



Minutes

Present: Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Charity Schiller, David St. Pierre, Gregory Anderson, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Erin Edwards, David Bristow, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Paul Gill, Randy Hord, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Nick Pacific, Thomas Portugal, Debbie Rose, Kevin Townsend, Todd Turoci

Excused: Philip Makhoul, Jesse De La Cruz, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Justin Tracy

Absent: Daniel Iglesias, Geoff Neely, Cherie Crutcher, Brandy Marion, Brian Pearcy

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Andrew Guerra, Mike Gardner, Andy Melendrez

Staff: Shirley Schmeltz, Sarah Hom

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Introductions conducted. Gregory Anderson thanked the Board for buying a table at the President's Dinner. Nanci Larsen thanked everyone for their work at the Mission Inn Run. Stan Morrison stated there is a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Youth Innovations Center on November 21 at 4 pm. Chuck Beaty said the final meeting for the Friends of Mount Rubidoux is next Thursday at City Hall and would like to invite everyone to attend. He stated the water supply of Mount Rubidoux will be discussed at the meeting.

3) Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2019.

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

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Chuck Beaty

Lou Monville stated that he was present at the October 9 meeting and not Scott Magna.

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that all of the supplies needed to clean up the alleyways for her Light It Up Campaign have been ordered and the work will begin this afternoon. She stated the lighting will be totally finished by the Festival of Lights and the walls painted. She said Eydee Jimenez provided names of potential muralists and has asked Patrick Brien and David St. Pierre for additional help.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated she was at a meeting and David Welch approached her and said they will be putting lights out on the Cal Tower building and help light up Main Street. She said the trees will be cut back on Main Street and that new coverings for the electrical outlets will be made to deter the homeless from breaking into them.

5) Items for Discussion

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated Dulce Gomez agreed to talk about the parking meters at the December 11 Board Meeting.

5a) Nominating Recommendations

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the changes to the Bylaws are being recommended to make RDP more open and able to address future issues, particularly with the preparation of a new Strategic Plan. She said the Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations at their meeting on November 5. She stated individuals have expressed interest in being involved with RDP and the open nomination process will allow them to submit their names. She said revision of the various director categories will allow more flexibility in nominations and the expansion of the Executive Committee will provide more people to handle issues and responsibilities.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Executive Committee has always been a seven member committee, but is now looking to expand it to nine members. She stated the positions will be held for two-year terms for continuity sake. She said anyone who is interested in becoming more involved with RDP is able to submit their own name. Discussion took place in regards to what qualifies an individual to join the Board.

Bill Gardner inquired about the two-year term and a transitioning period. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Board needs to be a team, so having a staggering two-year term would not work. Shirley Schmeltz stated the new Board and all the changes will be during February 2020, with the new Board of Directors effective March 2020. Discussion took place in regards to communication between the Board and the Executive Committee, and the possibility of staggering terms among elected members. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the topics could be brought up in future meetings.

Bill Gardner inquired about having two separate groups on the Board, one business and the other residents. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated having different groups on the Board is desirable.

Chuck Beaty inquired about the new Strategic Plan. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated all of the discussed material will be sent out to the Board. Chuck Beaty inquired about the order of implementation. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said updating the Board Bylaws before updating the Strategic Plan made sense so the Plan reflects the new structure. She inquired if having term limits was something the Board wanted the Executive Committee to discuss.

Discussion took place in regards to specific sections of the Bylaws. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the questions would be addressed in the information to come.

Chuck Beaty inquired about commitment of the Board members. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated attendance is one commitment as well as paying membership dues. She said a lot of the members on the Board are not paid members. Discussion took place in regards to membership fees. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said if someone is currently serving on the Board, then they will receive a discounted membership fee. She said it will be \$100 per Board member. For anyone not currently serving on the Board it would be \$150. Shalini Lockard stated this would be considered a new requirement for the Board members. She said no one is in violation if they are not paying their membership dues because it is not a current requirement.

Paul Gill inquired about the intention to bring up these changes for further discussion. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the purpose of bringing up these changes at the meeting was to

know questions members might have. She said if these questions are brought up, then the questions can be addressed as it is presented to the Board. Discussion took place in regards to writing in certain expectations into the Bylaws. David Bristow requested that everyone receive a copy of the Bylaw for the next meeting. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said there will be an appointed committee to work on the Strategic Plan this.

Shalini Lockhard stated that if RDP and the Board want a vibrant Downtown, then a crucial role is to develop future leaders. She said she believes the term limit is very necessary for this course of action. She said something needs to be set in the Bylaws in order to have fresh ideas and fresh voices. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said giving the Board a voice and an opportunity to vote for the next leader is the best thing to do.

Jeff Kraus said the Bylaws should clarify the role of the Executive Committee and the Board. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said all of these questions and comments would be addressed by Janice Penner.

