



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Bruce Blomdahl, Patrick Brien, Ian Davidson, Gerald Douglass, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Lynn Anderson for Mike Gardner, Debbi Guthrie, Rafael Guzman, Laurie Hitt, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Kirk Lewis, Shalini Lockard, Andy Melendrez, Stan Morrison, RJ Rodriguez, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Cara Swearingen, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Shelby Worthington

Excused: John Field, Brian Percy, Steve Wollman

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Marco McGuire, Bob Nagle

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

Chuck Beaty commented on the signage that he observed while on the East Coast.

3) Minutes of April 13, 2016

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of April 13, 2016 with the amendment to Councilman Mike Gardner's update that Bill Gardner had recommended the installation of pigeon 'guards' in the overpasses to prevent roosting.

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

David St. Pierre thanked Kirk Lewis for his service and presented him with a RDP mug, Raincross keychain, and a signed card.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Partnership with Riverside Arts Council on Riverside Art and Music Festival

Janice Penner said that Summer Street jam usually happens in August but it still tends to be hot out so the idea of changing it came up. There was a meeting to talk about partnering and combining with the Riverside Arts Council, and it was agreed to move it to September. Janice Penner said they are proposing that we do the Riverside Art and Music Festival on September, 17. The Riverside Arts Council board is on board. There is a fundraising component which we hope to make with table and food sales. Patrick Brien said that this event has evolved over the past several years. He said they wanted to take this event to the next level. David St. Pierre said that both organizations spend a good amount of money for staging, facilities and resources so it makes sense to combine. He said this is the proposal that is coming to the board to start planning for September 17.

Motion: To partner with the Riverside Arts Council on a new event, the Riverside Art and Music Festival, as a replacement for the Summer Street Jam and the Festival for the Arts.

Motion made by: Justin Tracy **Motion Seconded by:** Stan Morrison

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) Doors Open Riverside

Janice Penner said that this is a new event. It was May 12, 2016 and she gives thanks to the Mission Inn Museum for providing the docents, because the event wouldn't have happened without them. It was a relatively inexpensive event to put on and it does provide a showcase of the downtown buildings. She said that everything is being template to prepare for next year. There were 15 buildings that were open for interior tours. Because it is a city sponsored event one of the challenges that we had was that the buildings had to be ADA accessible. She said she would have liked to have Tilden Coil, the old city hall but it didn't meet ADA approval. In some cases we had to direct people to certain entrances for ADA accessibility. David St. Pierre had the idea to do exterior tours and we created three spots to stop. One spot was at Main and Mission Inn, one at Market Place and the last one was at University and Orange. The city did quite a bit of the marketing and collateral but we have cross shared on some items. RDP did the volunteer tags; we shared in the cost of the volunteer t-shirts. We are hoping for one thousand people being a first time event. The Old Riverside Foundation will be doing the information booth; the Chinese Pavilion will be represented by the Chinese community. There are three restaurants participating and offering specials. We hope to make this an annual event and to expand into other areas of Riverside.

6b) Workshop series

Janice Penner said that RDP would be offering a series of free seminars for downtown businesses at The Center for Arts and Philanthropy. She said that the first would be a seminar on Cyber Security on Thursday, July 14th at 8:30 am, and then the next a workshop on Succeeding Online scheduled for Wednesday, August 24th at 9 am through the Small Business Development Corporation. She said RDP was working with the City's Office on Economic Development on scheduling a seminar on using available tools such as Size Up on their website.

6c) Other RDP activities

Janice Penner said that Sarah Mundy would be the featured speaker at the May luncheon at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa which was sponsoring by offering a reduced rate for the lunch. She said that Supervisor John Tavaglione will be the speaker at the June luncheon at the Chabad Jewish Community Center. She said that the July luncheon would be at the Courtyard by Marriott with the hotel sponsoring and said she would be asking Jeff Kraus to suggest a speaker from UCR.

Janice Penner said that she and Justin Tracy met with Mike Bacich of Riverside Public Utilities on April 14th regarding the downtown security lighting pilot project, and that Mike Bacich was very receptive to the idea. He is looking into sponsorships of the LED lights. Ian Davison said that there should be some consideration on the type of lighting that goes into downtown to make sure it's appropriate. Janice Penner said that the alley ways are going to be the first priority. Justin Tracy said there needs to be light provided, that there aren't any lights. Once the lights are put in then we can focus on the décor.

Janice Penner said that the 2016 series of Concerts at City Hall would kick off with Chase Walker, the Riverside native who was a contestant on The Voice, performing.

Janice Penner said that Riverside Restaurant Week 2016 was scheduled to run from June 17th to June 26th and would be a joint promotion between the City, RDP, and the Arlington Business Partnership.

6d) Membership Drive

Janice Penner said that they were asking the Board to help increase RDP membership. She said that if they were a member of the BID, to please consider also becoming a member of RDP. She asked that they review the list of current RDP members and identify potential RDP members such as businesses outside of the BID who were interested in a strong downtown and non-profits who benefit from a strong downtown.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at April 30, 2016

Janice Penner reported that the financial report for the month of April showed a surplus of \$4,625 compared to an expected deficit of \$1,384. She said that the variance was due in part to BID levy income for the month being \$3,530 higher than budgeted.

