



Minutes

Present: Gregory Anderson, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Charity Schiller, Erin Edwards, Anderson Ewing, Eydee Jimenez for Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Paul Gill, Daniel Iglesias, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Philip Makhoul, Stan Morrison, Geoff Neely, Nick Pacific, Brian Percy, Thomas Portugal, Debbie Rose, Sergio San Martin, David St. Pierre, Cara Swearingen, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Todd Turoci, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Excused: Brandy Marian, Randy Hord, Shalini Lockard, Bob Nagle

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Lou Monville

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

Conducted. Stan Morrison shared information about the Riverside Sport Hall of Fame Induction Celebration on Monday, May 13th. He said that all athletes including university, high school, Olympians and professionals would all be honored.

Brian Percy stated that the Annual LEAC Appreciation Dinner would be held the following Thursday at the Riverside Convention Center. He said it was a appreciation dinner put on by businesses to honor law enforcement from Western Riverside County. He said that it was open to the public and invited businesses representatives to attend the dinner. He said he would send information to anyone interested in the dinner. He also said that the group would be recruiting board members for the following year.

3) Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2019.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of March 13, 2019

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

Motion carried

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the adoption of the alleyways meant artistic butterflies and oranges along with new paint would take place in a short period of time.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Appointment of Finance Committee

Janice Penner stated that each year the RDP Board appointed a Finance Committee to review the annual budget. She said that the Finance Committee consisted of the Treasurer as Chair, the RDP Chair, and Vice-Chair, as well as three to four Board members. She said that the 2019 Finance Committee would consist of Cara Swearingen, Shelby Worthington and Shalini Lockard as Ex-officio members. She added that Daniel Iglesias, Brandy Marion and David St. Pierre

agreed to serve as the three Board members. She stated any board members that wished to serve should let her know. She noted that the Finance Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 25th at noon. She said that she would be out of the office for part of May due to surgery.

Motion: To appoint the 2019 Finance Committee consisting of Cara Swearingen, Shelby Worthington and Shalini Lockard as Ex-Officio members, and Daniel Iglesias, David St. Pierre and Brandy Marion as Board representatives.

Motion made by: Gregory Anderson

Motion Seconded by: Bill Gardner

Motion carried

6) Items for Information

6a) Ward One Candidate Forum

Janice Penner stated that the Ward One Candidate Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th at Noon at Loft.84. She noted that all three candidates would be attending. She said that staff had distributed information regarding the forum and encouraged board members to attend. She noted that there were lunch and no-lunch options to ensure that cost was not a barrier for a public forum. She said that the lunch cost was \$20 and requested that those members who planned to attend to RSVP by that Friday.

6b) Update on RDP activities and items

i) Update on social media upgrade

Janice Penner stated that RDP requested approval for up to \$5,000 for a Facebook upgrade. She added that RDP did receive a proposal but was not proceeding. She added that additional proposals had been requested.

Janice Penner stated that RDP would be proceeding with a proposal under \$2,000 approved by the Executive Committee to reflect the new marketing theme and to ensure ADA compliance on the RDP website. She noted there were certain requirements to meet the needs of visual and hearing impaired users, and the update would increase compliance to 100% from 76%.

ii) Additional tree removal on University Ave

Janice Penner stated that RDP paid the amount approved for the tree removal on University Avenue in front of Maxi Foods. She said that Maxi Foods under California Square Partners paid the remainder and the City scheduled the tree removal before the end of April. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about replacement of the trees. Janice Penner stated that replacement of the trees was contingent on Maxi Foods agreeing to provide irrigation.

iii) Other items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP BID Bulletin, RDP Poster Calendar, and the RDP Pocket and Dining Guide had been revised to reflect the theme, 'Downtown is Calling – Good Times Await'. Janice Penner thanked the PIP Printing team for assisting with the revision of the marketing materials.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the April 23rd luncheon would be at the Riverside Marriott with Todd Corbin, the new GM of RPU, speaking and Riverside Public Utilities sponsoring. She said that the May 28th luncheon would be at Romano's with Supervisor Karen Spiegel speaking and Best Best & Krieger sponsoring. She added that the June 25th luncheon would be at the Hyatt Place with Dr. Gregory Anderson of RCC speaking and staff was working on a sponsor). She stated that RDP staff was working with Cherie Crutcher about holding the

