



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Cherie Crutcher, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Irving Hendrick, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Brandy Marian, Marco McGuire, Stan Morrison, Brian Percy, David St. Pierre, Cara Swearingen, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Erin Edwards, Philip Makhoul, Bob Nagle, Charity Schiller,

Absent: Corinne Awad, Ian Davidson, Daniel Iglesias, Geoff Neely, Amir Mertaban, Lou Monville, Sergio San Martin

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Councilman Mike Gardner

Staff: Janice Penner, Kate Stovicek

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Patrick Brien said that he was directing a show at the Fox called "American Buffalo" that would be performed from November 16th through 18th.

Cara Swearingen stated that Henry Coil had passed away the week prior.

Nanci Larsen stated that the Mission Inn Run would be held on Veteran's Day Weekend. She added that the Mariachi Festival and the Veteran's Day Parade were also that weekend.

David St. Pierre stated that he was working on a show, "Medea" that would be performed at the Box from October 26 through October 28. He added that RDP was a sponsor of the new Riverside Halloween Fest which would be held on October 27 in White Park from 2 pm to 10 pm with a beer garden, kids zone, food, walking haunted maze, etc. Janice Penner stated that the Riverside Halloween Fest replaced RDP's Zombie Crawl event.

Bill Gardner stated that he was attempting to organize an invitational sculpture walk on the downtown mall.

Chuck Beaty stated that the Fire Department had subdued a three-acre fire on Mt. Rubidoux and the arsonist was arrested. He also stated that there was a homeless encampment at the location of the old police department and Greyhound station on Fairmount. Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that he would begin the process to remove the homeless encampment.

3) Minutes of September 12, 2018.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of September 12, 2018

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that all items she would have included in her report were on the agenda. She noted that the numbering of items on the agenda was incorrect.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Recommendations regarding Transformative Climate Communities Grant

Janice Penner stated that representatives from the City made a presentation on the Transformative Climate Communities Grant at the September 20th Land Use committee meeting. She said that the presentation was in the Board package for reference.

Janice Penner stated that RDP was asked to provide support for the grant submission and to provide recommendations regarding the grant. She stated that the Land Use Committee adopted a motion to support the grant and recommended the following for improvement:

- Alleyway improvements such as enhanced lighting, pedestrian ease, paving, and safety. It was noted that the grant could not be used for operations or maintenance.
- Solar panel lighting for safety in identified downtown areas.
- Tree replacement including removal if applicable.
- Bus terminal improvements in the Marketplace area.
- Better lighting of downtown underpasses to improve pedestrian connections between downtown and the eastside / University corridor.
- Scooter/bike corrals.

Janice Penner said that the Executive considered the Land Use recommendations at their October 2nd meeting and agreed to refer to the Board for review and approval of support.

Motion: To support the City's submission for a Transformation Climate Communities grant and to recommend that the above items be included in the submission.

Motion made by: David St. Pierre **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried

5b) Extension of RTA security for bus stops on University

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that on September 26th, she, Janice Penner, and Shirley Schmeltz met with RTA CEO Larry Rubio and other RTA personnel along with Councilman Mike Gardner and RPD Lt. Kevin Townsend to review the effectiveness of the security guard. She said it was agreed that it had been effective with a significant reduction in problems and increase in cleanliness and safety. She said that it was also agreed that complete termination of the initiative would result in problems returning almost immediately and negate the positive impact. She said that RDP suggested a reduced schedule of 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday which were the core daytime business hours downtown. She added that the people most impacted by the initiative were the downtown employees who walked down University Avenue to Main Street and Market Street and the customers who patronized businesses on University and surrounding streets during the day.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that it was noted that problems on evenings, particularly weekends, should be dealt with by the StreetPlus Safety Patrol who patrolled the entertainment district under an agreement with the City and financial support from RDP. She said that it was also noted that once the Festival of Lights began, there would be additional security downtown 24 hours, seven days a week, which would deter problems as well and following that security the weather would be a deterrent for negative activity.

