



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Erin Edwards, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Laura Helva for Geoff Neely, Irving Hendrick, Nanci Larsen Shalini Lockard, Philip Makhoul, Brandy Marian, Stan Morrison, David St. Pierre, Charity Schiller, Cara Swearingen, Donna Granillo for Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Cherie Crutcher, Jeff Kraus, Brian Pearcy, Sergio San Martin, Oz Puerta

Absent: Corinne Awad, Ian Davidson, Daniel Iglesias, Marco McGuire, Amir Mertaban, Lou Monville, Bob Nagle,

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Lynn Anderson for 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 Comment

Conducted. Stan Morrison stated that there would be an event in September at the RCC Henry W. Coil, Sr. and Alice Edna Coil School for the Arts Concert Hall featuring Alpin Hong, the renowned pianist.

3) Minutes of June 13, 2018.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2018.

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

Motion carried with Nanci Larsen abstaining

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis thanked Nathan Freeman and Eydee Jimenez for staying downtown the previous Friday until 3 am to observe StreetPlus Safety Patrol's performance and effect in the entertainment district. She stated feedback was positive and added that StreetPlus had increased its presence throughout the entertainment district.

Bill Gardner stated that he felt the Stalder Plaza project fencing should be moved back to allow parking. He stated that he understood the fencing was needed to brace the façade for construction but questioned the current need as construction had been postponed. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the fencing was present in case the façade collapsed.

Bill Gardner asked why the trash containers around Simple Simon's couldn't be steam cleaned three times a week like the RTA bus stops. Shelby Worthington-Loomis suggested that Bill Gardner speak to the owner of Simple Simon's about their maintaining the trash containers to remedy the issue. Bill Gardner stated that maintaining the Main Street Pedestrian Mall was the City's responsibility. Janice Penner stated that the City was responsive to maintaining/cleaning that area and had a schedule for pressure washing. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that she had seen the City cleaning the area often.

Justin Tracy stated that downtown area trash containers were disgusting and not cleaned when emptied. He added that the steam cleaning did not properly clean the RTA bus stops. Janice Penner stated that there was a meeting scheduled with the CEO of RTA, the RTA Director of Planning, and the RDP Executive Committee to discuss a number of issues with bus stops on University Ave. Stan Morrison commented that the fencing around the parking lot on University Avenue and Lemon Street seemed to alleviate some of the problems. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the fencing had helped somewhat but there were still issues on the street/sidewalk.

Bill Gardner inquired about a seismic stability survey of all of the buildings in Riverside conducted 20 to 25 years prior. Janice Penner stated that Councilman Mike Gardner had noted in the last Land Use meeting that the previous survey had included over 300 buildings and that number was currently less than 150 in part due to attrition.

5) Items for Information

5a) 2019 BID Renewal

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the Annual Report for the 2019 renewal of the BID levy would need to be approved by the RDP Board of Directors at the September 12th meeting in order to be approved within the City's timeline. She added that RDP staff had started the report and would submit it to the Executive Committee at their September meeting.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the process for approval included submitting the report to the City after the September 12th Board meeting so the City could set a date for the Public Hearing. She stated that the City would then send out a letter to businesses once the date of the Public Hearing was set. She added that RDP staff would prepare a PowerPoint presentation to be given by the Chair at the Public Hearing.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP staff had advised that the City's Finance Department had said that City Council would receive the report at its October 9th meeting and then set the date for the Public Hearing as November 6th.

5b) Seminar on Earthquake Readiness for Small Businesses

Janice Penner stated that she had received an invitation to the Seismic Resiliency Event held in LA on May 30th. She said that she contacted the organizers to get the presentation materials and met with the principal of Optimum Seismic, Ali Sahibi, about organizing a seminar in Riverside on earthquake readiness for small businesses. She added that Mr. Sahibi raised the issue of support for the pending California AB 2681 which would require identification of buildings requiring seismic retrofitting. She said that both issues were raised at the RDP Land Use meeting on June 21st.

Janice Penner said that the RDP Land Use Committee agreed that California AB 2681 should not be supported at the present time. She said that Councilman Mike Gardner had commented that there had been a previous inventory and the City was undergoing its own inventory of buildings. She reiterated that the number of such buildings had diminished over the years from due to attrition. She said that Dennis Morgan and Joe Guzetta on the RDP Land Use committee expressed concerns about having properties listed and the impact on property owners.

Janice Penner stated that the RDP Land Use Committee did agree that having a seminar on earthquake readiness was worthwhile. She said that planning had begun to have a meeting

scheduled on July 26th with Councilman Mike Gardner (Chair of the State's Seismic Committee) and the City's Emergency Services Coordinator.

Janice Penner said that the plan was to have the seminar in late September or early October to allow for sufficient planning and hopefully hold it at the Riverside Municipal Auditorium where the Active Shooter Event seminar was held. She said that RDP staff would update as plans progressed. She added that the Arlington Business Partnership had indicated that they would like to participate as well.