July 23rd luncheon at Riverside Community Hospital with their new CEO and the hospital sponsoring.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that the Doors Open Riverside event was scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. She said that a number of new locations were on board including Cesar Chavez Community Center and Weber House on University, Heritage House and the Cal Baptist Henry Jekel Building and the RCC Quad and Art Gallery on Magnolia. She said that most of last year's participants were returning and the City was submitting the event for a Governor's Historic Preservation Award. Janice Penner stated that Riverside Woman's Club would be doing a Thursday night preview of their building as they were not able to participate on Saturday. She added that most of the Churches agreed to participate on Saturday, May 11.

Nanci Larsen added that the California Preservation Foundation (CPF), an organization consisting of individuals associated with architecture, construction, adaptive reuse and various corporations (i.e. Tilden Coil, Ruhnau Clarke, etc.), would be hosting its annual conference in Palm Springs the week of Doors Open. She said that CPF had arranged a bus trip to Riverside to participate in Doors Open and would be attending the event from 10 am to 3 pm.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial report at March 31, 2019

Cara Swearingen stated that the financial report for the month showed a deficit of \$1,677 compared to an expected deficit of \$15,598. She said that for the year to date there was a surplus of \$39,000 compared to an expected surplus of \$37,000. She said that as previously mentioned, the BID levy income had caught up.

Cara Swearingen stated that one topic discussed at the Executive meeting was the major variance in City Match monies due to additional security costs for RTA bus stop security.

Motion: To accept the financial reports at March 31, 2019

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 the Walk to End Homelessness in Fairmont Park, Tamale Festival in White Park and the Spring Eggstravaganza at Ryan Bonaminio Park would take place that Saturday.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated Council approved the formation of two Public Safety and Engagement Teams (PSET) consisting of police and code enforcement officers, homeless services personnel, and a contractor that would clean up after illegal encampments were relocated. He added that a representative of either Parks or Utilities would also be present if the teams were working on their property. He said that the purpose of the teams was to work city-wide to contact individuals, offer services, and to pursue repeat lower-level violators (theft, trespassing, etc.). He said that the hope was to have the teams operational within the next few weeks after a few hires and four police officers dedicated to the teams. He said that it would be re-evaluated after six months to see if/what changes were needed. Janice Penner said that RDP sent an e-comment in support of the two PSET teams.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the County would complete the new jail in Indio that year that, once fully staffed, would provide more than 1,250 jail beds. He added that would provide additional space to place those with repeat misdemeanors. He said that currently they were not getting jail time and knew that there was no threat of them getting it.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he, Councilman Andy Melendrez, and Councilman Jim Perry opposed the proposal to change the meeting schedule of City Council. He said that regardless, the change was supported by the other Council members and therefore the meeting schedule would change. He said that the change meant that Council would meet half as often with meeting days on the first and third Tuesday of the month. He stated that if there was a holiday on the Monday preceding the scheduled meeting, the meeting would be canceled and rescheduled. He said that special meetings would be called as needed for certain actions. He said that he expected the topic to return to Council. Janice Penner inquired what the rationale for the change was. Councilman Mike Gardner said that the stated rationale was that the change might save a small amount of money and added that it was Council driven.

Chuck Beaty inquired about the potential of park rangers being hired to better care for Riverside's parks. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the Parks Director and Police Chief wanted to see the effectiveness of the two PSET teams before the money and time was spent to focus on the parks.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Council also created 28 mental health beds at the Hulen Homeless Shelter. He said that they would be operated by a contractor in cooperation with the Planning and Development Committee.

