



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Cherie Crutcher, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Irving Hendrick, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Philip Makhoul, Stan Morrison, Geoff Neely and Nick Kreuter, Brian Percy, David St. Pierre, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Charity Schiller, Ian Davidson, Brandy Marian, Cara Swearingen

Absent: Corinne Awad, Erin Edwards, Daniel Iglesias, Amir Mertaban, Jeff Kraus, Marco McGuire, Lou Monville, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Mike Gardner, Oz Puerta

Staff: Janice Penner, Kate Stovicek

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Self introductions conducted. David St. Pierre stated that he had acquired 50 bricks from the Stalder building which he would make available in January. Bill Gardner stated that there was a significant amount of gum on the sidewalks and inquired if there was a program to remove it. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that they would be power washed away. Chuck Beaty said that there were 1,700 individuals walking Mount Rubidoux during the week and 5,000 on weekends which caused problems. He added that the problems were made worse by dogs and electric scooters left on the trail at various locations.

Cherie Crutcher stated that the 10th Annual Red Dress Fashion Show would take place on Saturday, February 23. She said that the expansion of the Emergency Room from 50 beds to 68 beds would be finished by the end of January 2019. She stated that approval was granted for further expansion of the Emergency Room over the following year and a half, which would allow for even more beds. She added that the mother-baby unit had also been expanded to offer privatized rooms.

3) Minutes of November 14, 2018.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 14, 2018

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that there was live entertainment on Main by Imperial Hardware Lofts that attracted a well-behaved, large crowd. Janice Penner stated that the City was trying to be respectful of the new downtown residents within the Festival of Lights event footprint. She added that the Riverside Arts Academy would be performing at a special event the following day at 5:30 pm next to Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. She added that the event would recognize a military family from March Air Base. She noted that Geoff Neely had donated a gift

card from Heroes Restaurant and Brewery, Mario's had donated a dinner and RDP had donated a gift card from MP Couture.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Recommendations for Downtown Achievement Awards

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the recommendations for the Downtown Achievement Awards were outlined in the board package and inquired if there were any questions regarding those recommendations. No questions were raised.

Motion: To approve the recommended recipients for the 2019 RDP Awards.

Motion made by: Brian Percy **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried

5b) Nominating Committee and ballot to be sent to Members

Justin Tracy stated that Stan Morrison should be one of the board members in the next year. Janice Penner stated that was one of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. She stated that the final slate would be brought to the Board at the February 2019 meeting. She stated that the only time sensitive issue was the ballot to be sent out to the members.

Stan Morrison stated that Pacific Premier Bank was growing and with the merger, 60 individuals were let go including him. He declared his appreciation of the individuals associated with the bank and his time with it. He thanked the RDP Board for keeping him on. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that his presence and input were positive for the RDP Board.

Motion: To approve the recommended officers for the 2019 term of the RDP Board of Directors.

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

Motion carried

6) Items for Information

6a) RDP Holiday Reception

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the RDP holiday reception was held on Thursday, December 6th from 11 am to 2 pm at Loft.84. She added that in spite of the rain, there were over 100 attendees. She also stated that she and Cindy Alden enjoyed hosting the reception at Loft.84. Shelby Worthington-Loomis was thanked for use of the space and for the food provided.

6b) RDP Annual Meeting

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the Annual Meeting was booked at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa for Wednesday, February 20th. She said that RDP staff would be working with the banquet staff on the menu and pricing. She added that the ticket price would be set shortly.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that sponsorships for the event and the awards, and donations for the Opportunity Drawing were requested and that the sponsorship form was in the board package for consideration.

Janice Penner stated that the Roy Hord nomination form had also been included in the board package and was available on the RDP website. She encouraged individuals to complete nomination forms for submission. She added that there were three nominations thus far and she would be sending a reminder for additional nominations.

