 pm that day for those who cannot attend in the daytime.

Janice Penner said RDP would sponsor the Black History Parade and Expo taking place downtown on Saturday, February 14th. She said that RDP would have a full page ad in their program as a benefit of that sponsorship.

Janice Penner advised that RDP would be assisting Riverside Community Hospital with the fashion show component of their Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo to be held on Saturday, February 28th at the Riverside Convention Center. She said participation in the fashion show was a major benefit to downtown retailers who would be showcased in the Show. She said the RCC School of Cosmetology would also be participating by providing hair and makeup services. She advised that RDP would also be providing two baskets for the raffle and a \$100 donation for a table of ten.

Janice Penner said RDP had been asked by Ratkovich Properties, the developer of the proposed mixed-use Imperial Hardware development, to partner with the Greater Riverside

Chambers of Commerce on a presentation about the project. She announced that the meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 9th at 9 am in the Chamber's boardroom. She stated that an invitation to the meeting would be sent out to the RDP Board and the Land Use committee later in February.

Janice Penner said a February luncheon would not take place due to the annual meeting. She said that upcoming luncheons to the end of the fiscal year were:

- The March luncheon sponsored by RPU and featuring Jeff Kraus providing an update on UCR at ProAbiton.
- The April luncheon featuring a presentation by RPU at the Old Spaghetti Factory.
- The May luncheon sponsored by Raincross Hospitality and featuring an update by the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau at the Riverside Convention Center.
- The June luncheon sponsored by Best Best & Krieger and featuring a presentation on business mentoring at the Chabad Jewish Community Center.

Janice Penner announced that RDP would not be hosting an Easter event. She said that instead, RDP was sponsoring the petting zoo at the Easter Egg Hunt at Bonaminio Park on March 28th hosted by Park and Recreation. She advised that the sponsorship would be \$500 and the RDP logo would be included on the flyer distributed to all K-8 schools in Riverside as well as AUSD schools and community centers.

Janice Penner said planning for the May 7th Fashion Show had begun. She said RDP would be promoting shopping specials and demos on the Saturday following the fashion show, similar to the October 2nd event. She said a postcard invitation for the Fashion Show and Saturday shopping would be produced for distribution at both the Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo and the Miss Inland Empire Pageant.

Janice Penner said RDP had booked the 2015 Movies on Main and posted them on the City's Community Calendar. She stated the movies booked were The Box Trolls, the Lego Movie, and Big Hero Six.

Janice Penner said planning for the Concerts at City Hall and Summer Street Jam 2015 would start in early March.

Janice Penner said Erica Green of Park and Recreation advised that the Fairmount Park concerts had won an award from the California Park and Recreation Society and that they would receive it at their annual conference in Sacramento from March 10th to 13th. She advised that they would be recognizing the contribution that RDP had made to the continuation of the concert series.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial Report as of January 31, 2015

Steve Wollman said that the financial report for the month of January showed a surplus of \$22,191 compared to an expected surplus of \$18,954. He said for the month, BID levy income was almost \$4,300 higher than expected. He said that certain expenses categories were higher than anticipated including payroll tax due to an additional FUTA charge, and security/ambassador miscellaneous due to higher insurance on the newer GEMs and additional maintenance.

Steve Wollman said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$14,192 compared to an expected loss of \$5,622, which was a positive variance of \$19,814. He said BID levy income for the year to date was \$27,825 higher than budget. He said that membership revenue continued to be lower than budget, and that security/ambassador expenses were higher due to the factors noted above and had offset additional income. He said that income and expenses variances were expected to even out by the end of the fiscal year.

MOTION: To accept the financial report at January 31, 2015

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

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner gave an update on homeless and transient issues in the downtown area. He identified two problem groups; those that were service resistant panhandlers with alcohol and drug abuse problems, and non-homeless individuals that were mostly younger males that harassed others. He advised that younger male transients were sometimes violent. He said that it was challenging to keep these individuals in jail due to State realignment which resulted in early releases. He advised that Council had authorized funding for the continuation of the livability task force for the remainder of the year to assist with homeless and transient issues.

Bruce Blomdahl reminded the Board that all calls relating to security issues should go through Police dispatch. Al Zelinka said the 'Enhanced Ambassador Program' would be able to restrain and detain individuals. He advised that the City would be looking at funding for the Program shortly. Michelle Freeman asked if it was possible to put into place an incentive program for businesses to provide more security cameras. Janice Penner said preliminary work would need to be done to do so including mapping the current private and public cameras.

Councilman Mike Gardner advised that the Council had authorized \$50,000 for library materials and \$50,000 towards the Riverside School for the Arts.

Councilman Mike Gardner said Council had interviewed potential candidates for the City Manager and City Attorney positions and expected to make offers to the selected candidate shortly.

Councilman Mike Gardner gave an update on downtown development. He said the apartment project on the corner of First and Second Street would break ground shortly. He said the Stalder Building was still tied up in a bankruptcy case but that they were expecting a settlement shortly. He said the recommended proposal for use of the Old Fire Station was a performing arts/culinary non-profit university. He said he anticipated that a possible parking garage deal with a private investor for Lot 27 could take place.

Councilman Mike Gardner announced that a fire destroyed the Living Word Church. He said he worked with Margie Haupt with the City to secure the Showcase for services the Sunday following the fire. He noted that the Riverside Fire Department saved the pulpit and sign from the church.

Bill Gardner related an instance he had with parking on Market Street and suggested that there

by additional signage alerting individuals on where to pay for parking. Councilman Mike Gardner said individuals could pay at any kiosk.

8b) Ward Two

As Councilman Andy Melendrez was not in attendance, a Ward Two update was not available.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl said the California Association of Police Chiefs would have their annual conference at the Riverside Convention Center February 22nd through the 26th.

Bruce Blomdahl advised that the Riverside Police Department's current Strategic Plan would be expiring shortly, and that RPD would be seeking input from the community.

Bruce Blomdahl advised RPD would be working with the DA's Office to locate and prosecute the individual that interrupted RPD's Fall Fashion Show.

Gerald Douglass requested an update on new jails for the Inland Empire. John Field said a new jail in Indio was in the works.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Al Zelinka said the City would be compiling a panel to discuss parking issues and trends.

Bill Gardner requested an update on the proposed downtown arena feasibility study. Janice Penner said Tom Hunt from Hunt PR would be attending the February Land Use Committee with an update. She said that the Land Use committee had expressed their concerns that the project planned adequate parking for arena and Convention Center patrons.

Al Zelinka announced that historic building code permits would continue to be grandfathered.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Christie Collins advised that ABP would be revamping their Lunch and Learn for a morning program. She said ABP would be hosting its first Arlington Morning Mixer at Parkview Community Hospital on March 19th.

12) New Business

Patrick Brien said the Jane Chu, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, would be in Riverside from February 19th to 21st and that she would be making a presentation on February 20th at the UCR Culver Center.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

Kris Whitehead adjourned the meeting until the next one scheduled for March 11, 2015