6) Items for Information

6a) BID Renewal Public Hearing

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said due to the Council changing the number of meetings, the required timeline has the Public Hearing on December 3 and not November 5. She stated a PowerPoint presentation will be made and that the time of the session has yet to be confirmed. She said once the time is confirmed, the Board members will be advised and encouraged to attend. She stated she will be the one giving the PowerPoint presentation and Shalini Lockard will be in attendance.

6b) Update on RDP activities and items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the electrician has provided an estimate of the cost for fixing the lighting, which is \$5,000 higher than the original of \$10,000 due to the need to upgrade the electrical capacity. She said there is a need to get this done before the Festival of Lights, so she will be soliciting the difference from businesses and property owners who would benefit. She stated all contributions are welcome. She said she is looking forward to all of the murals that will be installed in the alleyways.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the November luncheon will be at the First Congregational Church and feature a presentation on UCR from Jeff Kraus. She said Retro Taco will be providing the lunch.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP sponsored the Halloween Fest and was a sponsor of the Day of the Dead. She said both events were successful and well attended.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP is sponsoring the Festival of Lights Window Decorating Contest. She said RDP is also assisting with the Riverside Arts Academy Festival of Lights performance and military recognition.

6c) RDP Holiday reception

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Holiday Reception is planned for December 5 at Loft .84 from 11 am to 3 pm and encouraged Board Members to attend.

6d) RDP Annual Meeting Award Suggestions

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said suggestions are being solicited for recipients for Arts and Culture, Business Activity, Downtown Event, Downtown Improvement, and Safety and Security. She said recommendations will be brought forward to the December meeting for approval. She said recipients do not have to be based in Downtown, but must be in Riverside and have activities in Downtown. She asked the Board to please send recommendations to the RDP staff.

Bill Gardner inquired about receiving a list of past recipients of the awards to avoid repeating.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial reports at October 31, 2019

David St. Pierre stated the financial report for the fiscal year shows a deficit of \$34,780 compared to an expected deficit of \$49,400 resulting in a positive variance of \$14,619. He said as of October 31, 2019 there was an Accounts Receivable of \$39,526 and Accounts Payable of \$3,507. He said RDP has two Checking Accounts and one Money Market Account for a total balance of \$228,453. He said RDP reserves include four CD's for a total amount of \$324,275.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward 1 Update

Councilman Mike Gardner stated Festival of Lights has been shortened by a week this year and will now end in December. He said to plan to come to the Festival of Lights between Christmas and New Years. He stated the carousel and Ferris wheel are in the City Hall parking lot. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Festival of Lights is also starting a week later.

Councilman Mike Gardner said in response to the Booster Station in the park that Chuck Beaty mentioned; the reason for this is to increase water flow and not so much water pressure. He stated the irrigation system at the park has never been completely functional. He said there used to be neighbors who would water everything in the Park with their personal hoses or hoses in the park, but most of them have all moved away so the majority of the park is dead. He said there is a master plan for development for this park. He stated he believes this is an important project and will allow the park to be restored. Bill Gardner stated the new water flow at the park will help with fire control.

Councilman Mike Gardner stated he was not re-elected as councilman for another term. He said it has been an honor to work with everyone for sixteen years. David Bristow said he wanted to commend Councilman Mike Gardner for his service to the City and RDP.

8b) Ward 2 Update

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Avilas have done a lot of work at the old Sevilla building and are good tenants. He said it has gotten quieter in the surrounding area of the old Sevilla building and prior to the shootings that took place there, there were few noise issues. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said Chuck and Naomi Avila have bought the old Sevilla building and have named it the Avila Historic 1929, which was when the building was built. She said the Avilas have the rooftop and night club aspects. The rooftop area called the Portico and the night club called El Sueno. She said it is a banquet facility with rooftop access for events. She stated the other side of the building where the dining room and the Club Flamenco used to be is now called the Legacy, which has been taken on by her and her partner and their business called Bella Teraneo. She stated her side of the building has been opened for two weeks already. She invited everyone to the Miracle on Main Kick-Off Party at the Bella Teraneo at 6 pm.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated he has been working with the new owners of the old vocational school near the train station. He said the owners of the old vocational school also own the old packing house that has been abandoned for a long time. He said Warren Diamond is working to put tenants into the building and to improve the old packing house. He stated at a meeting with Warren Diamond, they discussed the possibility of the Encore school to go in there.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said there was a press conference with the Xolos, a Mexican league soccer team from Tijuana. He stated they are called “the team without borders” with several academies throughout the Southwest. He said they chose Riverside as their main home base for the Southwestern United States component. He said since they chose Riverside, there will be more international games at some of the local high school stadiums. He stated the Xolos are approximately a one billion dollar company and Riverside is lucky to have them. He stated he believes it will be very exciting to see the Xolos grow and develop.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated on November 22 will be the 13th Annual Turkey Dinner from 5 pm to 8 pm at Lincoln Park with about 400 participants. He said it is the people from the surrounding neighborhoods who prepare all of the details for the Turkey Dinner. He said they are hoping to have the White Rose Singers from Sherman Indian High School sing some traditional Native American songs for about an hour.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said this month’s Art in the Park is going to be tied with a Thanksgiving dinner. He stated Trunk-or-Treat and several other events have taken place in partnership with the Riverside Arts Academy.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated there was a stabbing between two homeless individuals at Lincoln Park about six weeks ago, but this event has not dissuaded the neighbors since they have worked so hard over the past 16 years to improve the park. He said the community sees the opportunity to control and maintain the park by still hosting events on the property.

