



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Erin Edwards, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Irving Hendrick, Daniel Iglesias, Nanci Larsen, Carmen Lainez for Marco McGuire, Shalini Lockard, Philip Makhoul, Brandy Marian, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Geoff Neely, Brian Percy, Bud Sketchley, David St. Pierre, Cara Swearingen, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Patrick Brien, Michelle Freeman, Sergio San Martin, Charity Schiller

Absent: Corinne Awad, Cherie Crutcher, Ian Davidson, Jeff Kraus, Amir Mertaban, Lou Monville

Guest: Serena Allen – Jon Michael Salon, Ian Barraza

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Oz Puerta, Henry Ayala / Mike Gardner, Andy Melendrez

Staff: Janice Penner, Kate Stovicek

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comments

Bill Gardner stated that he noticed that parking was disappearing in the downtown area. Stan Morrison stated that Swish Madness would take place at Romano's Downtown from 9 am to 9 pm on March 15. Bud Sketchley stated that RDP was part of the Provident Bank's partnership program for non-profits and that individuals who bank with Provident can link their personal accounts to RDP for the purpose of increasing an annual donation by Provident Bank to RDP.

2a) Welcome to New Board Members

Philip Makhoul introduced himself as representing Diamond National Realty and the building where the Parlor by Dollhouse was located. Daniel Iglesias introduced himself as representing Maxi Foods. Brandy Marion introduced herself as representing Tranquil Blossom Massage.

3) Minutes of February 14, 2018.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 14, 2018.

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis thanked the board for agreeing to meet at a later time due to the Chief's breakfast. She said she was glad to see so many board members including new members at the board meeting. Janice Penner reiterated that board meetings were open and anyone was welcome to attend.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Recommendation to support hotel project

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the RDP Land Use Committee considered the Staff Report and other material at its meeting prior to the Development committee's meeting on

February 22nd and adopted a motion in support of the selection. She said that RDP staff attended the City Development Committee and conveyed that support. She added that supporting the selection were DANA, the Riverside Art Museum and the Downtown Business Council of the Chambers of Commerce. She said that the City Development Committee approved the selection and was forwarding to the City Council for approval.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the Executive Committee considered the recommendation of support from the RDP Land Use committee and directed that it be taken to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval. She stated that RDP would then advise City Council of RDP support. She added that the package presented by City Staff to the Development Committee was attached to the board package for reference.

Chuck Beaty stated his satisfaction with the proposal especially regarding the parking and compared to the other proposals. Bill Gardner stated that the proposal did take away additional parking within the downtown area. Janice Penner agreed, but stated that the project provided parking for guests and retail clients whereas the other proposals did not. Nathan Freeman added that the proposal would park itself, provide parking for the Fire Department and also 24 public parking spaces.

Motion: To support the hotel project as proposed and the selection of Greens Inv 3, LL as the developer.

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty

Motion Seconded by: David St. Pierre

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that there were 207 RSVPs for the event, 200 meals confirmed and 179 actual attendees. She said that cash sponsorships were \$8,000 with additional in kind sponsorships of about \$2,300 (meal price, flowers, and printing). She added that there were 38 donations for the opportunity drawing which raised \$1005, the most ever. She said that while the event was not a fundraiser, the annual meeting generated a surplus of \$2,815 compared to the budget of \$1,500. She said that the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa had been booked for February 20, 2019.

6b) Red Dress Fashion Show

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP was the title sponsor of RCH Red Dress Fashion Show and Health Expo held on Saturday, February 24th at the Riverside Convention Center and was recognized in the flyer, program, and during the event. She said that the sponsorship provided two luncheon tables, and complimentary vendor booths (value \$250) for participating retailers. She added that RDP also coordinated the fashion show component of the event.

6c) RDP activities

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP and ABP were hosts of the training session on Active Shooter Events held on February 27th at the Riverside Municipal Auditorium. She said that Live Nation provided the venue and RPD provided the training including a session on Crimes and Crime Scenes. She added that there were 116 attendees with just over 100 coming from downtown. She said that there was a representative of Riverside Community Hospital at the training to promote their March 31st event to 'Stop the Bleed' and their monthly training

