



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Gerald Douglass, Bill Gardner, Lynn Anderson for Mike Gardner, Debbi Guthrie, Rafael Guzman, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Andy Melendrez, Stan Morrison, David St. Pierre, Justin Tracy, Steve Wollman

Excused: Ian Davidson, Brian Percy, Charity Schiller, Cara Swearingen, Kris Whitehead, Shelby Worthington

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, John Field, Michelle Freeman, Laurie Hitt, Marco McGuire, Bob Nagle, RJ Rodriguez

Arlington Business Partnership: Lea Hernandez

Staff: Janice Penner, Emily Minnick

1) Call to Order

David St. Pierre called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

3) Minutes of February 10, 2016

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 2016

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

David St. Pierre thanked the board members for attending the first meeting of the term.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Debrief of meeting on Community Benefits District (CBD) and follow up on survey

Janice Penner said the first meeting was held on February 16th at City Hall in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room and a number of RDP and Chamber members attended. She said that the consultant gave a presentation on how a Community Benefit District (CBD) could work and how one transformed Little Italy in San Diego. She said that the consultant distributed a draft survey that the City proposed to send out to downtown property owners to gauge their reaction to establishing a CBD for downtown.

Janice Penner said that reaction to the presentation was mixed but there was real concern about the draft survey being sent in its existing form. She said that the draft survey was discussed at the RDP Land Use Committee meeting and it was agreed that RDP should make a strong recommendation to Emilio Ramirez of the City that the draft survey not be sent out until it was revised. She said that a joint meeting was scheduled at the Chamber of Commerce on March 2nd to review the draft survey and suggest revisions. She said the consensus at the meeting was that the survey needed to provide more information on existing programs and services provided by the City, the Convention and Visitors Center, the Chamber and RDP. She said that Emilio Ramirez requested that representatives of those organizations send him the information on those programs and services for inclusion in the survey.

Janice Penner said that she had checked with Emilio Ramirez and had been advised that he had not received information on the Chamber's or the Convention and Visitors Bureau's programs or services and that she had not received a revised survey to review as a result. She said that Emilio Ramirez said that he hoped to have the revised survey out by the end of the week. She said that she would forward the revised survey to the Board and Land Use committee once she received it.

Justin Tracy stated that there were still many outstanding questions such as what the boundaries would be, what the assessments might be, and who would manage the CBD. He said that it appeared the boundaries would be based on the response to the survey and not on the need for services. He said that he felt the assessment could be estimated based on the cost of proposed services and on the size of the properties to be assessed. He said that he had several people suggest that RDP receive more funds to provide the services discussed rather than set up a new organization. He added that he would like to hear Councilman Mike Gardner's opinion on the issue.

Janice Penner said that Councilman Mike Gardner was receiving all of the information on CBD's that she was sending out. Lynn Anderson said that Councilman Mike Gardner was very closely monitoring the issue and that she was attending any meetings on CBDs that he was unable to attend. She said that he would be assessing the situation and speaking with City senior staff as appropriate.

Janice Penner said that the issue of a CBD arose from the discussion of funding the proposed safety ambassador program for the downtown entertainment district. She said that the City had estimated the annual cost of the program to be \$300,000 and had identified \$100,000 of potential funding. She said that she did not know why a new funding structure would be proposed for the remainder of the funding or what the additional money generated would be used for.

Stan Morrison said that he had attended the meetings and agreed with Justin Tracy that there were many questions remaining to be answered. He commented that while he liked the PowerPoint presentation on how Little Italy in San Diego developed, he didn't feel that the situations were comparable. He added that he felt the consultant hadn't researched Riverside at all based on how surprised he was at what Riverside and downtown had to offer.

5b) Request for input on proposed Restroom Facility on Main Street

Janice Penner said she had included the item from the Agenda for the City Development Committee meeting on March 17th. She said that the City would be requesting input from downtown business owners on the proposed restroom facility on Main Street. She noted that RDP had maintained the public restroom on Ninth Street prior to the renovation of the Main Street pedestrian Mall and it was not used by the public but by homeless and transients. She said that public restrooms needed to be staffed to avoid issues with homeless and illegal activity.

