



Minutes

Present: Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Charity Schiller, Erin Edwards, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Daniel Iglesias, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Brandy Marian, Geoff Neely, Sergio San Martin, Debbie Rose, Cara Swearingen, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Gregory Anderson, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Ian Davidson, Philip Makhoul, Marco McGuire, Lou Monville, Brian Pearcy, David St. Pierre

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 Comment

Bill Gardner commented that the parking meter rates on single pay meters were too high and that the issue of multi-pay meters not accepting credit cards should have already been remedied. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that she would connect Bill Gardner with Dulce Gomez at the City to discuss the details and status of the parking meters.

Erin Edwards noted that DANA would be holding their monthly meeting on February 18 at Fairmont Park.

3) Minutes of January 9, 2019.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 9, 2019

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis thanked the Board members for their dedication and service to the organization over the past board term. She reminded them to make their reservations for the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. Janice Penner encouraged members to make reservations as soon as possible.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that she had spoken with City Manager Al Zelinka, Chris Christopoulos, Councilman Mike Gardner, and Margie Haupt to discuss the need for alleyway improvements. She said that there were many improvements planned including artwork, paver stones, lighting, repaving, etc. She stated that it would be aggressively addressed at perhaps one step at a time, but the combined efforts and concentration on improvement was present.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Approval of Board Slate

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the proposed Board Slate for the year March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020 was attached. She added that the Board Slate included the appointed

Directors and the elected officers and at-large Directors. She added that the changeover would be effective at the Annual Meeting with the first meeting of the new Board March 13th.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that several members were designated alternates as they represented specific sectors downtown. She stated that there were seven new Directors, plus one new one serving as an alternate, and a new appointee for District 2 County Supervisor's office. She said that all had been sent an introductory email advising them of the process and timeline, and the date of their first meeting. She added that the email also invited them to attend the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony.

Motion: To approve the Board Slate for the year March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020 as presented.

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Chuck Beaty

Motion carried

5b) Scooters – Update on RDP position

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the RDP Land Use Committee discussed the issue with input from Nathan Mustafa, Senior Traffic Engineer with the City. She conveyed that Nathan Mustafa said that the topic would go to City Council to review the proposed operating agreements, and the fees and permit program, noting that having terms and expectations in the operating agreements would allow the City to take action if there were violations. She said that the City had sent a letter to both Bird and Lime advising them that in the interim scooters needed to comply with the same regulations applicable to bikes.

Janice Penner stated that the minutes from the Executive and Land Use meetings provided more information on the scooter discussions. She said that RDP had conveyed to the City its view of scooters on several occasions. That view was that shared transportation was useful and beneficial to a downtown that was becoming more urbanized, but there were concerns regarding the speed, areas of use and underage users. She said that the consensus was to see what the City proposed in terms and then respond to that.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Council reviewed the Staff Report on scooters the night before and adopted interim rules. He apologized that RDP was not notified in advance as per the discussions at various meetings. Jeff Kraus noted that UCR had expected to be notified as well but was not. Janice Penner stated that RDP and UCR both had a vested interest in the issue of scooters. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the Council agenda was published twelve days in advance, but agreed notification should have been given as previously indicated.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that there was an interim agreement in effect to provide a level of protection to the City and its taxpayers. He said the scooter providers had expressed concern about the insurance requirements. He added that the agreement would be in effect until semi-permanent rules were adopted. He said that the City staff was unprepared to answer questions including what other cities were doing to address the scooter issues. He said that the Council recommendation was to implement the interim agreement and have staff return with answers to Council's questions, He estimated that it would take about five or six weeks to obtain those answers. He said one stipulation within the interim agreement was that scooters be geo-coded to not operate at a speed higher than 5 mph on the Main Street Pedestrian Mall. He added that State law prohibited use of the scooters on sidewalks. He said that they had not addressed operation on pathways within parks. He said that the scooter providers were required to remedy the problem of a scooter that was blocking a public right of way or ADA access or

that had fallen over within two hours of being notified of the problem. He added that the City would encourage the public to use the 311 app to report any issues and clarify which scooter provider was causing the problem (Bird or Lime). He said 311 would then forward it onto the scooter providers. He said that there would be a revenue stream given to the City for the use of the scooters within the City. He said that companies had offered one dollar per day for each scooter but it was not adopted and so currently there was no revenue paid to the City.

