



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Ian Davidson, Gerald Douglas, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Rafael Guzman, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Katie Leal, Shalini Lockard, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Cara Swearingen Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington,

Excused: Cherie Crutcher, Brian Percy, Charity Schiller,

Absent: John Field, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Marco McGuire, Amir Mertaban, Bob Nagle, Geoff Neely, David St. Pierre, Sergio San Martin

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Henry Ayala / 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 March 8, 2017

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

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

There was no report.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Appointment of Finance Committee

Janice Penner said that every year the RDP Board appointed a Finance Committee to review the annual budget prior to approval by the Board. She said the Finance Committee would consist of Katie Leal as Chair and the Treasurer, and Shelby Worthington as Board Chair and Shalini Lockard as Vice-Chair as Ex-officio members. She said that Michelle Freeman, Lou Monville, and Cara Swearingen had agreed to serve as Board members on the Finance Committee and invited any Board members interested in serving to put forward their names.

Motion: To appoint the 2017 Finance Committee consisting of Katie Leal, Shelby Worthington and Shalini Lockard as Ex-Officio members, and Michelle Freeman, Lou Monville, and Cara Swearingen as Board members.

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Patrick Brien

Motion carried

6) Items for Information

6a) Support for Extension of Pedestrian Mall

Janice Penner said that RDP was asked to provide support for the extension of the Pedestrian Mall. She said that she provided the Staff Report to the Executive Committee and to the Chair of Land Use, Brian Percy. She said that an ecomment was provided to the City on March 28th as follows:

The Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) supports the extension of the Pedestrian Mall otherwise known as Main Street Riverside from 10th Street to 11th Street in concept. It is recognized that extension of the Pedestrian Mall will provide more pedestrian mobility within the downtown core and allow for the potential expansion of events and amenities beyond 10th Street.

However RDP is concerned about the loss of street parking on Main between 10th and 11th that is easily accessible for the general public with business in the Justice Center and the immediate area. The demand for such parking is significant and while the Mitigated Negative Declaration does address the loss of parking, it does not indicate when or where it would be replaced.

In conclusion, RDP supports the extension in concept but has concerns about the loss of accessible parking in the area. We would ask that replacement of that parking be addressed as soon as possible.

6b) Hospitality Security Meeting held March 21, 2017

Janice Penner said that RDP held 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 well attended with over 40 people in attendance in total. She said that the consensus of the group was to have meetings every six months to share information and concerns, and that RDP with the assistance of Lynn Anderson had booked the Mayor's Ceremonial Room for Thursday, October 19th at 3 pm. She noted that although six months would be September, RDP board and staff had conflicts for that month.

Shelby Worthington stated that the Hospitality Security Meeting was well attended and went well, but that there needed to be a firm agenda for the next meeting. She said that RDP appreciated all of the various agencies that attended; the Police Department, ABC, and the City, but the meeting discussion became focused on homeless rather than items such as Conditional Use Permits. She said that she hoped the hospitality groups could meet every three months to voice their concerns more informally and then meet with the government agencies every six months.

Janice Penner said that there would need to be a meeting with the hospitality establishments prior to the Safety Ambassador Program with StreetPlus starting. She said RDP would work with Nathan Freeman to arrange the meeting with StreetPlus and the hospitality establishments.

6c) Membership Drive

Janice Penner said that RDP would be scheduling an after-work mixer in May. She said there would be an invitation in the BID Bulletin and each Board person would be asked to invite one or more potential members to attend. She said that the mixer would be held at Loft.84 with Shelby Worthington kindly making the space available and RDP providing refreshments. She said that

the date would be confirmed with Shelby Worthington shortly so that it could be included in the upcoming May BID Bulletin

6d) Other RDP activities

Janice Penner said that the next RDP luncheon would be April 25th at Loft.84 and feature Jerry Tessier and Tim Milhouse of Arteco Partners / Food Hall to discuss the new dining concept, Food Lab planned for the Fox Entertainment Plaza.

