



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Erin Edwards, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Irving Hendrick, Jeff Kraus, Geoff Neely, Shalini Lockard, Philip Makhoul, Stan Morrison, Brian Percy, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Cara Swearingen, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Nanci Larsen

Absent: Corinne Awad, Cherie Crutcher, Ian Davidson, Daniel Iglesias, Brandy Marian, Marco McGuire, Amir Mertaban, Lou Monville, Bob Nagle, Oz Puerta, Sergio San Martin,

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: 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

Erin Edwards stated that the Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance (DANA) would be cleaning up the Santa Ana River area on Saturday, June 16th at 8 am. She said that DANA was planning National Night Out for August 7th. She requested that someone from the RDP Land Use Committee give a presentation on parking recommendations to the DANA September meeting. Janice Penner stated that she would discuss with Brian Percy, Chair of the Land Use Committee. Erin Edwards also added that DANA was excited about RCC partnering with Housing First to house homeless students in Ward One. She said that DANA was in the final stages of creating a brochure to be given to all new members on living in Riverside and in downtown specifically. She said that ad space was being sold to cover the cost of printing.

Stan Morrison stated that The American Diabetes Association would be hosting a Father of the Year Event at the Convention Center that night.

Bill Gardner stated his concern with the Stalder Plaza Project's construction fences blocking street parking and asked if there was any possibility of removing them until it was absolutely necessary so people could use those parking spaces. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that construction was supposed to begin within the following week, and that the façade had to be braced which encroached onto both the parking and the sidewalk.

3) Minutes of May 8, 2018.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 8, 2018.

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that she would forego her report as the items she wanted to discuss were on the agenda.

5) Items for Information

5a) Recommendation for approval of budget for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Janice Penner stated that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, May 15th to review the proposed budget. She said that the budget format was consistent with that of previous years. She pointed out that RDP's contribution for the second year of the StreetPlus Safety Patrol was included in the operating budget with an allocation of \$35,000 under BID Security and \$15,000 under City Matching monies. She added that the Finance Committee adopted a motion to recommend approval of the budget as presented.

Janice Penner said that the Executive Committee reviewed the budget and adopted a motion to recommend its approval including salary increases for the Executive Director, Office Manager/Bookkeeper and Communications and Events Liaison, and for Ambassadors.

Motion: To approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** David St. Pierre

Motion carried.

5b) Recommendation for new Treasurer

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that Cara Swearingen had agreed to join the Executive Committee as the new Treasurer. She said that she had been a member of the Board since 2012, and had served on both the Nominating and on Finance Committees. She added that she had experience as a Treasurer within Tilden-Coil Constructors, serving as such for one of their in-house committees. She said that the Executive Committee adopted a motion to recommend that the Board appoint Cara Swearingen as Treasurer.

Motion: That Cara Swearingen be appointed as Treasurer and signing officer effective June 13, 2018.

Motion made by: Charity Schiller **Motion Seconded by:** Stan Morrison

Motion carried.

5c) RTA bus stops on University Avenue

Janice Penner stated that the Executive Committee discussed the situation with the homeless and loiterers on University from the freeway to Main Street. She said that there were abandoned belongings, trash, and confrontational individuals, and the situation was particularly bad around the two bus stops on University near Lemon. She said that the committee agreed that it was a problem, and detrimental not only to the businesses and visitors but also to the population that relied on public transportation as well.

Janice Penner said that she had met with Rohan Kuruppu, Director of Planning for RTA, and he had stated that once the mobility center by the MetroLink station was functional, most transfers would take place there and hopefully alleviate many of the current issues. She said that he had stated that more time and resources could be concentrated on the mobility center rather than dispersed among the various bus stops along University Avenue. She said that he said that RTA did steam clean the bus stops three times a week and cleanliness was a concern for them.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that individuals loitering around the bus stop on University Avenue and Lemon Street were not using the bus for transportation. She stated that there was nudity, vomiting and drug use at that particular stop. Charity Schiller added that the area was a

magnet for problems such as individuals laying down, exposing themselves and public urination. Philip Makhoul stated that his tenants (The Parlour) were losing business due to the individuals loitering and causing disturbances. He said that the tenants had to lock the doors for their own safety and that the police did not respond to calls for assistance. Justin Tracy agreed with those concerns and added his concern with the maintenance of all bus stops.