Janice Penner added that RDP had contributed \$250 to refreshments for walkers at the event since the inception of the Walk to End Homelessness. She said that RDP also provided \$750 toward kids' activities at the Spring Eggstravaganza.

Bill Gardener inquired regarding the status of new functioning parking meters in downtown. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that an RFP had been prepared and hoped that the pilot project meters would be placed in May.

8b) Ward Two

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the Glow Up Event took place with about 700 attendees. He said that the program focused on the 13 to 17 year age youth group. He added that the event was to celebrate the completion of the six years of the H.E.A.L. Zone, which was a significant program within the Eastside. He said that the program received two grants each valued at one million dollars to improve the healthier eating and more active living within the Eastside Community.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that there had been a scooter training session by Bird to educate the community on proper use of the scooters. He said that an 'Adopt an Alley' program had been initiated to improve ten alleys within the community and that the City was working with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful to do so. He said that one alley had been adopted in coordination with Riverside Community Health Foundation and a mural had been painted with the help of volunteers and Public Works staff.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the Grapevine Project at Park and University Avenues had been extremely challenging for the developer. He said that the goal was to lease a portion

of the ground floor to a supermarket, but many supermarkets did not believe that Riverside was ready for that type of urban living. He said that the supermarkets were favorable of the population and demographics but not the structure.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that RCTC would be looking to expand their platforms and would go to the community with a DIR in the near future. He said that they were considering an adaptive reuse of the Royal Citrus Building.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that there was interest in re-energizing Park Avenue between 14th Street and University Avenue and that to do so, there would be a monthly or bi-monthly event hosted in that area. He said that it would close down a few blocks and combine art, music, cultural vendors, etc., and would start in the latter part of May or beginning of June and run until the end of September.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said that Mission Lofts was getting closer to opening and that once it and the Grapevine Development Project were complete, there would be over 300 residential units in the area.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the Riverside Arts Academy Gala would be held on May 15th at the Bobby Bonds Center and Cesar Chavez Community Center. He noted that the issues for residents in the area were neighbors not caring for lawns, taking parking spots or moving their trash bins, but there was a significant decrease in reports of violent crimes. He said that he believed that the Youth Opportunity Center, Riverside Arts Academy, Artist Community, expanded childcare programs, and non-profits had all made a significant change in the community.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the Council had approved \$100,000 for the design of the new Eastside Library which would be at the Cesar Chavez Community Center. He said that the community selected that site. He noted that it was the third most active library in Riverside while being open fewer hours and with a smaller space.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Council approved an interim operating agreement with the scooter companies until the final contract was created. He noted that Bird agreed, but Lime did not so Lime scooters would be removed from Riverside. He added that there was another scooter company called Spin that might bring scooters to the city. He said that the interim agreement required significant insurance (\$500 million in liability coverage), which is why Lime did not agree to the terms. He said that the usage numbers of the scooters was significant with over 60,000 rides within the first 100 days.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that the scooters allowed Riverside to meet the State's greenhouse gas requirements. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired if there had been any developments on speed regulation of the scooters. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Bird had agreed to limit the speed on the Main Street Pedestrian Mall to seven or eight miles per hour.

9) RPD Security Update

Lt Kevin Townsend followed up regarding the University Square property and that RPD had forced the property owners to provide a security plan. He said that initially the property owner was resistant, but did hire full-time security to be at the site eight hours a day, seven days a

week with several spot checks at night. He added that a few physical improvements had also been made to University Square.

Kevin Townsend stated that the officers designated to the downtown area at night seemed to have driven crime out of the downtown core. He said that there were a few fights when the bars closed around 1:30 am to 2:00 am. He said that the numbers had significantly decreased for cars broken into or stolen. He noted that Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) had been experiencing some car break-ins recently with individuals leaving items in their vehicles. Janice Penner stated that there had been discussion about putting signs in the RCH garages similar to the signs in the City garages. Kevin Townsend stated that he had met with RCH's COO, Paulina Tam, to discuss potential ideas to deter the car break-ins. He said that she would be looking into their budget and feasible options.