events. Brian Pearcy recommended that the 'Stop the Bleed' instructors give a presentation as well if there was another Active Shooter Event training session held.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that a 'Meet-and-Greet' was held on February 28th at Romano's for RDP officers, RDP Ambassadors, and StreetPlus Safety Patrol to get to know one another. She stated that it was arranged by Lt. Kevin Townsend and four of RDP's five Ambassadors attended as did Janice Penner.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the March 27th luncheon would feature a presentation on downtown developments by Kaitlyn Nguyen of the City and would be held at Romano's Downtown in the upstairs concert lounge. She said that the April 24th luncheon would feature Chief Sergio Diaz as the speaker at Loft.84, that the May 22nd luncheon had been booked upstairs at Café Sevilla, and June 26th at Heroes Restaurant and Brewery.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP was working with the City on a pilot project to stop graffiti and promote the City. She stated that the City was deciding on two possible locations on Market Street to wrap a trash container and a signal box and investigating the costs of doing so. She said that RDP would be consulted in moving forward as to design, location, and possible financial participation.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that Riverside Downtown Partnership was nominated by Riverside's Park and Recreation Department for the California Park and Recreation Society District XI Community Champion Award and had won. She said that the award was for outstanding service and the promotion of park and recreation agencies. She added that RDP would be recognized at the Annual CPRS District XI Awards and Installation Banquet on Thursday, March 29th and Janice Penner and Shalini Lockard would represent RDP.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that planning was underway for the third annual Doors Open Riverside planned for May 10th. She said that the event was a partnership with the City, the Mission Inn Foundation, Old Riverside, Riverside Arts Council and RDP. She stated that additional locations would be added including several churches as well as the old church on Fourteenth Street, which had been renovated as a wedding venue.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP would partner with the City on both the 2018 series of Concerts at City Hall and Riverside Restaurant Week, of which the latter included the Arlington Business Partnership. She commented that RDP would also once again sponsor the City's concert series in Fairmount Park including the Riverside Sings competition taping.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP would start planning with the Riverside Arts Council for the third annual Riverside Art and Music Festival scheduled for Saturday, September 15th. She added that RDP would start planning in early summer for the fall fashion 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 4 and would be in the breezeway of City Hall as it had been the previous year.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at February 28, 2018

Bud Sketchley stated that the financial report for the month showed a surplus of \$12,299 compared to an expected surplus of \$7,519. He said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$62,027 compared to an expected surplus of \$26,135.

Bud Sketchley said that BID levy income for the year was higher than expected by \$83,365 and offset by payments to date of \$27,083 for the StreetPlus Safety Patrol. He added that other variances were largely due to timing and expected to balance out by year end.

Bud Sketchley stated that RDP had \$59,809 in Checking and \$165,435 in Money Market with Citizens Business Bank. He said that RDP reserves included three CDs with Pacific Premier Bank totaling \$234,375 and one with Provident Bank of \$84,646 for total reserves of \$319,021.

Bud Sketchley said that the BID levy payment for January received in February was higher than expected, resulting in the cash assets held at Citizens Business Bank being over \$250,000. He added that RDP Staff arranged a new checking account at Provident Bank and deposited \$75,000.

Bud Sketchley stated that RDP had submitted its application for \$5,000 in Community Improvement Designation (CID) funds from District 2.

Motion: To accept the financial report at January 31, 2018.

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion seconded by: Cara Swearingen

Motion carried.

7) City Council Updates

7a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that on March 13, Council approved the Housing First approach to dealing with Riverside's homelessness issues. He said that there were three sites in each ward identified as likely sites for Housing First projects. He said in Ward One there was a site at Third Street and Fairmont linked to a specific project in partnership with Riverside Community College District to provide housing to some of RCC's homeless students, primarily the individuals that have aged-out of foster care. He added that RCC would be able to fund a portion of this. He said that there was another suggested site at First Street and another off Lime Street and Fourth Street. He said that the housing would allow services to be provided that were appropriate to each individual's' needs. He stated that a few of these services would be job training, rehab services and health services.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that regarding the City Manager's contract, the Mayor attempted to veto the Council's action and there was now a split among Council as to whether the Mayor had veto-authority. He added that a majority of the Council believes that the Mayor does not have authority and that the charter is being scrutinized to uncover the answer.

7b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that there were Housing First units planned in Ward Two. He said that a combination of affordable housing and three Housing First units were being proposed on Victoria between Tenth and Eleventh Streets on Victoria. He said that another 60 unit facility with 20 Housing First units was proposed on Chicago Avenue at Linden Street. He added that there was an affordable housing project on Park Avenue and University Avenue privately built by Grapevine Development with 70 units and retail on the bottom.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that a new location was being searched for the Eastside Library, the third highest attended library. He said that there were three potential sites including the corner of Ottawa Ave and University Avenue, a site near D'Elia's Grinders, and at the Bobby

Bonds Complex. He stated that there were a few concerns with the first two locations including parking and size of structure, but the third site was both an appropriate size and the City already owned the land. He said that site would be brought forth to the community on March 28.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the Mission Lofts project with 212 units was moving along well. He added that there had been discussion of having about six to eight traffic circles placed throughout the Eastside community in problematic traffic areas. He said that there had also been discussion and ideas raised regarding the Metrolink station.