Bill Gardner stated that he understood the need to be prepared but the basic issue was strengthening the buildings. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that retro-fitting a building could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars which would be beyond some business owners to afford. Janice Penner stated that she believed the topic of retro-fitting could be somewhat addressed by Councilman Mike Gardner as Chair of the State's Seismic Committee. She said that RDP was not taking a position as retro-fitting was a decision for the property owner to make. Shelby Worthington-Loomis predicted that businesses would leave if retro-fitting was enforced.

Bill Gardner stated that there could be potential lenders interested in offering loans for the retro-fitting of these buildings. Justin Tracy stated that the proposed bill would in fact make it more difficult for a business to obtain a loan to retro-fit their building. He said that once a structural engineer identified a building as "at-risk", the building would be documented and that information available to lenders. He added that the bill also would be a direct benefit to structural engineers.

6) Items for Information

6a) Bus stops on University

Janice Penner stated that a meeting with Councilmen Mike Gardner and Andy Melendrez, RTA CEO Larry Rubio and Director of Planning Rohan Kuruppu to discuss safety and other concerns had been scheduled for Wednesday, July 25th at RDP.

6b) RDP activities

i) Change in Ambassador Uniforms

Janice Penner stated that due to continuing confusion between the RDP Ambassadors and the StreetPlus Safety Patrol (both having yellow uniforms), it was decided to change the RDP Ambassador uniform color to Safety Orange. She said that the color would be distinctive at night and would differentiate RDP Ambassadors from the StreetPlus Safety Patrol. She said that polos, sweatshirts and windbreakers had been ordered. She stated that the RDP Ambassadors' guidelines were for RDP's protection and mandated that there be no physical contact.

ii) Upcoming Events

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the July 24th luncheon had been booked at the Hyatt Place Hotel with Parks Director Adolfo Cruz and Mario Lara speaking on Parks and Recreation and Citizens Business Bank sponsoring for the first time. She said that the September 25th luncheon would feature Collette Lee and Andy Melendrez on the Riverside Arts Academy at the Riverside Women's Club with them as the sponsor. She said that the October 24th luncheon would be at the Riverside Art Museum with Drew Oberjuege on the museum and the Cheech. She added that the November 27th luncheon would be at First Congregational Church in their Madonna Room with catering from Mr. Worldwide.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that Summer Lunches in Downtown started on June 19th in the City Hall breezeway due to construction at the Clock Tower Fountain. She said that the RDP staff had planned pre movie activities for Movies on Main including entertainment and community groups/businesses, and water donated by Provident Bank. She added that posters and postcards for both had been distributed to downtown businesses as well as to Park and Recreation locations and City Hall.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP staff had submitted the event permit for the Riverside Art and Music Festival on September 15th and most logistic needs had been booked. She said a meeting with Day of the Dead organizers to discuss collaboration on a Halloween event was set for Thursday, July 12th. She added that Gary Christmas reached out to her in regards to bringing a Spirits Walk back with the Ghost Walk and said she would obtain more information regarding it. Janice Penner stated that the reason for a collaboration and change to the Zombie Crawl was to expand the demographic. She said that the event was terrific for kids but needed to include activities and incentives for adults to attend.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at June 30, 2018

Cara Swearingen stated that the draft financial report for the month showed a surplus of \$8,914 compared to an expected loss of \$11,507. She said that for the year to date, the report showed a surplus of \$55,591 compared to a balanced budget. She said that the BID levy income for the fiscal year was \$109,803 above budget accounting for much of the surplus after offset of the StreetPlus Safety Patrol contribution of \$43,750. She added that RDP staff was currently monitoring assets to ensure that none of the monies at any one financial institution exceeded \$250,000.

Bill Gardner suggested that RDP and the City invest in placing an archway across Main Street at Fifth Street. Janice Penner stated that RDP's policy was to invest in programs rather than structures since programs would bring more people to downtown Riverside. She added that there had been some contributions to preserve historic structures such as the pergola in front of Heroes Restaurant & Brewery. She said that the proposed archway would likely cost over \$100,000 dollars and noted that the Board had expressed interest in increased cleaning and security. Bill Gardner commented that the landscaping on Main Street needed attention. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that transients and homeless were often destructive to the landscaping. Donna Granillo stated that one solution could be planting succulents and cacti.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Lynn Anderson stated that there was an item on the City Council agenda regarding SB 54 on immigration that was removed but individuals still attended and made public comment. She said that there was no violence and there was a police presence. She said there was also a fourth vote to not allow marijuana sales and dispensaries.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that with regards to SB 54 on immigration, one difficult part was that individuals called the bill a sanctuary city law. He said that it instead defined what the police department, public safety and immigration could do. He stated that the bill clarified that immigration officers rather than police officers handle immigration. He stated those who attended were aware that the topic had been removed but wanted to voice their thoughts.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that the other topic was cannabis which would be brought up again in 18 months. He stated that while it may or may not be legalized, further discussion was necessary. He said that on July 12th at 5 pm there would be a walk-through of two potential sites for the new Eastside Library; one at the Bobby Bonds Sports Complex and the other at Ottawa and University. He stated that a decision would be made within 30 to 45 days on the site to be selected. He stated that the funding was not available yet, but hopefully would be in the next year and a half. He added that there was enough funding for the design work.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that there was a ribbon cutting on July 10th for the Riverside Art Museum partnership project and predicted positive changes in the east side community as a result. He commented on the bus shelters that were causing problems within downtown Riverside. He stated that he voiced his opposition to the grid system and would have preferred to update the downtown bus station with better cameras, security and amenities. He said that Council unfortunately did not support that and preferred the grid system. He said that RTA was willing to work on addressing the problems. He added that they were planning to establish a hub at the Metrolink Station for the buses and he would support security and surveillance measures.

