



Minutes

Present: Cynthia Azari, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Lyn Cloninger, Miguel Cruz, Gerald Douglass, Mike Gardner, Tera Harden, Vance Hardin, Barry Hildebrandt, Jeff Kraus, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Andy Melendrez, Yvonne Curtis for Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Sharon Sola-Ahluwalia, Justin Tracy, Ellie Uli, Kris Whitehead, Steve Wollman, Shelby Worthington, Al Zelinka

Excused: Marcia Campbell, John Field, Bill Gardner, Greg Lackey, Marty Lueking

Absent: Michelle Freeman, Oscar Moreno, Cherie Russell

Staff: Janice Penner, Robbie Silver

1) Call to Order

Charity Schiller called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

David St. Pierre advised that the Riverside Arts Council's haunted house was now open and encouraged people to attend.

Barry Hildebrandt thanked the RDP Board for supporting the Long Night of Arts and Innovation. Justin Tracy added that he was very impressed with the event.

Patrick Brien thanked the RDP Board for supporting the Mayor's Ball for Arts and Innovation.

Kris Whitehead advised that Curves on Main was hosting a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

3) Minutes of September 12, 2012

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of September 12, 2012.

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Kirk Lewis

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Charity Schiller echoed the comments about the Long Night of Arts and Innovation and the Mayor's Ball for Arts and Innovation.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Presentation on GiveBig Riverside

Charity Schiller introduced Karen Lampert from the Community Foundation who then gave a presentation on the GiveBig Riverside event taking place on November 13th. Karen Lampert explained that the event was an on-line event that included over 100 non-profits and was intended to encourage giving. She provided details about the event and about the success of the format in other cities. She thanked RDP for encouraging businesses to participate.

5b) RTA and Downtown Bus Terminal

Janice Penner said that the RDP Board had been advised of RTA's proposal to renovate the existing downtown bus terminal. She said that RTA was now proposing a significant expansion of the downtown bus terminal to 28 bays rather than a renovation and configuration of the existing site and building. She said that it was believed that the current RTA proposal for expansion would exacerbate the problems at the downtown bus terminal due to increased passenger traffic and the relocation of the police department at the adjacent building due to that building being demolished.

Janice Penner said that it had initially been agreed that RDP hold its original position on the relocation of the downtown bus terminal and be silent on the renovation. She said that at their October meeting the Executive Committee had agreed that RDP should state its opposition to the expansion of the downtown bus terminal due to concerns previously noted. She said that a motion to oppose the expansion was being brought forward to the Board for consideration.

Charity Schiller expressed her concerns that the expansion of the downtown bus terminal would not only increase traffic but also increase the existing security issues downtown due to the removal of the police station.

Cynthia Azari said Riverside Community College was very concerned about the expansion of the downtown bus terminal with their investment in district offices, Culinary Academy and Coil School for the Arts. She said that RCC was opposing the expansion and would support RDP doing so as well. She asked if the motion was only to oppose the expansion or to also encourage looking at a different location. Janice Penner said RDP would maintain its position of moving the downtown bus terminal and the motion was to oppose any expansion of the downtown bus terminal at its existing location. Justin Tracy expressed his concern with the process RTA followed and the lack of attention to security at the downtown bus terminal.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that he would be abstaining from voting but he encouraged the Board not to make a decision until a representative from RTA could be present to provide more information. Councilman Mike Gardner said that RTA had been asked to provide information on their plans for the downtown bus terminal for over a year and had not done so until after the City had adopted a motion to support a renovation and the use of any leftover funds for further study of the Vine Street multi-modal site. He said that the City had spent over \$5 million on the site and one of the parcels had to be used for transportation purposes only or would be treated as any other redevelopment property and subject to sale with the proceeds going to the State. He said that the issue would need to come back before Council because of the change in what Council supported and what RTA proposed and the use of TUMF funds.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the cost for the Vine Street multi-modal transit center was a minimum of \$12 million and that Council had the opportunity to approve the additional \$5 million of financing to add to RTA's \$7 million but chose not to do so. He said that RCTC opposed the multi-modal transit center due to concerns about loss of parking and access. He said that RTA wanted to upgrade its county-wide transportation system which was why it was looking for funds that weren't being used at the present time.