David St. Pierre inquired if there was a way to have temporary surveillance at that stop so that the police could review for regular criminal activity. Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that their Vice Unit had investigated that stop and not found drug dealings taking place.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that he believed that the money to be used for security was to be used for all downtown bus stops. He said that security had been focused on the bus stop at Wells Fargo due to the assault that took place near to it. Janice Penner stated that the Mission Square security guard patrolled the property which was a successful deterrent to negative activity. Councilman Andy Melendrez inquired if there was any law to move along individuals loitering for over an hour at the bus stops. Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that to his knowledge there wasn't, and that someone could be arrested for camping at a bus stop but not for sitting or standing at a bus stop for a long period of time. He said that there was a municipal code against someone who was aggressively panhandling. He said that if they threw any objects at another individual it would be considered assault, but the person or business assaulted or vandalized had to press charges for any type of repercussions to take place. Irving Hendrick inquired why something could not be done about indecent exposure at the very least.

Justin Tracy stated that he believed a multitude of downtown problems would be lessened by aggressive emptying of the trash cans. He stated that doing so would lessen the incentive for homeless to get into them and disrupt patrons and leave trash strewn throughout downtown. Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that there were trash cans made to deter bears from getting into them, which could also work to deter homeless. Bill Gardner commented that adding kerosene to trash cans deterred animals and could also deter people going through the trash. Stan Morrison stated there were over 50 empty store fronts in Santa Barbara due to aggressive homeless and the problems they caused. He said that the store owners received a government reimbursement so they did not lose anything but the empty store fronts drastically changed the downtown. He said that downtown Riverside could have the same outcome if it didn't address the problems.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that one solution would be to concentrate resources on a particular area for a period of time to deter the negative activity. He said that Homeless Outreach, StreetPlus and the Police Department could do so. Nathan Freeman stated that he communicated to Bill Grace with StreetPlus to patrol that particular area more frequently.

6) Items for Information

6a) Update on Doors Open May 10th

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that there were 2,656 visits recorded that evening. She added that most visits occurred after 7:30 pm and that the most frequent comment received was to have the event on a Saturday to allow more time and be more convenient for families. She stated that the committee decided to hold the event on a Saturday and that next year would be May 9, 2019 from 10 am to 4 pm. She said that a 'Save the Date' would go out to all participants in the next few weeks, and that adjustments to time frames would be made for churches and wedding venues to allow for wedding ceremonies. Janice Penner stated that the feedback was obtained from the visitors at various locations involved in the event.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the Mission Inn Museum had submitted the event for the California Association of Museums Secretary's Award for Excellence in Sustainability and the City would be submitting the event for the Governor's Historic Preservation Award through the California Preservation Foundation. She added that the committee would also be submitting workshop proposals for both organizations' conferences in 2019.

6b) RDP activities

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the June 26th luncheon had been booked at Heroes Restaurant and Brewery and Amir Mertaban and his team had been confirmed to speak on Live Nation. She said that July 24th had been booked at the Hyatt Place Hotel and Parks Director Adolfo Cruz and Mario Lara had been confirmed to speak on Parks and Recreation. She added that the September 25th luncheon would feature Collette Lee and Andy Melendrez on the Riverside Arts Academy and RDP was negotiating with the Riverside Women's Club to hold it at their location and have them sponsor it. She said that the October 24th luncheon would be at the Riverside Art Museum and feature Drew Oberjuerge on the museum and The Cheech.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that entertainment had been booked for Summer Lunches in Downtown and the collateral updated to include the names and genre. She said that the collateral for Movies on Main and in the Park had been finalized by the City. She stated that posters for both events plus postcards with Summer Lunches in Downtown and Movies on Main / in the Park on each side were being printed for distribution. She added that postcards were available for the Board.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that staff had submitted the event permit for Movies on Main and was working on the permit for the Riverside Art and Music Festival on September 15th. She said that the City was handling permitting for Summer Lunches in Downtown. She added that staff would be meeting with the organizers of Day of the Dead to discuss collaboration on a Halloween event with RDP's Riverside Zombie Crawl so the permit for that event would be delayed pending those discussions.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP had ordered 40 new banners for Brockton Avenue. She said that twenty would go up on receipt and the remainder would be stored for replacement as needed.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that staff will be reaching out to Police and Fire about collaboration on an Earthquake Readiness seminar for businesses.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at May 31, 2018

Janice Penner stated that the financial report for the month showed a loss of \$17,822 compared to an expected loss of \$11,601. She said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$46,677 compared to an expected surplus of \$11,507 with a positive variance of \$35,171. She stated that the BID levy payment for April for receipt in May was \$22,764 which was higher than the previous year by just under \$2,000.