Chuck Beaty inquired what the security entailed. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the RTA security guards conducted foot patrols on University Avenue from Market Street to Lemon Street to deter individuals that were loitering or causing disruptions in the area.

Justin Tracy stated that his concern was that RTA had a security guard present at the downtown bus station but when RTA went to a grid system, they did not continue the security guard downtown. Janice Penner stated that RTA stated that the security guard that used to be at the downtown station was now a mobile patrol officer along bus stops within four districts. She added that RTA had a contract with Mission Square to have a dedicated guard at the bus stop in front of Mission Square due to the presence of the Wells Fargo ATM. Jeff Kraus requested that Board members be notified in advance when RDP incurred certain financial obligations.

5c) BID Renewal Public Hearing

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the BID Renewal Report was approved at the September 12th Board meeting and submitted to the City that day. She said that the item went to the City Council on Tuesday, October 9th for setting of the Public Hearing on November 6th. Janice Penner stated that staff prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Public Hearing for submission to the City by October 5th.

6) Items for Information

6a) Disaster Preparedness Workshop on October 17th at RMA

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that there was a flyer that had been distributed to board members for reference. Janice Penner stated that the flyer had been distributed by the City and would be distributed to downtown businesses by the RDP Ambassadors as well. She said that information on both CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training and services from the Red Cross would be available at the event. She added that attendees would also receive a package of materials including copies of Ready Business QuakeSmart toolkit and Business Continuity Plan. She added that the flyer had been posted on RDP's website and Facebook page and the event was being promoted by ABP and the City.

6b) RDP activities

i) Tree removal

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the five ficus trees on University Ave had been removed. She said that the City would replace the trees with Goldenrain trees likely at the end of the month. She stated that the City staff recommended that removal of trees on Market Street be delayed so as not to trigger a review by the Park and Recreation Commission. She said that at the present time the only business that had registered a complaint about the trees with the City was Clark's Nutritional Center.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the palm trees on Orange Street and Market Street had been shaved. She stated that the palm trees had been damaging her property, Marco McGuire's property and properties on Market Street as well as causing a tripping hazard at all of the locations. She stated that as the Palm trees were City property, she felt the City was responsible for maintaining those trees. Shalini Lockard stated that the streets off Market Street to the Justice Center were experiencing the same problems. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that although she understood that there was a schedule for tree trimming, she thought that it should be a priority. Nathan Freeman requested that the concerned parties send him a photo of the trees in question and he would work towards a solution. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that in the downtown core, the palm trees were trimmed every seven years. He said that the Council added an additional million dollars into the tree maintenance budget from Measure Z funds which reduced the trimming time from every nine years to every seven years. He agreed that it was a problem.

ii) RDP Activities

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the Riverside Art and Music Festival took place on Saturday, September 15th from 4 pm to 10 pm with approximately 2,500 people attending throughout the day. She said that vendors and exhibitors were very positive about the event and that the additional downtown events created a positive synergy within the area.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the Fall Fashion Show took place on Tuesday, October 4th with participation from downtown retailers, The Pink Ribbon Place, and Riverside City College School of Cosmetology. She said that two new additions were a performance by the Ambassador team of Encore High School for the Arts to kick-off the show and the addition of two women's health organizations (The Care Project and The Beloved Foundation) with materials for attendees. Janice Penner stated that the Encore High School Ambassador team performed and did a wonderful job. She added that RDP would be donating \$250 to the team as a gesture of thanks. She added that one of the difficulties the show faced was that the number of retailers had decreased which shortened its length. She said that she reached out to Arlington Business Partnership to inquire if there were retailers in their BID that would be interested in participating to offset costs, lengthen the show and expand the audience. Stan Morrison stated that he had a contact for the Tyler Mall that he would connect Janice Penner with for potential additional retailers.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the October 23rd luncheon would be at the Riverside Art Museum and would feature Drew Oberjuege on the museum and The Cheech and would be sponsored by Best Best & Krieger. She said that the November 27th luncheon would be held at First Congregational Church in their Madonna Room and would feature the City's Housing First Strategy and would be sponsored by Pacific Premier Bank. She stated that the January 22, 2019 luncheon would feature Ted Weggeland of the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau on their "Bring it Home" campaign; the location and the sponsor had not been confirmed yet.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP would be a sponsor of the new 'Halloween Town' event to be held on Saturday, October 27th in White Park. Janice Penner stated that the event would be organized by the same group that organized the Day of the Dead event (Peggy Roa, Josh Roa St. Pierre and Cosme Cordova). She added that RDP would be sponsoring the children's activities including the costume contest.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP staff and Board members would attend the IDA Annual conference in San Antonio from October 24th to 27th. She added that the theme would be 'Retropolitan' with a focus on historic cities bridging into modern ones, which was applicable to downtown Riverside.