8) RDP Security Update

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that the Police Department had compiled statistics comparing 2017 to 2016 and found a 3% reduction in violent crime, 10.74% reduction in property crime and a 9.72% reduction of Part One crimes. He stated that Part One crimes were major felonies such as murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, arson and auto theft.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that RPD had hired 31 police officers so far within the fiscal year. He stated that 25 officers retired in 2017 and 25 left in 2016 through injuries and regular retirements. He stated that the net gain was about 16 or 17 new officers.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the goal adopted and funded for the current fiscal year was to acquire 19 net divisional officers.

9) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that Imperial Hardware Lofts would be finishing construction the last week of May and would have a Grand Opening Celebration in June. He stated that there would be a video with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Lofts released shortly. He commented that the Salted Pig would be relocating to the ground floor of Imperial Hardware Lofts. He requested that anyone who knew of interested parties in the old location, or had suggestions of businesses to reach out to, to contact him.

Nathan Freeman added that the Riverside Food Lab had 14 tenants and planned to have a soft opening the second week of May with a grand opening in June. He added that the Arteco Partners of Riverside Food Lab will be developing Chow Alley as well and were actively negotiating a lease with the City. He elaborated that there would be nine retired shipping containers converted into retail/restaurants/bars/coffee shops/etc. with a parking lot. He said that the County planned to have the public defenders building completed by April.

Nathan Freeman stated that the fencing for the Main Street and Ninth Street project was put up about two weeks prior and construction had begun. He stated that there would be 40 apartment units and ground floor commercial space.

Nathan Freeman stated his appreciation of RDP's support for the Hotel concept and said that the development would be presented to Council in mid to late May. He added that Kaitlyn Nguyen would be co-presenting with Brian Norton at the March luncheon.

Janice Penner stated that three trees were removed from the area in front of the UCR/Culver Center parking lot and asked if they had been replanted elsewhere. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that it was difficult to transplant adult trees and they would not have survived the move.

10) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Oz Puerta stated that ABP would be sponsoring the Easter Eggstravaganza on March 30 and 31 at Ryan Bonaminio Park. He said that ABP would also be sponsoring Grow Riverside on April 4 through April 7. He stated that currently, ABP was planning the layout of the Chili Cook Off on May 26 and looking for cooks.

Janice Penner stated that RDP was also a sponsor of the Easter Eggstravaganza, the Easter Peep Show at the Main Library and also Grow Riverside. She stated that both ABP and RDP were very supportive of the community with various sponsorships.

11) New Business

Justin Tracy said that he had suggested at the Executive Committee meeting that RDP partner with an organization to have a more active and visible role in cleaning up the area. He suggested a partnership with Teen Challenge as a low cost donation type crew that would represent RDP well. He stated that it would be a positive visible action for RDP to take and it would benefit the surrounding businesses. Janice Penner stated that there were a couple of options to consider and explore regarding this suggestion including liability insurance. Councilman Mike Gardner suggested that RDP reach out to Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful to inquire how that organization handled liability insurance.

Bill Gardner stated that the landscaping from the Riverside Convention Center to Main Street was atrocious. He stated that there were empty planters and broken outlets. Janice Penner stated that the cleaning the area was currently the top priority. Justin Tracy stated that the trash bins in front of Simple Simon's should be emptied on a more regular basis.

Brian Percy expressed concern regarding the homeless congregating around the shopping center near Maxi Foods. Janice Penner stated that this topic was discussed during the Security Meetings and that Maxi Foods had a security guard but the shopping center next to it did not. She stated that these individuals were aggressive and not compliant in leaving and staying away from the area. Brian Percy inquired if RPD sent officers there and if Homeless Outreach had been out as well. Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that officers did patrol this particular shopping center and that Homeless Outreach did visit but the group was service resistant.

Justin Tracy expressed his concern with the Santa Ana Riverbed and the encampments that were becoming larger with individuals who were menacing and aggressive. Lieutenant Kevin Townsend said that there had been two clean outs of the riverbed, but the individuals moved back within a week. Councilman Mike Gardner stated what was lacking was daily interaction with these individuals to offer services and/or inform them that they are not permitted to stay. Brian Percy inquired about the Fire Department conducting a controlled burn after clearing out the encampments. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there were habitat protected flora and fauna within the riverbed.

12) Adjournment and next meeting date – April 11, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned until April 11, 2018.