Janice Penner said that a public restroom facility was being explored due to need for additional restrooms during events. She said that she believed the most effective answer to the problem would be to require event organizers to provide additional portable restrooms. The Board concurred. Janice Penner said that she would attend the Development Committee meeting.

6) Items for Information

6b) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Janice Penner said that the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony was the largest and most financially successful to date. She said that actual attendance was about 200 but RSVPs were almost a sell-out of 232. She said that cash sponsorships of \$6,000 were the most received to date with additional in kind sponsorships of \$1,500 (meal price, flowers, and printing). She said that there were thirty-nine donations for the opportunity drawing which raised \$650. She said the event produced a surplus of about \$1,500 which was below the aggressive budget of \$2,500. (Note – with all receipts and expenses in, actual surplus was about \$2,600) She concluded by advising that the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa had been booked for Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

6c) Red Dress Fashion Show

Janice Penner said that RDP coordinated the fashion show component of the Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo held on Saturday, February 20th at the Riverside Convention Center. She said that of the 34 models, 26 wore outfits from downtown retailers. She referred to the program for the event which showed RDP recognition as well as downtown retailer recognition. She said that Cherie Crutcher of RCH was very pleased with the coordination of the show and RDP sponsorship/participation. She said that RDP would partner with RCH on next year's show.

Janice Penner said that the fall fashion show would be held 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 Thursday, October 6th. She said that plans were to hold the event in the breezeway of City Hall and to use pink LED lights during the event.

6d) Other RDP activities

Janice Penner noted that Interviews were underway to place interns with downtown businesses in the third session of the Downtown Intern Program. She said that Emily Minnick was sitting in as available.

Janice Penner referred to the schedule of RDP monthly luncheons for the remainder of the fiscal year noting that the March luncheon would feature City Manager John Russo at Mezcal Cantina y Cocina.

Janice Penner stated that the security meeting for hospitality establishments had been rescheduled to March 24th due to a number of people planning to attend the Bar Convention in Las Vegas. She said that the meeting was to discuss security and other concerns of hospitality establishments, and would include representatives of the Vice and Undercover units, Code Enforcement, and potentially ABC and Employee Development Department.

Janice Penner said that planning was underway for the new event, Doors Open, planned for May 12, 2016 from 6 pm to 9 pm that would feature free tours of historic buildings downtown. She noted that several restaurants had agreed to offer specials during the tour. She added that County District 2 Youth Council and CBU School of Architecture students had agreed to assist with the tours.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at February 29, 2016

Steve Wollman said that the financial report for the month of February showed a surplus of \$9,146 compared to an expected surplus of \$15,802. He noted that the variance was due in part to BID levy income for the month being \$3,405 less than budgeted.

Steve Wollman reported that for the year to date there was a deficit of \$16,062 compared to an expected deficit of \$8,488. He noted that BID levy income for the year to date was lower than budget by about \$7,483. He said that other variances were mostly due to timing and that it was expected that the fiscal year end financial results would be close to budget.

Steve Wollman stated that RDP memberships were down significantly and recommended that the Board look at ways to increase them. Janice Penner agreed to put doing so on the next Agenda.

Motion: To accept the financial report at February 29, 2016

Motion made by: Debbi Guthrie **Motion Seconded by:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Lynn Anderson, Legislative Field Representative for Councilman Mike Gardner reported on his behalf. She said that the Council agreed to put the matter of a raise in pay for Council members on the June 7th ballot. She said that the Council also decided to create an Ethics Board to review and recommend on the City's Code of Ethics and Conduct.

Lynn Anderson also reported that the City Attorney advised that no progress had been made with the County DA's office on the issue of prosecuting livability crimes. She said that Measure A to create an Office of City Prosecutor to address those crimes would likely go on the June 7th ballot as well.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the budget process and discussions had been very interesting. He said that the process was to create a two year budget with a five year outlook overall. He said that the initial estimates show a deficit of between \$7 to \$ million but noted that those were based only on first quarter numbers. He said that senior City management felt that the gap would be narrowed closer to the end of the fiscal year. He noted that the new City management team was scrutinizing the budget process and numbers.