9) RDP Security Update

Donna Granillo stated that she did not have a report. Janice Penner stated that the quarterly hospitality meeting would be held July 17th at the Fox at 1 pm. She said that Donna Granillo coordinated the attendance, Live Nation provided the venue and RDP provided the refreshments.

Chuck Beaty noted the value of mailbox security due to his neighbor witnessing mail theft. Donna Granillo stated the importance of a locking mailbox and collecting mail on a daily basis.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that Bill Grace and Lieutenant Kevin Townsend had requested that he observe the StreetPlus Safety Patrol on a weekend night into the early morning. He said that his observation was positive with at least ten incidents prevented by StreetPlus personnel. He said that StreetPlus' training included de-escalating situations when individuals were kicked out of bars and looking to start fights and witnessed that a number of times. He said that allowed police officers to focus on other crimes. He said that StreetPlus had taken the constructive criticism and made the appropriate changes. He stated that many of the individuals causing disturbances were from outside of Riverside (Moreno Valley, San Bernardino, etc.). He said he was very impressed with the StreetPlus presence and performance and noted personnel in yellow were at almost every corner of the hospitality district. He added that he witnessed the bongo drummers and the crowd generated spilling over the sidewalk into the street. Shelby Worthington-Loomis noted that there was not the usual amount of patrons that night due to the extremely hot weather.

Nathan Freeman stated that Riverside Food Lab was slated to open the second week of August. He added that the Imperial Hardware Lofts project was almost completed with a scheduled grand opening for August 16th. He said that the lofts were over 30% leased and were completely booked for tours. Shelby Worthington-Loomis added that the grand opening would take place on August 16th from 6 pm to 9 pm and that there would be live music, catering and wine.

Councilman Andy Melendrez commented on the trees on University Ave that were dropping berries and staining the sidewalks. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that she was pursuing having the five Ficus trees removed and would appreciate his assistance. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that replacing the trees along University Ave was of interest of him. Janice Penner stated that RDP could contribute to removal and replacement and had done so in the past to preserve the sidewalks and for the benefit of the nearby businesses. Shelby Worthington-Loomis added that the sidewalks along University Avenue also needed attention.

Bill Gardner inquired about the parking meters and regulations under the new parking management company. Janice Penner stated that she had been on the committee that interviewed the potential parking companies and that one of the items discussed was replacement of the existing meters. She said that Republic (the new company) would be replacing the meters which were now obsolete.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Kate Stovicek said that the Methodist Church within the Arlington business district would be closing after 125 years due to insufficient funding. She added that the area had seen a slight decrease in crime. She added that ABP was finding it difficult to let businesses in the area know that ABP was able to financially assist businesses with up to \$1,000 for façade improvements including signage. She added that ABP would be pursuing further outreach in regards to those improvements. She also added that the Ring Cameras that were installed in a few locations throughout the area were successfully providing evidence for the police to apprehend criminals.

Oz Puerta submitted a written report that stated that the ABP mobile app was currently available on IOS and Android. He said that ABP had met with Parks and Recreation to discuss the Winter Wonderland event with a tentative date set for December 1, 2018. He noted that Councilman McArthur's last constituent BBQ would be held at Hunt Park on July 21st and ABP sponsored the raffle prizes for the event. He added that the Arlington Youth Innovation Center located at Arlington Park between Magnolia and Van Buren would break ground July 23rd at 10 am.

12) New Business

David St. Pierre stated that the surrounding businesses have made an effort with the City to clean up Lot 16. He said that the number of dumpsters was decreased from eight to three and none with wheels. He said that Lt. Kevin Townsend was working on removing four parking spaces on the North side of University Ave between Orange Street and Lemon Street to create a drop-off zone only. He said that this was in attempt to increase safety for pedestrians and vehicles due to the danger of Uber and Lyft vehicles stopping in the street to drop patrons off or picking them up from hospitality establishments. Bill Gardner inquired if the spaces could be green-zone spaces to which David St. Pierre responded that the green-zone spaces allowed for 20 minute parking which would block the necessary drop-off space.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – September 12, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned until September 12, 2018.