Janice Penner said that for the year to date the report showed a deficit of \$2,378 compared to an expected deficit of \$12,695. She said that BID levy income for the year to date was higher than budget by about \$14,048. She noted that the primary reason for variances was the difference between actual to budget BID levy income, and the timing of receipt of such income. She said that there would be adjustments in May and June for allocation of certain expenses.

Janice Penner reported that RDP currently had liquid assets of \$325,817 in Citizens Business Bank (CBB) checking and \$83,017 in CBB Money Market. She said that RDP reserves were held in four CDs and currently totaled \$315,998.

Motion: To accept the financial report at March 31, 2016

Motion made by: Charity Schiller **Motion Seconded by:** Patrick Brien

Motion carried.

6e) Update on Finance Committee

Janice Penner said that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, May 10th and thanked them, and in particular, Cara Swearingen, for serving. David St. Pierre said that the Finance Committee recommended that the budget move forward to the Executive and then to the Board.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Lynn Anderson is in for Mike Gardner.

8b) Ward Two

Councilmen Andy Melendrez said that there were items brought to the council for improvement under the bridge but we have a budget reduction. He said they have a few things going on in Ward 2; there was a security meeting since it's an ongoing problem around John North Park. Homeless outreach has been going out as well as the police in addressing these problems. Part of the problem is that this area seems to be more isolated.

Mission Loft, which is on the corner of Commerce and Mission Inn Ave. This will be going to council the first week of June but it's a 212 unit apartment complex that will house a lot of people. He said the problem is across the street where the scrap iron used to be is full of contamination. Unfortunately, we have been unable to go onto the property to move into phase 2. The owner has been resistant and we have been going back and forth with this for 12 years now. He said he thinks the owner is open to this idea but no one knows the amount of contamination.

Another thing we have talked about is the HEAL zone (Healthy Eating, Active Living) which has been in the works for three years. It is sponsored by Kaiser and was just awarded one million dollars for the next three years. He said the Heal zone is for improving the health in a low income area.

The music school has about 350 children participating on a monthly bases. Over the past two months we have created a partnership with the Harmony Project based out of L.A. This is a great affiliation in which we are able to buy musical instruments at a discounted rate and they help us with curriculum. We also believe that in the next year or two the school will be based off a non-profit. We are excited about this opportunity. We are still struggling through the budget with a seven million dollar deficit.

9) Security Update

Bruce Blomdahl talked about the robbery that took place a few months ago at the Tyler Mall in which some thought was an active shooter following the Paris attacks. There was an arrest made a couple weeks ago but to not quote him saying it was because of DNA found on a sledgehammer that was left behind. Long story short, these L.A. based black gang members are working together on these jobs all over southern California. There have been a few arrest made and items were recovered.

Bruce said that conversation at the PD has started with Alex Winn. They are looking into homeless outreach efforts and they plan to look at what is working and what isn't. There is a smaller meeting at the end of the month and then will probably grow as other departments get involved. Bruce wanted to comment on Chuck's pan handling sign question. We always have to be careful about targeting the homeless population because that is what gets the city sued. Month to month there are different lawsuits coming out all over southern California that are reporting more rights and leaves us less ability to deal with some of these issues on a consistent bases. He said they saw a guy at one of the off ramps the other day and he had a sign asking for help and donations. The sign also read eleven tickets and zero convictions. Bruce said part of the process they are dealing with is citing people, without any repercussions. We will work together to come up with processes that will help that.

Lastly, we have talked about the budget reduction. We have had discussions amongst our department. We are already very low in our staffing for radio calls and we talked about UNET which is one of the things that was left for reduction. I hope this doesn't happen since we have made some good headway downtown but my four officers and extra sergeant that came out of the patrol division is also up for reassignment back to patrol. I hope that they understand that we need these guys in downtown. Chuck Beaty said that some pharmacies are getting robbed for new drugs that are coming out. He asked if there was any concern about that. Bruce said that there was some concern. We looked at the patterns and altered the mom and pop pharmacies

as well as the CVS stores. It was more of the Spencer's pharmacy types. They are basically after cough syrup that is mixed with a drink. We have seen a lot of this in the southern region, where they jump the counter and know exactly what to grab. The incident at Spencer's was that they didn't have a good alarm system and the crooks just ended up taking everything. It is a trend that is happening with this type of cough syrup.

Michelle Freeman asked if pan handling was legal. Bruce said no, but in regards to freeway off ramps we have **RMC** sections that prohibit that. There are coordinates of aggressive pan handling that lead to perpetration. She asked if there was any way to cite them. He said part of the process is that the DA or City Attorney will have them sit down with homeless outreach. There has to be some other system but we don't know what that is yet. She stated that we will have to teach it in schools to not support criminal activity. Bruce said that public education is a big piece. There is no mechanism to cite the people that stop and give out money. We are going to really try and educate the public that if they can give to homeless outreach they can provide services.

