



## **Minutes**

**Present:** Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Ian Davidson, Gerald Douglas, John Field, Michelle Freeman, Bill Gardner, Debbi Guthrie, Rafael Guzman, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Katie Leal, Shalini Lockard, Stan Morrison, Cara Swearingen, Justin Tracy, Kris Whitehead, Sergio San Martin, Shelby Worthington

**Excused:** Bruce Blomdahl, Brian Percy, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Wolde-Ab Isaac, Marco McGuire

**Absent:** Cherie Crutcher, Bob Nagle, RJ Rodriguez

**Ex-Officio City Council:** Mike Gardner, Councilman Andy Melendrez,

**Ex-Officio Arlington Business Partnership:** Written report

**Staff:** Kate Stovicek

### **1) Call to Order**

Acting as Chair, Shelby Worthington called the meeting to order.

### **2) Self Introductions and Public Comments**

Conducted

### **3) Minutes of October 12, 2016**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 2016

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

**Motion carried.**

### **4) Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's Report.

### **5) Items for Discussion**

#### **5a) 2017 BID renewal Public Hearing**

Shelby Worthington reported that the Public Hearing was set for Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and a PowerPoint presentation prepared and submitted to the City as part of the Council package. It was also reported that the Annual Report was posted on the website.

#### **5b) Appointment of Nominating Committee**

Shelby Worthington stated that the RDP By-laws required that a Nominating Committee be appointed to review and recommend the officers and board slate. She referred to the proposed nominating process and committee. She noted that the proposed 2017 Nominating Committee consisted of David St. Pierre as Chair, Shelby Worthington as Vice-Chair, and Shalini Lockard, Ian Davidson, and Cara Swearingen as Board representatives. She advised that Board members who wished to serve were welcome to do so.

### **MOTION FOR APPROVAL**

To approve the 2017 Nominating Committee as proposed.

**Motion made by:** Bill Gardner      **Motion Seconded by:** Debbi Guthrie

**Motion carried.**

## **6) Items for Information**

### **6a) RDP Holiday Reception December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Shelby Worthington advised that the RDP holiday reception would be held on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm. She said that Loft.84 would be hosting and that email invitations would be sent out in mid-November.

### **6b) Update on Survey on Downtown Issues**

Shelby Worthington advised that the survey was still active on SurveyMonkey. She said a final push would be made in early November for discussion at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Land Use Committee. She advised that the Land Use Committee would be asked to help identify key members for a committee to review the identified issues and possible means to generate funds.

### **6c) Update on RDP events**

Shelby Worthington reported that the Downtown Fashion District Fall Show in partnership with the Pink Ribbon Place and Riverside Community Health Foundation took place on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> with approximately 750 people in attendance. She said that 10 retailers with 58 outfits participated in the show. She said the event included a candlelight vigil at the end and that photos and video were posted on the Facebook page.

Shelby Worthington advised that the Riverside Zombie Crawl took place on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> with over 800 people in attendance. She noted that the event got great press both before and after the event, and that photos and the video were posted on the Facebook page.

### **6d) Other activities and items**

Shelby Worthington reported that the November 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon would be held at the Hyatt Place Hotel and catered by Gram's BBQ.

Shelby Worthington said that RDP would be partnering with a number of downtown businesses and health organizations on the Miracle on Main Street toy drive and health fair to be held on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Shelby Worthington noted that RDP would be providing models and outfits for the Riverside Community Hospital Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo on February 18, 2017.

### **6e) RDP Annual Meeting**

Shelby Worthington advised that Riverside Community Hospital would return as the title sponsor, and that sponsorship and opportunity drawing requests would be sent out.

Shelby Worthington said that solicitations for the Roy Hord Award had begun. She noted that recommendations for the Awards of Distinction would to the December Board meeting for approval.

## **7. Financial Reports**

### **7a) Financial report as of October 31, 2016**

Shelby Worthington reported that there was a deficit of \$11,452 compared to an expected deficit of \$23,160 for the month, and that for the year to date there was a surplus of \$34,251 compared

to an expected deficit of \$20,342. She said that the positive variance of \$54,593 was largely due to BID levy income being \$53,155 higher than anticipated.

Shelby Worthington stated that RDP reserves included three CDs with Pacific Premier Bank totaling \$233,533 and one with Provident Bank of \$83,858.

**Motion:** To approve the financial report as of October 31, 2016

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

**Motion carried.**

## **8) City Council Updates**

### **8a) Ward One**

Councilman Mike Gardner said that Measure Z was expected to pass. He said that it would collect an extra one cent in sales tax for the General Fund. He noted that while some tax increases required a 2/3 majority vote, the sales tax increase only required a simple majority. He said that the City Council was pleased that the voters decided to pass the measure. He said that Measure Z would fund additional police officers and fire fighters, as well tree trimming, street repairs and upgrades, and other services. He noted that the revenue would not start until the second quarter of 2017.

Councilman Mike Gardner noted that the City Council was committed to a new Main Library but that had not identified a funding source. He said that the City could sell a bond to finance the project or alternatively use a portion of the Measure Z revenue to do so. He said the City Council would be appointing an Advisory Commission to advise City Council on how best to apportion the \$50 million per year of revenue that will be generated. He said that each Ward would have one business representative and one neighborhood or community representative for the Advisory Commission and invited people to apply using the standard Board and Commission Application.