6) Items for Information

6a) RDP Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the invitations went out on January 12th. She said that reservations were over 210 with the incentive for people to reserve prior to January 31st. She added that tables would have pens, notepads, and business card sized magnets as small gifts.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said all of the awards had been sponsored. She said that sponsors consisted of one event at \$1,500, seven awards at \$1,000, one award in kind for the meal, five RDP Friends at \$500, two Friends at \$250, and in kind sponsorships for flowers and for printing. She said that over 40 donations had been received for the opportunity drawing and that the 'Thank You' to sponsors and donors posted on the website was attached. Janice Penner added that this was the most sponsored event thus far. She said that there were about 210 attendees the prior year and that this year attendance would be at maximum capacity.

6b) Update on RDP activities and items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the March 26, 2019 luncheon would be at the new Retro Taco restaurant with Tilden-Coil Constructors sponsoring and Nathan Freeman and team presenting on downtown developments. She said that the April 23, 2019 luncheon would be at the Riverside Marriott with Riverside Public Utilities sponsoring and Todd Corbin, new GM of RPU as the speaker. She added that Supervisor Karen Spiegel had been confirmed for the May 28, 2019 luncheon with Romano's booked for the location and staff working on a sponsor.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the 2019 Doors Open Riverside event was scheduled for May 11, 2019 and that a 'Save the Date' had been sent out to last year's participants. She said that the website was operational and a press release would be sent out shortly. Janice Penner stated that new locations had been identified and there would be clusters for attendees to visit (i.e. new locations on University Avenue and Magnolia Avenue – Heritage House, Webber House, etc.). She added that for locations that would like to participate but unable to do so on Saturday, they were looking at having a preview on the Thursday before the event.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP and City staff would be discussing an alternative event to Summer Lunches in Downtown. She said that the movies had been booked for the 2019 Movies on Main and would be listed in the Park and Recreation Summer Activity Guide. She added that the movies booked were *Hotel Transylvania 3*, *Smallfoot*, *Disney's Christopher Robin*, and *Ralph Breaks the Internet*.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial updates at January 31, 2019

Cara Swearingen stated that the financial report for the month showed a surplus of about \$34,000 compared to an expected surplus of about \$29,000, which was a result of a higher-than-projected membership and BID income. She said that for the year to date there was a surplus of \$18,656 compared to an expected surplus of \$54,027 resulting in a negative variance

of about \$35,000. She added that the variance was due largely to fluctuations in BID levy income for the year and was expected to balance out by year end.

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

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Patrick Brien

Motion carried

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the Council approved and awarded the bid for construction of the New Library the week prior. He said that the site had been fenced and that construction would begin shortly. He said that the site was significantly utilized as temporary parking during the Festival of Lights, but not as much afterward. He said that fencing the area would deter the negative loitering on the site. Janice Penner stated that the Main Library construction was discussed at the Executive committee who adopted a motion and submitted an e-comment in favor of proceeding with the bid and start of construction for the library.

Chuck Beaty stated that one of the concerns with the design of the new Main Library was that the breezeway would become a homeless shelter. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there would be a number of deterrents to loitering including constantly changing lights at night, more visibility, and the security patrol including the area in their route. He said that the security guard at the current library would be at the new library once it moved.

