



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Charity Schiller, Erin Edwards, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Jeff Kraus Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Philip Makhoul, Marco McGuire, Stan Morrison, Geoff Neely, Brian Percy, Sergio San Martin, David St. Pierre, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Gregory Anderson, Ian Davidson, Brandy Marian, Lou Monville, Bob Nagle,

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Daniel Iglesias, Cara Swearingen

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. Nanci Larsen stated that DANA would be hosting four quorums in the spring with the Ward One candidates, and a meet and greet. She added that they were looking for sponsors and for those interested to contact her.

Janice Penner stated that Kathleen Hartman would receive the Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' Award.

3) Minutes of December 12, 2018.

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

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that preparations were taking place for the Annual Meeting.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Scooter – RDP position on issue – referral to Land Use

Janice Penner stated that the issue of scooters had been discussed at both the RDP Land Use and RDP Security Committees meetings. She said that at the RDP Land Use Committee meeting in December, the consensus was that the issue should be referred to them to develop a position on the issue. She said that it was felt that the RDP Land Use Committee was the most appropriate committee as the issue went beyond safety and security. She added that the Executive Committee agreed that the issue of scooters be referred to the Land Use Committee to develop a position, and then go to the Executive and then the Board of Directors for approval.

Janice Penner asked the Board members for input, and noted it was also being requested from the RDP Security Committees. She said that she sent links to the Board of articles from various cities/organizations in the International Downtown Association that had dealt with or were in the process of dealing with the scooter situation. She said that she also provided the National Association of City Transportation Officials Shared Active Transportation Guidelines for reference. She stated that the current consensus was that while scooters were in many

respects beneficial for a downtown or city, regulations were needed to deal with problems such as speeding and pedestrian safety.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the scooters were frequently used and she had noticed a decrease in abuse due to the scooters. Janice Penner stated that the RDP Ambassadors had experienced issues with scooters on the wrong way of the garage ramps posing a danger to vehicles and safety of the rider.

Chuck Beaty stated that there was an ordinance prohibiting scooters and skateboards on Mount Rubidoux but some individuals still used scooters on the mountain and posted videos of themselves doing so. He said that this raised the concern that the videos would encourage other individuals to violate the ordinance.

Nanci Larsen stated that scooter and bike riders were racing each other and running lights, causing extreme safety concerns. Discussion took place regarding the misuse of the scooters with multiple passengers, riders under the legal age, etc.

Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that the Traffic Engineering Department had been working with the scooter companies to create some regulations. He said that in one of the meetings with Bird, one of the scooter companies, the representative stated that in many other cities there was a spike of misuse and vandalism when the scooters were introduced but that subsided over time. He said that the top speed of the scooters was 15 mph and that they had the ability to geo-code a specific speed in a certain area but would only do so if every company agreed to do the same. He stated that Traffic Engineering was also talking to the other scooter company, Lime, to get their cooperation. He said there was a mock up agreement/MOU similar to those in Santa Monica and Beverly Hills to attempt to get the scooter companies to agree to regulation.

Chuck Beaty stated that the scooter providers were making a significant amount of money in downtown Riverside. He added that Parks and Recreation shared that by January 1st there were a 12,000 hours of scooter use recorded in the area.

Nanci Larsen stated her concern with the scooters and the danger they posed to the blind population, considering the speed and minimal sound emitted. Chuck Beaty expressed his concern of liability with the use of the scooters. Janice Penner requested that any input be sent to her by phone or email prior to the next RDP Land Use Committee meeting on January 17th.

6) Items for Information

6a) Update on Nominating Committee and ballot sent to Members

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the ballot for election of the officers and the at large Directors was approved at the December 12th meeting and sent out on December 27th. She said that there were five on the ballot for the at large Directors including the four current. She added that the ballot was due back by January 11th.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that members of the Nominating Committee were working on their assignments regarding Board composition, and that the final Board Slate would go to the Board for approval at the February 13th meeting.

6b) RDP Annual Meeting

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the Annual Meeting had been booked at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa for Wednesday, February 20th. She added that The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa had

confirmed the same price per person as the prior year so there was no increase in the ticket price per person or table. She said that a 'Save the Date' had been emailed out with a discount for early reservations. Janice Penner added that the menu had been changed slightly with a rosemary chicken breast taking the place of the pesto chicken from the prior year.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that sponsorships, particularly for the awards, and donations for the Opportunity Drawing were being solicited. Janice Penner stated that all of the awards had sponsors to date except for the Roy Hord Volunteer of the Year Award. Charity Schiller inquired why the Downtown Event Award recipient had been changed from Riverside Art Museum to Riverside Art Alliance. Janice Penner explained that Drew Oberjuege, RAM's Executive Director, indicated that the Riverside Art Market event was created and managed by the Riverside Art Alliance.