Councilman Andy Melendrez commented on the items going on the June 7th ballot. He said that he was concerned about the \$2.5 million cost estimate for the Office of City Prosecutor. He said that the vote on the increase in the salary for Council members from 50% to 80% of the Mayor's salary had a split vote of four in favor and two against.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl reported on the shooting at White Park and advised that the investigation was wrapped in a day. He said that the altercation started at the bus depot and migrated over to White Park. He said that the shooting victim was in critical condition but was able to provide

information to the police. He commented on the social media firestorm and on the reaction by some businesses. He said that there was interest in creating a city-wide alert system that could relay accurate information on similar situations.

Bruce Blomdahl said there was an increase in residential burglaries. He said they had made some arrests of San Bernardino gang members that were responsible for a number of them. He said that the method was to go to a home during the day or early evening, then kick in the door and grab whatever was easily accessible.

Bruce Blomdahl said that vehicle thefts in the parking garages were down but noted that there were not as many events in February. He said that even parking structures with gates could be accessed and cars broken into, noting that the Citrus Tower underground parking garage had an unlocked car burglarized. He reiterated the need to report any type of vehicle break-in or theft for statistical purposes.

Bruce Blomdahl advised that RPD had purchased two ATVs to allow them to better patrol both the Santa Ana river bottom and the Mt. Rubidoux area. He said that they could also be used during special events.

Bruce Blomdahl advised that his office number would be changed to disconnect it from a 411 system. He said that his email would remain the same.

Bruce Blomdahl related an incident at the Fox Performing Arts Center. He said that the production company was setting up for a performance and had a security guard in the back where the trucks were parked for unloading. He said that the security guard tried to stop two individuals who grabbed production equipment from a truck and put it in their car and was then threatened. He said that as it turned out, the guard wrote down the license number of the car and they were arrested but that the point was the crooks are more brazen as they know there are no repercussions to their crimes. He said that the general public needs to be constantly vigilant and to be aware of their environment.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Rafael Guzman reported that the two phase hotel development at 5th and Market would be going to the City Development Committee on March 17th. He said that Phase One was the five story 112 room hotel and parking lot, while Phase Two was the six story 14 room hotel and five level parking structure.

Rafael Guzman said that there were several mixed use projects in downtown including Imperial Hardware Lofts consisting of 91 residential units and 8,000 square feet of commercial space, and Mission Lofts with 212 residential units and 1,200 feet of commercial space. He said that the Stalder Plaza project should be submitted to City Planning shortly.

Rafael Guzman advised that Brew Crew was a beer tasting room that would go into the building next to Magnolia's. He said that Back to the Grind had requested a beer and wine license. He added that the medical office building planned for Olivewood and 14th had been approved and would be submitting plans. He noted that the City had received complaints about the Hideaway Bar and was working with police and Code Enforcement to review entitlements and conditions. He said that they had requested a full bar license but the City would not be supporting that

request due to the number of complaints and calls for service.

Rafael Guzman advised that Monica Sapien had led a coalition with Veterans Affairs, US Vets, the Homeless Outreach Team, the Department of Mental Health and others and successfully housed 24 individuals who were downtown homeless. He said that they were slowly chipping away at the number of homeless needing permanent home facilities. Janice Penner noted that Monica Sapien and members of the Homeless Outreach Team attended the RDP Security Committee meetings and that their work was impressive. It was noted that there was a Walk to End Homelessness scheduled for April 2nd at Fairmount Park.

Rafael Guzman commented on Grow Riverside taking place March 21 and 22. Janice Penner noted that RDP was a sponsor of the homeless walk, Grow Riverside, and of the Cesar Chavez Film Festival and performances on Main.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Lea Hernandez said they were working on the Annual Chili Festival and that they were accepting vendor applications and sponsorships.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

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