Justin Tracy inquired about the vehicle to vehicle shooting near Mt. Rubidoux. Kevin Townsend stated that the individual shot was affiliated with a gang but survived and would not discuss the incident. He noted that the woman and child in the car were unharmed. He added that there was a witness who noted that the vehicle being shot at did not fire back.

Chuck Beaty shared information regarding a service to be hosted by Harvest Church at Mt. Rubidoux on Good Friday. He noted that the group was expecting 1,000 people, but he predicted there would be many more. He wanted to share the information as parking in the area would not be able to support that many vehicles. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the group had received a permit for the service and elaborated on the parking available in the area.

David St. Pierre inquired if scooters were prohibited on Mt. Rubidoux and if there had been a fire in the river bottom the prior morning. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Mt. Rubidoux had not been geo-coded out of areas where scooters could be ridden. He said that the scooters were prohibited on the mountain, but there were enforcement issues. He said that occasionally individuals would take the scooters up the mountain. He said that there had been two fires in the river bottom the prior day, one of which took place at the Boy Scout camp (trash, mattress, etc.) which was quickly extinguished. He added that the second fire was of vegetation and not within the city limits (Jurupa Valley); he said that no cause was determined and that whether it was accidental or purposeful would likely never be determined.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Eydee Jimenez confirmed that Arteco Partners would be the developer of Chow Alley. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that Arteco Partners would likely be submitting something to the City in the following month or so. Nick Pacific stated that he could inquire regarding Chow Alley and follow up with the Board. He added that Game Lab would be going to Planning Commission the following day. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he would be meeting with Gerry Tessier regarding parking concerns and providing more parking in Garage Seven. Nick Pacific stated that the Game Lab would not set Chow Alley's development back.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he was unsure about the chair exhibit's status. Nanci Larsen stated that Old Riverside Foundation approached the Mission Inn Museum to be part of the exhibit, but the Mission Inn Museum's exhibit space would be dedicated to another exhibit at that time. She said that they needed more space and also suggested that they open it on Doors Open in 2020,

Councilman Mike Gardner stated that the following week, Planning Commission would be considering a request by the Hideaway Café for City approval and modification of their CUP for the sale of hard liquor. He said that staff recommendations were not to approve hard liquor sales at that location and with that operator at this time. He said that he anticipated that whatever Planning Commission decided would be appealed to City Council who would need to make a decision.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that Vice would be reviewing each bar's CUP with their owners to educate each owner on what their CUP allowed in their business. She said that the owners were wondering if there would be a six month time frame to make the business compliant to the current operations and have the fee waived. Janice Penner stated that anyone looking for more background on the topic could review the Security minutes which thoroughly covered the topic and the variances of land use and operational aspects of the CUPs. Councilman Mike Gardner stated that he was supportive of that.

Janice Penner noted that the topic was of significant interest to RDP due to the entertainment based (restaurants, Game Lab, hospitality) businesses opening in downtown Riverside within the next few years. She said that these would entice more visitors and having guidelines for hospitality was important to RDP for the continued growth of downtown. She noted that hospitality establishments generated more BID revenue for RDP and with more BID revenue, RDP could do more. She added that the Executive committee was set on using some of that money to make future improvements such as alleyway improvements.

Councilman Andy Melendrez inquired about Café Sevilla. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that it was in escrow. She inquired if anyone was aware of El Patron's status.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Kate Stovicek stated that ABP was working on their Chili Cook-Off event scheduled for May 25th with a citrus BBQ component featured. She said that ABP was continuing installation of Ring Cameras at various locations, which allowed them to provide better surveillance of the area. She added that ABP would be meeting with Godfather Films to discuss their interest in updating the video testimonials of the work that they have done in the area.

12) New Business

Janice Penner reminded Board members to RSVP for the candidate forum if they had not already done so. She noted that the option of lunch/no-lunch was provided so individuals were not prohibited from attending because of the cost.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – May 8, 2019