6c) Update on RDP activities and items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the RDP Ambassadors provided parking information to downtown businesses and distributed Festival of Lights event information. She said that RDP also coordinated the window decorating contest for downtown businesses for the Festival of Lights. She noted that the Riverside Art Museum did the judging and selected the three prize winners who received a certificate and cash prize. She said that the first prize of \$100 was awarded to Mrs. Tiggy Winkles, second of \$75 to T. Elliott Design Studio, and third of \$50 to Windermere Tower Properties.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP was a sponsor of the 14th Annual Chanukah Festival held on Monday, December 3rd in front of the historic County Courthouse. Janice Penner stated that Rabbi Fuss' words were very inspiring as he commented on the tragic shooting in Pittsburgh.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that she made a presentation at the Executive Committee meeting on December 4th in recognition of Shirley Schmeltz's 25 years of service at RDP. She added that the presentation included a gift card from the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa and a card from the RDP Board and Staff thanking her for her service. She added that she and staff would be taking Shirley Schmeltz to lunch as well.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP provided \$500 towards the Miracle on Main Street toy drive and health fair held on Sunday, December 9th.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that there would be no luncheon meeting in December. She added that the January 22, 2019 luncheon at the Life Arts Center would feature Ted Weggeland of the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau on their "Bring it Home" campaign. She said that the March 26, 2019 luncheon would be at the new Retro Taco restaurant.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial updates at November 30, 2018

Janice Penner stated that as noted, there was a deficiency of about \$5,000 compared to an expected deficiency of about \$21,300. She said that the BID levy payment for October was higher than budgeted by about \$17,000. She said that the year to date was higher by just under \$30,000. She said that there was about a \$27,000 positive variance, so RDP was in good financial shape. She added that the current positive variance was after the unbudgeted expense of the RTA security guard.

Justin Tracy stated the form for the business license had changed and that there was now a 5% discount offer to pay on time. He said that the landlord had to be listed on the form as well.

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

Motion made by: Brian Percy **Motion Seconded by:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there had been a proposal to build a warehouse in Riverside near Center Street and the Trujillo Adobe. He stated that the warehouse proposal was consistent with the zoning for the area but that he believed it to be inconsistent with the general

plans for the area. He said that after months of changes, discussions and considerations, Council voted to approve the proposal 5-2 the prior night. He stated that the proposal would go forward directly to the courts for appeal. He stated that if a warehouse was built there, it would be difficult to do anything different adjacent to it as it would with housing and other uses.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the Festival of Lights was going smoothly and that there had been only two days of cancelation of the event due to rain.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that the Hideaway bar had applied for an amendment to their Conditional Use Permit that would allow them to sell hard liquor in addition to their current permit for only beer and wine. He added that the Hideaway had been a problem location and that incidents related to the bar were being tracked to provide the planning commission with background information whether the establishment should be granted the amendment.

Cherie Crutcher stated that she had spoken with City representatives regarding events such as the Veterans Day Parade and the Black History Parade that close the roads near Riverside Community Hospital. She stated that the road closures delayed doctors in getting to the hospital during emergencies, and individuals from accessing the Emergency Room. She stated that this delayed patients' access to emergency care. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that it would be beneficial for RCH to include him in the meetings. He stated that there are a number of options that could be considered to make changes to better accommodate emergency situations.

Bill Gardner stated that after a rain, the intersections at Lime and 12th and 13th Streets would flood. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he would look into the flooding and forward the information onto the applicable parties. He added that if anyone saw this, they should notify 311.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez was not present to provide an update.

9) RPD Security Update

Lt Kevin Townsend stated that there were no significant issues with the Festival of Lights. He stated that there had been few car break-ins or stolen vehicles. He stated that the crime rates were lower due to the additional security and police officers as well as the amount of visitors.

Kevin Townsend stated that the municipal ordinance had been effective in relocating street performers. He added that the performers had been compliant in relocating to specified areas during designated times.

Kevin Townsend stated that an individual with mental issues entered the library and stated he would blow it up. He added that this individual called dispatch with the same threat. He said that the library was evacuated and the person arrested, but that he had already been released. He said that this same individual had gone into City Hall a few times requesting the President. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that this individual did have an altercation with one of the security officer and was arrested, but was released again.

Kevin Townsend stated that there would be a rally that day at City Hall at 10 am by about 100 people. He said the rally was related to AMTRAK's call center moving from Riverside, CA to Pennsylvania which would cause the loss of about 550 jobs.

Kevin Townsend stated that there were loading/unloading Uber/Lyft spaces placed on University between Orange and Lemon Streets. Janice Penner stated that Kate Stovicek would take photos of the signs to send to him. He stated that these spaces would be in effect from 8 pm to 3 am for not only Uber and Lyft riders, but other vehicles dropping individuals off.