Janice Penner said that the second annual Doors Open Riverside would be held on May 11th. She said that the Fox PAC and RMA would not participate as they both had events that night but the rest of last year's participants were returning and several new participants including Eden Lutheran Church and Camp Anza Officers Club were participating. She said the event was a partnership with the City, the Mission Inn Foundation, Old Riverside, the Riverside Arts Council, and RDP.

Janice Penner said that RDP sponsored several Easter events including the Spring Eggstravaganza at Ryan Bonaminio Park and the Easter Peep Show at the Main Library on April 8th.

Janice Penner said that RDP and the Riverside Arts Council were working with the City on the logistics for the second annual Riverside Art and Music Festival scheduled for Saturday, September 9th. She said that due to the new bus grid system and the bus stops on University, closing University was an issue.

Janice Penner noted that RDP would start planning in early summer for the fall show in partnership with Riverside Community Health Foundation and Pink Ribbon Place in support of breast cancer awareness. She said that the show was scheduled for October 5th in the breezeway of City Hall as it was last year.

Janice Penner said that due to the International Downtown Association conference being held in September from the 13th to the 15th, RDP would hold Board and Committee meetings in August and instead go dark in September with the exception of the monthly luncheon. She said that more details would follow.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial report at March 31, 2017

Katie Leal asked Janice Penner to provide the report. Janice Penner said that the financial report for the month showed a surplus of \$4,383 compared to an expected surplus of \$10,148. She said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$68,498 compared to an expected surplus of \$12,790 due largely to BID levy income being higher than expected by \$67,012.

Janice Penner reported that RDP had \$181,483 in Checking and Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank, and that RDP reserves included three CDs with Pacific Premier Bank totaling \$233,732 and one with Provident Bank of \$84,016 for total reserves of \$317,748.

Motion: To approve the financial report as of March 31, 2017

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

Motion carried

7) City Council Updates

7a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner said that extending the Main Street Mall to include the block between 10th and 11th was dependent on the Chow Alley proposal. He said that the closure would use bollards so that the space could be opened for events such as Show and Go.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that Council was debating where to put the Festival of Lights ice rink. He said that putting it on Main between 10th and 11th would not work because of the impact on the annual Chanukah Festival. He said it would likely go back to Council in 30 days. He noted that putting it in the old location wasn't feasible due to chiller equipment placement and congestion in the area.

Shelby Worthington asked if the splash pad on Main Street was still operating to which Councilman Mike Gardner stated that it was not. Bill Gardner inquired if the parking lot behind Simple Simon's would be closing on the originally planned date of May 1. Rafael Guzman stated that he would look into it and get back to him.

7b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that one of the pergolas at North Park fell and would need to be rebuilt. He said that he had spoken to El Patron about hosting events at North Park to utilize the space. He added that while the Park was pleasant and well maintained, there were homeless that frequented the area. It was noted that there were at least 40 spaces in the Park parking lot and another 12 spaces on Mission Inn Ave.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that a few lots on University had been purchased but he had not seen any plans for them. He added that there was a partnership between the Riverside Art Museum and the Riverside Housing Development Corporations for affordable housing units including an artist in residence.

Justin Tracy inquired if dumpsters with locks on them must be provided by the waste companies. Shelby Worthington stated that dumpsters with locks on them had to be requested but that locking dumpsters were no additional cost and both waste companies provide them. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he would connect Justin Tracy to someone that would remedy the problem punctually. Justin Tracy commented that there was a \$35 fee initially for removing the old dumpster.

Shelby Worthington noted that if dumpsters are not locked, the homeless pull food and other items out of them and strew trash about. She stated that it was in everyone's best interest to mandate that all dumpsters in downtown were locked. She inquired about how many parking spaces are available at or adjacent to North Park.

8) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl stated that he was disturbed by the condition of White Park and that the Police Department would put some effort into that location. He said the adjacent Dales Center, Maxi Foods and strip mall were also causing problems. He said that he spoke with Mr. Ramani who owns the strip mall and had ideas on what to change and improved but nothing had happened as yet. He said that maintenance had slipped and he would be looking into how the City could abate the property. Janice Penner stated that Mr. Ramani had been working on new tenants but the

property was under-parked. Bruce Blomdahl said there needed to be a collaborative effort to decrease negative activity in the area, noting that Maxi Foods had been extremely helpful in attempting to find a solution. He stated that while the dumpsters were locked, the homeless knew how to break the locks and which dumpsters hold food.