Bill Gardner congratulated Jeff Kraus on his receiving an award from the Fair Housing Council as the Champion of Justice.

6c) Referral to Land Use of support for alley improvements

Janice Penner stated that as noted in the Board minutes, it was discussed and agreed that RDP endorse alley improvements and work with both Council members on that effort. She said that it was also agreed that the item be directed to the Land Use Committee for oversight, and to solicit the support and involvement of downtown building owners. She stated that the two alleys of significant concern were located from Mission Inn Ave to 10th St between Main St and Orange Street. Marco McGuire stated his support for the alleyway improvements.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial updates at September 30, 2018

Cara Swearingen said that the financial report for September showed a deficiency of \$7,616 compared to an expected deficiency of \$17,711. She said that the BID levy payment for August for receipt in September was \$23,397 which was higher than budget by \$6,633 which accounted for most of the positive variance, and that other variances in other items were due mostly to timing.

Cara Swearingen said that for the year to date there was a surplus of \$35,715 compared to an expected surplus of \$22,508. She noted that while the BID levy income for the year to date was higher than expected by \$17,476, that positive variance was offset by the unbudgeted expense for RDP's share of the RTA security guard (\$5,499) in September.

Motion: To accept the financial reports at September 30, 2018

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Motion Seconded by:** David St. Pierre

Motion carried

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that all of the vendors within Riverside Food Lab were now open. He recommended Pig Pen Delicacy, but stated that there was quite a variety of food.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that 51 individuals had been housed for the Housing First program, but added that Riverside's housing costs were extremely high therefore leading several individuals to be housed outside of Riverside. He added a portion of Riverside's Housing First program would use Measure Z funds. He stated that this would be a controversial issue and encouraged those who had input to present it to the City Council.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that a few weeks prior, Lake Elsinore had conducted a homeless 'sweep' on private (Caltrans) property and arrested about 50 individuals. He said that four of those individuals were arrested on serious crimes (outstanding felonies, etc.), but a majority of those individuals were transported to jails in Banning and Riverside. He added that these individuals were cited and released at night with little/no transportation, resources, money, etc. He stated that this was the first situation that could be documented of transporting homeless individuals to other cities' jails. He said that the sheriff's department shared information regarding releasing individuals from jail, which included making sure that the individual had a ride away from the jail or by providing the individual with a taxi ride.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the woman who had been convicted of the numerous auto break-ins in the garages in downtown Riverside had been sentenced to three years and was released after three months.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired where to direct comments regarding the housing of homeless individuals outside of Riverside. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the comments could be directed to him or Emilio Ramirez which would be shared with all Council members. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that her concern was that if individuals knew that Riverside was housing homeless individuals outside of Riverside, there might be an influx of homeless coming into Riverside because of it.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez was unable to attend and there was no report.