6c) Update on RDP activities and items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP updated its destination ad with a new tag line, "Downtown is Calling – Good Times Await" to reflect the new emphasis on experience marketing. She said that the ad was included in the board package. She stated that it would be placed in the upcoming hardcover issue of Inland Empire magazine as well as other magazines. She said that Geographics would also prepare a business card size ad for programs. She added that Geographics had been asked to update the website and Facebook page with the new look, and provide a new PowerPoint presentation template. She said that other RDP collateral would be updated as appropriate. Janice Penner stated that Justin Tracy with PIP had made adjustments to the invitation to reflect the new ad. She added that the new Annual Reports would also reflect the update. She said that Nanci Larsen suggested adding the word "tour" to the content of the ad

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the application for City sponsorship of RDP activities in the second half of 2019 would be sent in early January 2019. She said that the Post Event Sponsorship Report for the second half of 2018 had been completed and filed with the City.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the January 22nd luncheon at the Life Arts Center would feature Ted Weggeland of the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau on their "Bring it Home" campaign and would be sponsored by Provident Bank. She said that the March 26th luncheon would be at the new Retro Taco restaurant. Janice Penner added that Nathan Freeman and his Economic Development team would be speaking at the March luncheon regarding downtown development; she said that she had identified a sponsor for the March luncheon and would be working on securing the sponsorship.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that planning had started on the Doors Open Riverside event scheduled for May 11th. She said that the event had been moved to a Saturday with tours taking place from 10 am to 4 pm depending on the location. She said that the event would be the subject of a workshop at the Neighborhoods USA conference in Palm Springs in May 2019 with Scott Watson and Stephanie Harvey from the City, Nanci Larsen from the Mission Inn Foundation and Museum, and Janice Penner from RDP presenting.

Janice Penner stated that the feedback that was received regarding the prior Doors Open events was that when the event took place on a Thursday evening, attendees did not have enough time to visit many locations. She said that the goal was to offer the event in future on both Saturday and Thursday evening to accommodate businesses not able to participate on the weekend. She stated that this year would allow for an assessment of attendance on a weekend day. She added that with the expansion of locations, one challenge with hosting the event on

two days of the week would be the limited number of docents. She stated that at every location, there had to be two or more docents plus volunteers. She stated that the ten to fifteen new locations were in clusters for the benefit of attendees.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis expressed her disappointment that Loft.84 and Thee Olde Chapel on Fourteenth Street would be unable to participate this year due to events already booked for the date. She stated that she looked forward to 2020 Thursday evening for the 300 to 400 attendees of Doors Open they typically attracted.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that planning had also begun with the City on Summer Lunches in Downtown and Movies on Main planned for the summer months. Janice Penner added that there were three partners, Park and Recreation, Arlington Business Partnership and RDP, that booked the movies to ensure various movies played throughout the city. She stated that RDP had proposed about seven or eight movies to the other partners for input. She added that typically, Movies on Main took place every Thursday night in July, but due to the Fourth of July being on a Thursday this year, the movie nights would take place July 11th, 18th, 25th and August 1st.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial updates at December 31, 2018

Janice Penner stated that the financial report for December showed a deficiency of \$3,129 compared to an expected surplus of \$49,901. She said that this was due to the BID levy payment for November payable in December was lower than budget by about \$52,265 which resulted in BID levy income year to date being lower by about \$22,831. She said that year to date financial results showed a \$25,998 negative variance due largely to the lower BID levy income. She said that was expected to reverse the following month when BID levy income should reflect year end Business Tax payments. She said other variances in expenses were primarily due to timing of receipts and invoices.

Janice Penner added that as noted in the balance sheet, RDP had money in Checking and Money Market and sufficient money in reserves.