Philip Makhoul inquired if the RTA security guard shifts had ended. Janice Penner said that it had due to the additional security in place for the Festival of Lights. She added that she agreed with Kevin Townsend that the high volume of visitors and activity deterred crime in downtown.

Kevin Townsend stated that about half of the electric bike fleet had been damaged since the program started but damages ceased once Festival of Lights begun. He added that each bike was worth \$3,700. Janice Penner stated that some of the damage also risked injury to others.

Discussion took place regarding an incident between patrons at Heroes that resulted in five employees sent to the hospital, and segued into RPD's delayed response time and the increase in aggression amongst some patrons of downtown businesses.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that RPD had netted 17 new officers, which was the goal. He stated that the next goal would be to hire another 16 officers with a total of 60 new officers in the five year plan. Kevin Townsend said that the gross gain was 17 officers, but the net gain was less due to retiring/injured officers. He added that Chief Diaz had recognized the need in downtown Riverside which currently had four officers assigned to 1/3 of a square mile. He said that in January there would be four additional officers assigned to downtown for a total of eight officers for the area. Chuck Beaty stated that another concern was that recruiting officers was challenging regardless of funding.

Brian Percy inquired if the issues experienced at some of the entertainment establishments were unique to downtown or prevalent at other venues in Riverside. Kevin Townsend stated that the issues experienced in downtown were unique due, in part, to the close proximity of bars to each other and the significant number of visitors. Janice Penner stated that both IDA and CDA cited similar issues in various downtowns that paralleled downtown Riverside's. She stated that the high concentration of individuals contributed, as did the area being easily walked by visitors. David St Pierre added that the parking structures and walkability of downtown Riverside made it a destination that allowed for "bar-hopping" rather than patronizing one business in an area.

Discussion took place regarding the 'Onesie Pajama Pub Crawl' and the disorganized method in which the event was conducted. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired if there was some way to require a permit from the organizers so that standards and expectations of the entertainment establishments could be clearly communicated and upheld. She stated that she would send the contact information of the organizer to Councilman Mike Gardner.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that Riverside Food Lab had been nominated as one of the best food halls in the entire country by USA Today. He said that he would share the link to be used for voting. He said that the voting would end the first week in January.

Nathan Freeman stated that the City stopped the shoring and sinking of piles at the Stalder Project to lessen the impact on the neighboring businesses. He added that the alley next to the project would be developed last. He added that there would be public parking, commercial space and 160 apartment units.

Nathan Freeman stated that after his discussion with the new owners of the red brick building at Market and University, the garage was made available for the Festival of Lights and over 200 vehicles parked there the prior weekend. He stated his appreciation of the owners in doing so. He added that the owners would also be investing \$5 million into renovating the building into downtown Riverside's third Class A office building.

Nathan Freeman stated that both the Hampton Inn and the Main and Ninth projects were on schedule. He added that Arteco Partners were planning a proposal for Chow Alley by March 2019. Councilman Mike Gardner predicted that construction would likely begin in the summer of 2019. He added that the County had granted access to two large parking structures from Thursday through Sunday weekly for Festival of Lights. He added that the old bus station lot as well as the location planned for Chow Alley had been striped for additional temporary parking.

Nathan Freeman shared a message from Margie Haupt regarding the LED lit swings within the Cal Tower block on Main. He stated that the durability of the swings had not been sufficient for the number of users and therefore they would be removed.

Nathan Freeman requested that any businesses that the Board was interested in having in downtown Riverside should be sent to him for his and his colleague's trip to the annual International Council of Shopping Centers conference.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Oz Puerta stated that the Winter Wonderland event on December 1 went well especially considering the heavy rain the day prior. He stated that Santa was brought in by helicopter and there was 65 tons of snow along with over 100 volunteers. He said that ABP would be working on the Chili Cook-Off in January and would be transitioning to a new electronic newsletter in January. He said that he would be working on fine tuning the website to be more efficient. He added that the lights were put up in Arlington Park, which Bill Gardner complimented.

12) New Business

Irving Hendrick thanked RDP for the recognition and card and stated that the new RCC President, Gregory Anderson, would begin work in January. He added that Dr. Anderson would be the RCC representative on the RDP Board.

David St Pierre stated that toys were given to over 1,500 kids at the Miracle on Main Street event.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – January 9, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned until January 9, 2019.