Chuck Beaty said that he could not support putting any money into the downtown bus terminal due to long standing concerns about security and with a major development such as RCC's Renaissance Block going in across the street. He said that RCC's opposition to the expansion needed to be taken into account. He moved the motion to oppose the expansion.

Charity Schiller asked the board if it wished to modify the motion to include a statement that there was limited information available on the expansion. Janice Penner noted that the information available was provided by RTA and was complete.

Al Zelinka said that the topic needed to be considered in the scope of Riverside's transit future. He said the City needed to connect the points of the 'L' formed by Market from downtown to Tyler and by University from downtown to UCR. He said that many cities were looking at streetcars on tracks for increased and cost-effective connectivity. He said that any discussion of a multi-modal transit center needed to incorporate the use of streetcars as they bridged a demographic gap in usage and provided a greater return on investment, particularly from the private marketplace.

Motion: That the RDP Board oppose RTA's proposed expansion of the downtown bus terminal with a significant increase in the number of bays and the demolition of the building housing the police department and its resultant relocation due to the negative impact on the safety and security of downtown

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** David St. Pierre

Motion carried with Councilman Mike Gardner, Councilman Andy Melendrez and Al Zelinka abstaining

6) Items for Information

Janice Penner referred the Board to the notes in the Board package and said she would provide brief comments on the items in the interest of time.

6a) Downtown Entertainment District

Janice Penner said Riverside was fortunate to have Al Zelinka's expertise with entertainment districts. She said that the Executive had discussed the issue and felt that the guidelines should include not only what was desired but also what wasn't desired. She said that the RDP Land Use Committee and the RDP Security Committee would work together to form a special ad-hoc committee to address the issue and work with the City to develop a strategy.

6b) Marketplace Security

Janice Penner said that RDP was asked to form a separate Marketplace Security Committee and that she was setting up a meeting with the Marketplace businesses.

6c) RDP activities

i) Promotion

Janice Penner mentioned that the planned holiday shopping pass will be replaced with a fall/winter fashion show in partnership with Aurea Vista. She said that it would take place on the Saturday before Small Business Saturday and would also promote that date.

ii) Events

Janice Penner reminded the Board about the second Riverside Zombie Crawl planned for October 20th and encouraged them to take posters and postcards. She mentioned the Riverside Zombie Crawl Facebook page is receiving a lot of hits. Robbie Silver added that he has been engaging the Facebook audience through Zombie buzz questions.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at September 30, 2012

Janice Penner said that the financial report at September 30, 2012 showed a loss of \$3,700 compared to an expected loss of \$2,000 for the month due largely to the unbudgeted sponsorship for the Long Night of Arts and Innovation in the amount of \$5,000.

Janice Penner said that the financial report showed a year to date loss of \$27,000 compared to an expected loss of \$21,000. She said the variance of \$6,571 was due largely to unbudgeted sponsorships plus timing of certain expenses, offset by greater than anticipated BID Levy income and an unbudgeted grant from the County.

Janice Penner noted that fall was normally the time of year when RDP expected losses due to lower BID levy income. She said that RDP was financially solvent with reserves and able to deal with cash flow losses.

Motion: To accept the financial report as at September 30, 2012.

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Cynthia Azari

Motion carried unanimously.

8) Adjournment for Review and Approval of Annual Report for 2013 Renewal.

Motion: To adjourn the Board Meeting and reconvene after approval of the Annual Report for the 2013 Renewal.

Motion to approve: David St. Pierre **Motion seconded by:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried.

Charity Schiller noted that the Board meeting would adjourn so that the Advisory Board for the Riverside Downtown Parking and Business Improvement Area could meet to review and approve the Annual Report for the 2013 renewal. The Advisory Board meeting then followed the separate agenda including approval of the previous year's minutes and review of the Annual Report.

Motion: To approve the Annual Report for the 2013 Renewal

Motion to approve: Justin Tracy **Motion seconded by:** Kirk Lewis

Motion carried with Councilman Mike Gardner, Councilman Andy Melendrez, and Al Zelinka abstaining.

9) Reconvening of Board Meeting

The Board meeting was reconvened.