Janice Penner said that RDP had \$31,036 in Checking and \$165,498 in Money Market with Citizens Business Bank and a checking account of \$75,038 with Provident Bank. She said that RDP reserves included a CD of \$84,802 with Provident Bank and three CDs with Pacific Premier Bank totaling \$234,759 for total reserves of \$319,563.

Janice Penner said that staff was reviewing certain expenses to transfer to the City Matching Monies category if they qualify to ensure all of those deferred monies are taken into income. She added that staff had contacted the CPA to start the annual financial review process.

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

Motion made by: David St. Pierre

Motion seconded by: Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

Jeff Kraus stated that his understanding was that the StreetPlus program was to be reviewed after a year to assess its effectiveness for RDP's continued support. Janice Penner stated that the annual review would be in September. She noted that the RDP Security and Land Use Committees reviewed the program each month. She added that Nathan Freeman was the contact from the City for the StreetPlus Safety Patrol and regularly attended both meetings. She said that there was continual feedback from each committee to the City and StreetPlus and there was improvement as a result. She said that a formal report could be placed on the agenda for September, but at the current time RDP would continue to support the program.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated the City Council adopted a two-year budget on June 12th. He said that there was a slightly higher amount of money from the Measure Z funds than was originally projected which was primarily distributed to public safety.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that there would be a meeting on the North Side specific plan on June 25th to discuss development.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the seven story hotel complex at University Village would be a 126 room extended stay with ground floor retail. He said that the development was approved by Council a week prior. He added that a new retail and eating concept would be going to the Development Committee on June 21st. He said that were a few ideas of how to accommodate parking for the project.

Councilman Andy Melendrez added that there would be a groundbreaking on June 20th for the affordable housing unit on the corner of 13th Street and Park Avenue. He said it was a partnership of RAM, the Riverside Housing Development Corporation, and the City of Riverside. He said that the unit would be for an artisan resident who would serve as a community liaison in coordinating the development of that portion of Park Avenue.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the new Eastside Library did not have funding, but that there was \$100,000 allocated to create the design. He said that the potential site was still up for debate but would hopefully be narrowed down to one option by the end of the summer. He stated that he hoped that there would be money to assist with the project in the two-year budget.

9) RDP Security Update

Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that there was an increase in car break-ins in downtown garages during January, February and March. He added that a woman was arrested recently

who has been tied to all of them. He said that she was identified on surveillance cameras and many of the stolen items found in her possession. He said that a detective had confirmed 15 victims so far, and has been notifying the DA's office to add the charges each time a new victim is confirmed. He added that since her arrest there has been only one car break-in.

Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that the drug arrests that took place recently had lessened loiterers around Maxi Foods. He stated that some of the arrested individuals had serious criminal histories. He stated that there were no sales of drugs within the bars, but four individuals selling drugs outside of the bars. He clarified that the drugs were meth, cocaine and heroin. He stated that these arrests would lead to a temporary alleviation of the problem but the individuals would eventually trickle back in.

Janice Penner added that Parking Services would be posting more signage within the garages to encourage people to lock car doors, roll up windows, and not leave valuables in car, etc. She added that RDP would be sponsoring production of the signs.

Lieutenant Kevin Townsend added that a woman in her 20s was sexually assaulted on a trail leading up to Mt. Rubidoux.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that Riverside Food Lab had overcome some of the challenges with the gas line. He said that there would be a soft opening mid July if not sooner.

Nathan Freeman stated that the Imperial Hardware Lofts were 30% leased and the tours were completely booked for those conducted each week. He added that the apartments were being rented for \$2.50 to \$3.00 a square foot.

Nathan Freeman stated that Salad Buzz would be converted into an all day breakfast restaurant. He added that the Cal Baptist space would be replaced with Mezcal's dinner area to accommodate later diners and free up space for nightclub patrons.

Nathan Freeman stated that Stalder Plaza project would begin construction shortly. He added that the Hawk Signal contract for the intersection of Market and Sixth was being finalized.

Jeff Kraus stated that UCR would be opening a merchandise shop on Main Street. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that she was working on the UCR merchandise store which would include citrus and olive oil tasting, as well as a Retro-Taco restaurant in a nearby space.

Nathan Freeman stated that with the completion of Riverside Food Lab, there would be more information regarding Chow Alley.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

There was no report.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – July 11, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned until July 11, 2018.