Bruce Blomdahl stated that he occasionally has officers drive to Beverly Hills or Pasadena to return out-of-towners back to their home cities. He said that the next four Saturdays would have protests or marches. He stated that he allowed the Women's March to use the street because of the number of marchers but that created the expectation that other marches could do the same.

Bruce Blomdahl stated that 'Clifford' was arrested on April 11 due to exposing himself.

Ian Davidson voiced his concern regarding the vomit on the sidewalks and streets on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He inquired if there was some way that the hospitality establishments could make sure that their patrons were not intoxicated. Bruce Blomdahl stated that the bars did a good job while the patrons were in the establishment but they along with the police couldn't control what they did once they leave. He said the police wanted to have more officers in the downtown to deal with these issues. He added that the parking changes could alleviate some of the problems with drinking in the garages and the Safety Ambassadors could alert the police to any problems that arose.

Justin Tracy voiced his concerns about transients carrying sticks that are progressively getting larger. He said he noticed pedestrians crossing the street to avoid potential contact or confrontation. Bruce Blomdahl stated that individuals seeing people carrying potential weapons should call the police and/or email him.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Parks and Recreation hired two security guards. Bruce Blomdahl noted that they were essentially security monitors and the homeless/vagrants/loiterers knew what they can and cannot do legally.

9) City Community Development Department Update

Rafael Guzman stated that he attended the hospitality meeting and agreed 95% of the discussion was on the homeless issues. He said that Bruce Blomdahl did a superb job explaining what the police could do. He added that the issue was growing and may need to be a separate topic at a meeting.

Rafael Guzman stated that the Stalder Plaza project was moving along as planned and he would keep everyone updated as it progressed. He stated that Imperial Hardware Lofts was catching up on rain delays that occurred. He added that the Hampton Inn on Market and 5th Street was in its second plan check. He stated that Planning Commission did approve the Culver Lofts project but it was appealed by an adjacent property owner. He said the appeal was withdrawn and the parking lot would be closed to the public as of May 15th.

Rafael Guzman added that the old homes adjacent to the old Sav a Minit site had been relocated and were waiting for approval to be placed onto foundations. He said that the Olivewood Medical Center project had a groundbreaking the previous week, and that they were fully entitled and hoped to begin construction shortly.

Rafael Guzman commented that there was a Walk to End Homelessness at Fairmont Park that had about 450 attendees who raised about \$40,000. He added that Encore School for the Arts had been in the Press Enterprise and was trying to get multiple sites compliant with school building codes.

10) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Henry Ayala reported that Arlington Business Partnership was planning out the 15th Annual Chili Cook-off. He said that they welcome everyone and that anyone interested in becoming a sponsor or a vendor should contact ABP to arrange.

Henry Ayala stated that on April 27, ABP would host a complimentary workshop on basic sales, use tax and tax return preparation and invited people to attend if interested.

Henry Ayala stated that ABP was in the final stages of designing entry monuments and hoped to have them finalized by the end of May. He added that ABP was sponsoring the Spring Eggstravaganza, Grow Riverside and the Walk to End Homelessness. He stated that ABP was excited to work with RDP on Restaurant Week in June to gain more exposure for their restaurants.

Janice Penner added that RDP and ABP would be making arrangements to have the two executives meet to discuss the renewal of the match grant agreement with the City for the \$100,000.

Henry Ayala stated that ABP was experiencing the same complaints and issues regarding homeless and transients.

11) New Business

Justin Tracy suggested that the underpasses in the downtown area be repainted, possibly with UCR's school colors. Shelby Worthington added that she met with Rob Field and the UCR athletics director to discuss how to get UCR and UCR athletics more visible downtown and said that Justin Tracy's idea would be a terrific way to do so.

Nanci Larsen thanked the City for donating a tree for the planter on the walking Mall.

Shelby Worthington stated that the sidewalk on University needed to be repaired as they were now trip hazards and cleaning only did so much.

12) Adjournment and next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, May 10, 2017