10) City Council Updates

10a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner reported on the expansion of the Convention Center, noting that the demolition was greater than most had expected. He said that it was on schedule. He noted that the Auditorium was functioning well as the events center in the interim.

Councilman Mike Gardner said construction on the fire station had stopped because the general contractor was overextended and the surety company had to take over until a new general contractor could be put into place. He said that the completion date was now likely summer of 2013. He said that security was on site due to concern over thefts of material and equipment.

10b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez reported that meetings were taking place to deal with the homeless issue in North Park. He said that the City was working on activities to make the park more active and other improvements to make it more secure. He said that he was also working with Alan Mruvka on renovation of a packing house nearby into boutiques and restaurants.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that Solar Max will be renovating a historic building off Howard Street, bringing 300 jobs to the area.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the music school will be opening by the end of November at the Cesar Chavez center.

Councilman Andy Melendrez gave details of possible businesses along University Avenue. He added that UEI would be expanding adding more automotive type classes.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that Sycamore Canyon would be hosting nature walks for students, and that a 1,200 square foot educational facility would be added to Sycamore Park.

Councilman Andy Melendrez thanked the board for supporting the UCR School of Medicine. Charity Schiller noted that it was a great benefit for the City.

11) Security Update

Vance Hardin said that the police were taking action against the fights that were taking place downtown on Thursday evenings. He said that he had deployed a number of police officers on October 4th due to concern with the Long Night of Arts and Innovation. He commented on the knife fight that took place on Friday, October 5th, noting that it was not related to a specific bar but an altercation between two different groups on the street. He said that he was working closely with the field operations command for more man power from Thursday through Saturday nights in the downtown area.

Vance Hardin said that he had requested more security cameras for the downtown area preferably near the bars but noted that they were expensive. He said that robberies were up 41% but that the police had identified five individuals due to cameras and had now apprehended them. He said that the five individuals were responsible for fights as well as thefts.

Janice Penner said RDP would be prepared to purchase another camera and requested Vance Hardin to bring the request for a security camera to the November 6th security meeting. She said the cost would be funded through RDP reserves.

Chuck Beaty commented on the panhandlers on 14th Street. Lyn Cloninger commented on the security issues impacting Phood on Main on Thursday nights due to people from the bars.

12) Redevelopment Update

Al Zelinka said the first Downtown Specific Plan workshop was held on September 25th with about 40 in attendance. He said that the information from the workshop was being compiled and that an evening version of the workshop was also being planned. He said that they had confirmation from Fullerton to do a night time tour in early November that would be limited to 10-15 people to report back on their findings. He said that a night time tour would also take place happen in downtown Riverside. He said that it was very important to know what wasn't wanted in a downtown entertainment district. Jeff Krauss commented that the facilitator didn't seem familiar with Riverside. Al Zelinka said that City staff would facilitate the evening workshop.

Al Zelinka said that the City was planning to hold a series of clean and safe workshops in early December to develop an appropriate strategy. Janice Penner said that RDP could play a role in that strategy, particularly with the City matching monies that were provided annually. She said that a portion of the RDP reserves should be used for the benefit of the downtown.

Al Zelinka said that the City was seeing an increase in quality developers being interested in residential and commercial properties.

Al Zelinka commented on the workshop that was held about University Street and making it more active. He said that the workshop was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and that it provided a number of good ideas. Jeff Krauss agreed that it was a very informative workshop.

13) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Teresa Rosales was not in attendance. Janice Penner advised that the Arlington Business Partnership had their public hearing yesterday and that the renewal of their BID levy for the next year was approved. Janice Penner added that RDP's public hearing for renewal of the BID levy will take place next month.

14) New Business

Chuck Beaty suggested that the RDP Board send an acknowledgement of Tim White's contribution to Riverside as UCR's Chancellor. Jeff Kraus in his role as a RDP Board member encouraged the Board to voice their opinions regarding their expectations for the next Chancellor of UCR.

Lyn Cloninger asked about the return of Occupy Riverside. Councilman Mike Gardner said the police department was aware of the situation. He also advised that there were regulations that prohibited sleeping bags on the mall.

15) Adjournment and next meeting date

Charity Schiller adjourned the meeting until the next one scheduled for November 14, 2012