Shelby Worthington said that on Mother's day, they rented vans and picked up families from the shelters to take them to Citrus Park for a nice Mother's day meal. She said they had to hurry because from 8 to 5 they kick people out of the shelter. She wanted to know why they weren't utilizing the shelters for different things like educational things or helping people find jobs. Our homeless problem is during the day because they are throwing them out of the shelters. Bruce said they have talked about these issues and the staffing concerns but it is part of the discussion. Bruce said that a majority of the homeless he talks to want to be homeless and are service resistant.

Stan Morrison asked if any jewelry stores are armed and are they allowed to be? Bruce said yes. He couldn't remember the name but one of them has an armed guy. He said it's a decision that the businesses have to make.

Charity Schiller said that in regards to Shelby's point when she took a tour of the shelter she asked why they are kicked out during the day. It was explained that they spend a majority of the day actually cleaning the facility because a lot of the homeless have lice, fleas, dirt and they have to clean every bed. She also was told that if the homeless aren't taken out of the shelter they will hide drugs, so they need everyone out to do a daily search. She said this was the explanation that she was given.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Rafael Guzman said he had a few updates. Chow Alley which is 14th street and Main. February 1st we received a proposal from Best Beverage Catering. On April 12th we interviewed and are recommending to the council on the 24th of May, it's moving along at a good pace. Agreeance group hotel which is the southwest corner of 5th and Market is a two phase hotel development with five stories. Hampton Inn and a six story, 147 rooms and five level parking structure were approved by the planning commission in March and council in April. The applicant is working on their construction drawings and trying to address **mitigation**. Imperial Hardware was approved by the planning commission in May of last year and to council in June of last year. They have grading plans approved which is really promising and the architect is submitting final construction plans next week and hope to be ground breaking in June.

Janice Penner asked once they break ground what impact it will have on Main Street because

we have events there. Rafael said he would get back to her and share their containment plan because they usually fence off the area. The parking lot will be impacted but Janice said as long as they aren't on Main Street.

Shelby Worthington asked what kind of company Best Beverage Catering company was. Rafael said they are an operation that has an outdoor venue in San Diego. Their role is to set up a food and entertainment establishment. Shelby said that East Street limited became Best Vendors which keeps changing their name which is the one that snuck all the hot dog carts from Home depot, etc. Rafael said this was a different company.

Rafael said that Mission Loft, councilmen Andy Melendrez covered it but it's a mixed used 212 residential units, 315 parking spaces. The planning commission approved this in April and it will be going to council in June.

The stalder project has submitted a certificate of appropriateness and a conditional use permit to planning on May 10. The Brew Crew which is 3653 Main Street just north of the Tamale Factory has a minor conditional use permit in process, which should be finalized in June of this year. The Hide-Away wants to expand their beer and wine license to a general alcohol license. We have told them that we would not support them. We will keep the board updated on the process. Romano's restaurant which was former DDogs, has their certificate of appropriateness approved by the cultural heritage board and have a minor conditional use permit in for live entertainment and have construction documents into building and safety which is moving along. Streamline Riverside is going to council on May 17 which will greatly and positively change the development review process. Camp Anza which is the World War 2 army base was the officers club and was full restored with 30 new affordable housing units for veterans which are currently occupied. The grand opening is May 21st, at 5797 Picker Street and everyone is invited.

Rafael said that in regards to the pigeon barriers, they did a survey cost for doing this type of work for all the overpasses and its \$150,000 price tag. This is to put up the barriers on both sides throughout the city. The city currently does not have this funding and will need to discuss this with CalTrans; they are looking at doing a price match.

Community livability is the program on how we are dealing with homelessness. This is going to council on May 24th with a status update. All departments with the city are hands on deck trying to figure out ways to creatively address this.

Jeff asked about the community benefits district. Janice Penner said she got an update from J. Ethan at the market place security, apparently they are resurfacing it. J. Ethan said that the safety ambassador RFP is going to go out. In the interim Emilio Ramirez is also working with the survey again. Janice said J. Ethan was going to have Emilio check with her. The survey is going to be worked on and the consultant did not make a good impression.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Lea Hernandez said that the Chili Cook-off and Car show is on May 28 from 9:30 am to 5 pm. ABP has secured close to 100 vendors and are excited about the new vendors that have joined. It is going to have the chili competition, car show, bigger kid zone with a DJ. Something new for Chili is that we have partnered with Uber. Any first time riders, if they use the Uber app and text Chili will get a free ride up to 15 miles, there will be a designated pick up and drop off locations.

ABP is really excited about restaurant week and Lea said she is committed to making a higher participation as last year they had a low participation. Janice Penner suggested that they do a separate Facebook page to help promote, since it has helped RDP a lot.

12) New Business

Chuck Beaty said that on May 19th the Ellis family from CBU will be honored by the Mission Inn Foundation. Anyone who has been in Riverside for the last ten years knows what a tremendous impact they have had. If you could come I know the Mission Inn Foundation will appreciate it.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 7:30 am.