Councilman Andy Melendrez said the Open Door event that happens every year is a historic perspective on Riverside. He stated they are trying to get the Masonic Lodge to give the history they want to showcase the diverse background of Lincoln Park that includes military background, African American history, Latino history, Japanese history, and Korean history.

9) RDP Security Update

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated Downtown Riverside has become a hub to film commercials and movies. He said there was a movie at the top of Mount Rubidoux a couple weeks ago with Mila Kunis and Glenn Close at around 5 am filming the sunrise. He said he receives several emails and permit requests to film daily in Downtown Riverside. David St. Pierre stated that students from Chapman University filmed a movie at his bar two weeks ago.

Lt. Kevin Townsend said there were no major incidents to speak of that took place during Halloween.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated there was one week in particular where there were four cars broken into in Garage 2, but the man responsible was arrested a few days after. Councilman Mike Gardner inquired about what happened to the man responsible. Lt. Kevin Townsend said he is probably out since people who commit property crimes are not kept in jail for very long.

Lt. Kevin Townsend said there was a robbery at City Hall at 8:30 pm. He stated a guy was out on the breezeway filming himself break-dancing while another man approached him and exposed a hand gun and robbed him of his phone and wallet. Lt. Kevin Townsend said there is video footage of the event, but no arrest yet.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated the City pays for CSC Security 24/7 for the Festival of Lights. He said there will be approximately 135 officers patrolling the night of the Switch-On Ceremony. He stated there are a ton of resources dedicated to having a huge law enforcement presence during the five weeks of the Festival of Lights.

Chuck Beaty inquired about the woman living out of her jeep on Palm Avenue. Lt. Kevin Townsend said some officers have talked to her and she has moved from place to place in compliance. He stated the woman claims to have a daughter inside the mental health facility. He stated the officers have been moving her along and have offered her help, but she does not want help.

Bill Gardner inquired about having rogue cops in the department after reading an article about the issue. Lt. Kevin Townsend said there are some instances and the vast majority of rogue cops are fired. He stated the officers that are not fired are typically those who have a DUI. He said if there is any crime involved, then the officer is fired.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated the new umbrellas, tables and chairs will be installed right after the Festival of Lights. He said the reason why they are not being installed before the Festival of Lights is because new footings would have to be put in for the umbrellas. Bill Gardner inquired about removing the current umbrellas. Nathan Freeman said those umbrellas are still being used.

Nathan Freeman stated the Inland Empire Economic Partnership will be having their annual awards ceremony on Thursday, November 14. He said the City sent in a couple developments for awards and some of them have been considered as finalists. He stated two of the establishments being considered are the Riverside Game Lab and the Main + Ninth Project. He said at the 2019 Awards Ceremony, the Food Lab received an award.

Nathan Freeman said he had the opportunity to guide 25 Northern Arizona urban planning students through Downtown. He stated the students got to tour several other cities in Southern California, but said their time in Downtown Riverside was the most beneficial to be able to see a Downtown area that is up-and-coming.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about the Conference that Nathan Freeman attended. Nathan Freeman said there is a lot of information he would like to share. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said maybe he could be the guest speaker for the January Luncheon to talk about Economic Development.

Nathan Freeman stated the Hampton Inn is going to have their grand opening in three weeks.

Bill Gardner inquired about making a list of the proposed increase in residents in Downtown and believes that this would be a good sales tool for companies looking to move Downtown. Nathan Freeman stated there is a list of all of the upcoming projects that has been passed out previously. He said it would be difficult to accurately estimate the number of people living in

these developments. Councilman Mike Gardner stated the City adopted the goal of 5,000 new residential units in the Downtown area.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about an update on the Fired Up Grill and the Donut Bar. Nathan Freeman stated Fired Up is planning on opening sometime next week and the Donut Bar is still expecting to open before Festival of Lights. David St. Pierre stated the Fired Up Grill is still waiting on receiving their gas line, which may not happen until November 18.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Andrew Guerra stated ABP held their Annual Meeting for the fiscal year on October 21 and elected six new directors, which makes a total of eighteen directors on the board. He stated that a new market in the old Staples will have its grand opening tomorrow. He said the Youth Innovation Center will have the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on November 21 at 4 pm at Arlington Park. He said ABP will be having their Winter Wonderland event on December 7 in partnership with the Parks Department with more than thirty vendors at the Arlington Heights Sports Park. He stated on December 9, ABP will start working on the 2020 Chili Cook-Off.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – December 11, 2019