Councilman Mike Gardner noted that Assembly Member Jose Medina and Senator Richard Roth were both reelected. He said that Assembly Member Cheryl Brown was defeated.

Shelby Wellington expressed concern regarding homeless during the Festival of Lights harassing business owners and visitors. Councilman Mike Gardner said that revenue from Measure Z would be used for additional services and enforcement.

### **8b) Ward Two**

Councilman Andy Melendrez spoke about his experiences with other cities' response such as Coachella and San Francisco to homeless. He noted that both cities emphasized long-term residential housing to help homeless and those that are interested to stabilize, and then receive counseling and training to find work. He said the programs are operated by non-profits so they do not rely on the city or the county exclusively but can raise funds from grants and other sources.

Councilman Andy Melendrez commented on using Measure Z funds for cyber security. He stated that many of the City's computers were 10 to 15 years old and that there was a need to protect sensitive information such as personal records and banking information on those computers. He said that updating and installing security software was critical and Measure Z

funds would enable the City to do so.

Councilman Andy Melendrez mentioned the California Air Resources at UCR, the UCR Medical School graduating class, the Human Resources offices for the UC California system moving to UCR, and the Canyon Springs Healthcare Center and warehouses (as positive developments for Riverside).

Councilman Andy Melendrez mentioned the Riverside Arts Academy would be holding a Gala on December 5, 2016 with students and instructors performing. He said that the Academy had partnered with the Harmony Project. He added that the Academy would be starting a youth orchestra, reaching 325 to 350 children under the age of 13.

Chuck Beaty commented on plans to house homeless individuals, noting that in the past churches had tried and found opposition from neighbors who did not want them 'next door'. Councilman Andy Melendrez replied that churches had expressed interest in helping the City coordinate other services than housing or temporary shelter. He said that it was recognized that some would not accept assistance but the goal was to provide that assistance to those who would accept it. It was agreed that handouts were not a long term solution to improving the homeless situation.

Michelle Freeman mentioned Slab City near Coachella, a community 'off the grid' where individuals who do not want to assimilate into society can be left alone. She suggested that finding a place where individuals who do not want to assimilate can set up might be a solution. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the City was open to suggestions. Shelby Worthington said that churches handing out food were bad for neighboring businesses because afterwards the homeless individuals loitered around the businesses.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the City was looking to amend zoning to allow people to live in non-traditional housing such as shipping containers converted to small houses on residential lots. Justin Tracy cautioned that finding residential lots could be difficult due to neighbors reluctant to have them in their area. Councilman Andy Melendrez said that there were houses with homeless individuals that did not impact their residential area or neighboring businesses.

Justin Tracy expressed his concern with the new increased sales tax stemming from Measure Z and the impact on businesses.

## **9) Security Update**

As Bruce Blomdahl was not in attendance, there was no security update.

## **10) City Community Development Department Update**

Rafael Guzman stated that Imperial Hardware Lofts project was on schedule. He said that the construction fence had encroached onto Main Street but that it was temporary. He said that the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa received approval to enclose their patio area for the comfort of customers and would be repurposing some areas for a wine bar.

Rafael Guzman said that the project dubbed The Mess Hall would be renamed The Food Lab due to copyright and should open by November 2017. He added that The Brickwood formerly

known as Brew Crew should open by late December.

Bill Gardner inquired about the building on Market Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Rafael Guzman said that the architectural group that owned it was doing a facelift to the building.

Rafael Guzman then stated that Chow Alley was proceeding but noted the impact of the Public Defender Probation building taking longer than anticipated.

Shelby Worthington stated that the presentation by the Community and Economic Development Team at the RDP luncheon on October 25<sup>th</sup> was very well done and extremely informative.

Shelby Worthington expressed her concern that businesses that had been in downtown Riverside for 10 to 15 years were experiencing difficulty with CUP applications, noting the negative impact on their plans to expand their business. She said that she would like to discuss the issue with Rafael Guzman offline.

### **11) Arlington Business Partnership Update**

In its written update, ABP advised that they were planning the Winterfest in Arlington event. The first event takes place on Saturday, December 3 from 2 pm to 8 pm at Arlington Park with photos with Santa, Kidszone, Craft, Business, and Food Vendors, performances from Riverside youth, and more. Two additional events take place offering only photos with Santa on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm. The December 10<sup>th</sup> event will be hosted by Nations Rent To Own and the December 17<sup>th</sup> event by McDonald's on Van Buren Blvd.

ABP advised that it partnered with the City and RDP to promote Shop Small Business Saturday on November 26. ABP will be distributing posters and tote bags when visiting BID businesses, and providing information on how businesses can participate.

ABP advised that their Annual Meeting took place on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### **12) New Business**

Debbi Guthrie stated that CIF Southern Section was hosting preliminary trials for cross-country on November 11 and 12, 2016 and then finals on November 19, 2016. She said 10,000 people were expected and that they should provide great business for downtown Riverside. She added that the Sports Commission was hoping to capture wrestling and basketball championships during those seasons.

Sergio San Martin thanked everyone for support of Measure O which passed. He stated that there needed to be a focus on the root cause of homelessness, be it substance abuse, mental illness or poverty, to find a resolution. Rafael Guzman stated that he attended the RUSD luncheon and commented positively on the Keynote speaker.

### **13) Adjournment and next meeting date**

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday December 14, 2016.