9) RDP Security Update

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that the Economic Development department purchased ten 4K cameras, which were the best on the market. He said that RPD had been working with the Economic Development department and their IT group to find the most strategic places to augment or replace current cameras in downtown Riverside. He stated that he believed that those cameras would be placed by the end of the week.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that there was a quarterly meeting with the bar/entertainment venue owners on the Monday, October 15 at 1 pm. He stated that the primary speaker of that meeting would be the City Manager, Al Zelinka.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that there was an ongoing problem with the bongo drummers that set up at about 1:30 am in downtown Riverside. He added that the group sometimes would perform until 3:00 am or 3:30 am and cause a chaotic environment. He stated that the remedy to this issue would be a change in the Municipal Code, which he would be presenting to the Public Safety Committee on Wednesday, October 17. He stated that the changes to the code would allow street performers, but have a clause to move them along if the crowd became unsafe or created a blockage of a public pathway. He said that there would be an additional 15 restrictions including no knife throwing, flame throwing, etc.; these restrictions were modeled after other cities' best practices for street performances.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that the ride-share (i.e. Uber, Lyft, etc.) loading and unloading parking zone proposal was presented to the Traffic Commission. He said that the proposal was approved and would be presented to Council on Tuesday, October 23. He stated that these zones would be located in front of Lake Alice, Worthington's Tavern, Menagerie and Romano's and in the northwest corner of University Ave and Orange St.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that the prior year RPD offered free training to bouncers and bar security management, which was received very well. He said that RPD would host the sessions again on October 23 and October 26.

Marco McGuire stated his concern for the security on Main St between 5th St and 6th St due to Gram's BBQ being open very late. He stated that surveillance of that area would be beneficial due to the crowd that was generated and prior negative activity in the area.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that the Imperial Hardware Lofts were 65% leased. He stated that The Salted Pig was aiming to open in the new location at Imperial in late February 2019. He stated that the owner of the Salted Pig would also be opening an all-day breakfast concept similar to the one in the Grand Central Station Market. He stated that there were a few leasing proposals being considered for the additional spaces in the ground floor of Imperial Lofts.

Nathan Freeman stated that the Main and 9th Street project was under construction and aiming to open in the early summer of 2019 with 36 residential units and 8,000 sq ft of commercial space on the ground floor. He stated that currently the plan was to create an innovative office model coupled with a café.

Nathan Freeman stated that the Stalder Plaza Project had begun construction and was estimated to take about 18 to 24 months to complete. He said that the project would create 165 rooms and 800 parking stalls (all subterranean) with public parking included.

Nathan Freeman said that the Riverside Food Lab was doing so well that discussions regarding Chow Alley had begun. He added that Riverside Food Lab had hired security and that there had been a few issues with homeless individuals during the day. He said that there was one fight, which Street Plus diffused.

Nathan Freeman stated that Center Pointe Apartments on Market and 1st Street were progressing well. He said that the soon-to-be 7-11 would not be selling alcohol. He said that the corner of Mission Inn Ave and Chestnut St had just closed escrow and there would be 13 pocket neighborhood units. He clarified that the Hampton Inn on Market St was under construction.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

There was no ABP representative and there was no report.

12) New Business

Justin Tracy stated that there needed to be a crosswalk where the new library was planned to be located.

Marco McGuire stated that there would be a kick-off for the Miracle on Main event in early November at the Tamale Factory. He said that this would be the fifth year of Miracle on Main and that the event had grown tremendously serving about 350 children at the beginning and now serving 1,100 children with health screenings, haircuts, toys, crafts, etc. He stated that he would follow up with an email to Janice Penner regarding the date of the kick-off. He said that Miracle on Main would take place on December 9th. Janice Penner said that RDP would donate \$500 towards the event as done in the past. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP staff would distribute a Miracle on Main Event flyer as well as information on the kick-off.

Chuck Beaty stated that along with the increasing number of individuals traveling up and down Mt. Rubidoux, safe walk-ability is being threatened by the bikes, skateboards and electric scooters (BIRDS). He gave multiple examples of various cities that were attempting to ban the BIRDS and stated his concern for these scooters and the lack of enforcement with them. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that there were meetings taking place in an attempt to regulate the quantity and placement of these scooters. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the topic of electric scooters would go to the Transportation Committee to regulate/ban/define pathways.

Stan Morrison stated his appreciation for those who attended Alpin Hong's performance at the Henry W. Coil Sr. and Alice Edna Coil School for the Arts and noted the uniqueness of the concert hall.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – November 14, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned until November 14, 2018.