Councilman Mike Gardner said that a team consisting of the Riverside Police Department, Code Enforcement, Homeless Services and Public Works had been formed and were focused on moving and cleaning up homeless loitering. He said that the team had been working half a day a week and would be increasing that to three days a week starting that day. He said that there would be a proposal made the following week to increase the operation to two teams. He said that Riverside was working with adjoining jurisdictions on remedying the homeless issue in joint operations.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Council had approved the application for a three million dollar grant application, which if received, would be used to expand the Hulen Homeless Shelter. He said that this would more than double the current number of beds available, as well as provide showers, laundry units and a day center. He added that a person could not be moved off of public property for being there if there was no bed to offer that individual. He said that the individual could be moved out of a park that was closed or out of a public right of way if they were blocking it, but not otherwise. He said that he believed that those factors would help deter the homeless from loitering at the new Main Library.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the violent crime stats from 2006 to 2017 showed a 65 to 66 percent decrease in the East Side. He said that this decrease was due to many efforts including the schools emphasizing the importance of higher education, parents being involved in the HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Zone, and the Riverside Arts Academy and its arts programs. He added that there were six funded murals planned with a focus on Park Avenue between 14th Street and University Avenue to cultivate an art district through the Artist in Residence program. He noted that the Riverside Art Museum and Riverside Community Health Foundation were both involved in these efforts. He said that all of these efforts contributed to the improvement and reputation of the area.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that initially the neighbors of the Mission Lofts residential project did not want high density in the area, but through classes educating the public on the importance of more “green buildings” and more bike-able and walk-able communities, the current residents understood the effort and changed. He added that there were more projects planned for the areas closer to UCR as well, such as a state-of-the-art Starbucks with a very unique design. He said that it would connect well with UCR students and with the new hotel at University Village. He said that there was 2.2 billion dollars worth of construction taking place in Ward Two and that another goal was to focus on creating various transportation options.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that Mission Lofts had 212 units and prices would start at about \$1,600 for studio apartments with 550 to 650 square feet. He added that the affordable housing complex elsewhere would provide about 77 to 84 units with one, two and three bedroom units. He said that these apartments were estimated to cost closer to about \$800 to \$950, but that could change.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that RTCT was attempting to improve the reverse commute of the Metrolink. He said that there was a lack of train platforms which could be increased, but only by going east. He stated that a platform would need to be placed in the East Side, but there was a historic building, Royal Citrus, in the way of that development. He said that RTCT was considering and researching an adaptive reuse of the building as no one wanted to demolish it.

Chuck Beaty stated that UCR was expanding, but noted that a few of those medical expansion sites were located within other properties. He inquired if this was due to the lack of a hospital. Jeff Kraus stated that there was no plan to develop a hospital, but UCR had partnered with Health Care Providers within the region. He said that there were faculty members that had specialties where no partnership opportunities were present (largely in psychology and mental health areas). He said that due to that lack of opportunity, UCR had developed its own opportunities under the UCR health umbrella which allowed faculty to practice.

9) RPD Security Update

Lieutenant Kevin Townsend stated that Margie Haupt presented statistics from the Festival of Lights to the Council. He said that the City generated good income from the event and that there had been very little crime in the downtown core during the event.

Kevin Townsend stated that every week a crime analyst presented reports to review crime trends at a meeting he attended. He said that for the past few weeks the downtown area had very little crime. He added that there had been a few occasional street fights as bars let out. Charity Schiller inquired if there were noticeable crime trends correlated to the weather. Kevin Townsend stated that from his 20 years of experience, he noticed that when it was cold and rainy, RPD received domestic violence calls. He said that when the weather was hot, the bars were packed and there were DUIs and fights.

Kevin Townsend added that the increase of officers in the downtown area during the evenings from four officers to eight officers had a positive impact. He said that he believed that a lot of the work that they did (interactions, arrests, etc.) had prevented further criminal activity.

Kevin Townsend stated that there would be an Active Shooter seminar at the Box on February 26 at 1 pm. He said that there were 200 seats available and the seminar was free of charge.