Motion: To accept the financial reports at December 31, 2018

Motion made by: Brian Percy

Motion Seconded by: Nanci Larsen

Motion carried

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Lynn Anderson stated that the Council had approved switching to a GIS system, which would aid with Public Works, dispatch, emergency services and other various services. Council Andy Melendrez stated that there would be an effort to streamline departments more appropriately.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that he had focused on engaging the community in more activities to improve the Eastside's reputation and deter gang activity. He stated that one of the actions taken was the creation of Riverside Arts Academy about five years prior. He said that the initial goal was to enroll about 50 to 70 children to participate in classical music. He said that in 2019, effective from July 1 to December 31, the school would serve about 1,200 children; with about 80% of students being from low-income backgrounds. He stated that the program offered

six week programs in a range of musical instruments for \$15 if the students were from a low-income background. He stated that currently the school had formed a youth orchestra and in time would form a choir. He said that \$80,000 to \$100,000 was needed every year to ensure that this school could continue with its influence in the Eastside community. Janice Penner stated that the Riverside Arts Academy conducted a performance on December 9th to recognize a military family. She added that it was extremely heartwarming. She added that the academy was always looking for donated gently used musical instruments.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the first Christmas bike ride had taken place. He added that there were about 20 individuals in attendance. He said that there was Santa in the Park at Lincoln Park. He said that there had been a bike and scooter safety seminar held as well, at which Lime demonstrated to families how to safely utilize the electric scooters. He said that Lime also offered a discount to low-income individuals who qualified. He said that there was a Patterson Park Trash Can Art Day, where volunteer groups decorated the trash bins. He said that the facility at Lincoln Park would also be painted with art within the next few weeks. He stated that there would be about four to eight new large art murals created in the following six to eight months in the Eastside.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that he had begun a short video four months prior called Good Neighbor Riverside on YouTube. He said that the focus of this was to acknowledge volunteers. He added that Riverside Neighborhood Partnership was looking to gain new members. He said that the Mission Lofts was taking applications currently and the rates of apartments ranged from \$1,350 to \$1,750.

9) RPD Security Update

Kevin Townsend stated that crime in 2018 seemed to be steady. He stated that rates were confirmed in February each year when RPD reported to the State who then reported to the federal government. He added that the rates showed violent crime was flat, residential burglary decreased, commercial burglary was flat, and the only noticeable increase was theft from a vehicle along with a slight increase in auto theft. He stated that the Festival of Lights tended to deter crime for the duration of the event. He stated that there were a few cars broken into, a notable fight regarding waiting in line at the Mission Inn, and a car chase from Rialto that ended in downtown Riverside.

Kevin Townsend stated that there would be a Women's March the following Saturday at 10 am that would begin in front of the Historic Courthouse. He said that he would send further information regarding the event to Janice Penner for distribution. He stated that the prior year there had been about 2,500 to 3,000 marchers and there was an expected 4,000 this year. He stated that RPD had not had any issues with Women's Marches in the past.

Kevin Townsend stated that there were four officers assigned to the downtown area during the evenings. He said that RPD had done well with hiring and there would be eleven officers graduating from the academy the following day. He stated that due to the hiring and high population of individuals in downtown Riverside, there would be an additional four officers assigned to the downtown area, totaling eight nighttime downtown officers.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that Riverside Food Lab had been voted as the sixth best new food court in the nation. He said that this was a terrific accomplishment and great press for Riverside.

He said that the owners of Riverside Food Lab, although surprised by the large crowds during Festival of Lights, were very pleased with the amount of patronage and marketing opportunity the event created.

Nathan Freeman stated that the donut bar that was planned for the Mission Square building where the Convention and Visitors Bureau was previously located on Main St would be opening in May. He said that this concept would include artisan donuts and craft beer. He said the business was located in the Gaslamp District in San Diego and recently opened another location in Temecula that was well received. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that this business would make the donuts to order for you.

Nathan Freeman stated that the Slaters 50/50 was expecting to open in August in the space behind Wells Fargo. He stated that there were many necessary improvements to be made to accommodate a restaurant in that space. He added that Fire Up Grill on Main Street planned to open in March. He also stated that he had an opportunity to tour Retro Taco and was blown away. He highly recommended that the board members take a look into the space.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about the status of Chow Alley. Nathan Freeman responded that there was a draft lease.

Nathan Freeman stated that a 'barcade' concept for the Showcase space would be proposed to the Development Committee of the City Council. He stated that if any of the board members were willing and able to attend and speak in support of the concept, he and his team would greatly appreciate it. He added that the concept could be found in other urban locations such as San Diego and Los Angeles. He said that it was an interesting concept that combined retro video games and alcoholic beverages.

Nathan Freeman stated that the business space that had previously been Magnolia's was planned to be a Ramen Noodle restaurant.

Nathan Freeman stated that the Main and Ninth development was ahead of schedule.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

There was no update. Janice Penner shared that ABP would be sponsoring one of the Annual Meeting Awards.

12) New Business

Marco McGuire stated that the Downtown Experiment on the corner of Orange Street and University Avenue was planned to open in March.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – February 13, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned until February 13, 2019.