Councilman Andy Melendrez inquired what the result of Café Sevilla's CUP going to the Planning Commission had been. Nathan Freeman stated that his understanding was Café Sevilla in its entirety would be closed. Kevin Townsend elaborated that Café Sevilla's CUP went to the Planning Commission in response to a shooting that took place in the parking lot and within the facility on Halloween night. He stated that detectives look at the criminal component, while Vice reviews the administrative side to determine if the facility violated their CUP terms. He said that the video footage showed that individuals were permitted to freely enter and exit the nightclub with no security measures in place. He said that no searches were conducted, no pat downs took place, and there were individuals wearing face masks. He added that after the review took place, the response was to serve Café Sevilla a notice to modify if not revoke their CUP. He said that Café Sevilla responded with notice of closing the entire business permanently as they could not operate profitably without the night club portion. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the Planning Commission was requested to hold their decision until Café Sevilla decided if they would surrender their CUP or oppose the Planning Commission's notice. Kevin Townsend stated that the Planning Commission's decision had not been finalized, but he was informed that Café Sevilla intended to close completely.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that now that Café Sevilla's shooting had been dealt with, Hideaway Café would be next. Shelby Worthington-Loomis noted that Hideaway Café had been of concern long before the Café Sevilla shooting, and asked if any decisions had been made regarding it. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that there had been more people who had died at Hideaway and the establishment had more problems longer than Café Sevilla. He said that however the shooting did take precedence. He said that the intent was to revoke the Hideaway Café's entertainment certificate as it was the only one that essentially was discretionary for the City. He added that the restaurant portions of both locations were good, but that the nightclub portions not run properly. Shelby Worthington-Loomis speculated that a DJ could still perform without the establishment needing an entertainment certificates and requested that it be researched and addressed if that were the case.

Kevin Townsend stated that University Square adjacent to Maxi Foods had experienced significant negative activity. He added that there had been multiple discussions regarding the issues at the center, and that he had compiled all of the statistics for 2018 (numbering about 68 pages) which he gave to the City Attorney's Office to assess any legal action that could be taken. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that his understanding was that the attorneys had enough material to justify the Chief of Police speaking to the property owners to explain that there had been too many service calls, that they would be billed for additional calls, and that they needed a security plan that the Chief approved and if it was not provided, the City would take action to close it down.

Nanci Larsen noted that the shopping center and White Park had regressed. She commended Maxi Foods for having an effective security guard and for working to improve the situation. Janice Penner stated that the property was in a critical area of downtown with the Chamber of Commerce, RCC facilities, new Main Library and the red brick building that would be investing to develop Class A offices.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that at some level, the Council should take some steps to better define what a nuisance property was. Janice Penner stated that she believed that in this case it was a delinquent property owner. Councilman Andy Melendrez agreed and added that currently all of the information was required to be compiled to justify that negative impact. He said that if there was a structure to outline and pinpoint a property as a nuisance property then the efforts to ensure that the property owners take a more active role in providing security,

safety, etc would be more influential. He said that he would take the issue to Governmental Affairs Committee to discuss it. He added that the Council needed to work in that direction because other centers like that existed all over the city. Daniel Iglesias added that Maxi Foods had employed a parking lot guard recently that would be working Monday through Sunday.

Discussion took place regarding potential parking for events taking place at White Park.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated that all of the downtown development projects were still on schedule. He said that Main and Ninth was still slated to open that summer. He said that the Stalder Plaza was still slated to open the following summer and that the Hampton Inn would have a grand opening on September 1.

Nathan Freeman stated that in May he would be attending the International Council of Shopping Centers in Las Vegas and noted that every retailer attended the show. He requested that if anyone had suggestions for specific potential retailers to add to the city to forward them to him. Shelby Worthington-Loomis suggested True Food Kitchen and said she would email him the information.

Nathan Freeman stated that the old Magnolia's space would be a Kaz Ramen, which was one of the best ramen locations. He noted that there were several LOIs for the Gallery of Flowers space being reviewed.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Kate Stovicek noted that ABP staff was working on the Chili Cook-Off event and obtaining vendors. She said that ABP had created an e-newsletter in place of the prior hard copy newsletter and had posted it for January and February. She added that ABP was looking for a videographer to update some of their social media, website testimonials, and footage and she had suggested Mind & Mill. Shelby Worthington-Loomis and Janice Penner suggested Godfather Films as another option as it was located within ABP's BID.

12) New Business

Janice Penner stated that ABP was a partner in hosting the Active Shooter seminar. She said that RDP, ABP and the Small Business Majority would provide a seminar held on April 9th at The City for Arts and Philanthropy on the new Cal Savings for Small Businesses. She stated that RDP had finalized plans for a Ward One candidate forum on April 17th at noon at Loft.84 which all four candidates would attend. She stated that RDP would be sending out notices and the forum would offer a lunch.

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