



Minutes

Present: Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Kevin Townsend, David St. Pierre, Philip Makhoul, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Randy Hord, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Brian Percy, Debbie Rose, Justin Tracy, Todd Turoci, Donna Stephenson, Erin Phillips, Andrew Walcker, Geoff Neely, Anderson Ewing

Excused: Charity Schiller, Gregory Anderson, Paul Gill

Absent: Daniel Iglesias, Cherie Crutcher, Brandy Marion, Nick Pacific, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Thomas Portugal, David Bristow, Jesse De La Cruz

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Oz Puerta, Dylan Steinmuller, Andy Melendrez, Paloma Montes

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz, Sarah Horn

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Nanci Larsen stated Doors Open starts on May 9th. David St. Pierre stated the Menagerie will be celebrating their 37th birthday on Friday.

3) Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2020.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 8, 2020

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Chuck Beaty

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the outlet covers were discussed in the Executive Committee meeting. Janice Penner stated the outlet covers are made out of metal and approximately \$100 cheaper than the concrete covers. She said there are 175 outlets on the Main Street Mall, but there are approximately 20 to 30 outlets that are issues due to homeless congregations. Bill Gardner stated he thought the outlets and tree lights were on timers. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated even if they were on a timer, it would not make a difference because they are unplugged. Janice Penner stated the outlets by the monuments are on all the time because of the lighting. She said the tree lights and outlets are on the same circuit.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated at the Mayor's State of the City Address, the alleyways received an award. She said she is happy they received an award, but wished it could have happened once the project was completed. She stated she would like to get everyone who was involved in the improvement of the alleyways to come together to welcome people to the new alleys. Bill Gardner inquired about whether or not the improvements of the alleyways include the ground surfaces. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the improvements include walls, lighting, and ground surfaces. She said the City within the next two years will hopefully be finished with what they need to do to complete the first alley. She said RDP wants to encourage the use of the Downtown alleys for different events once they are cleaned up.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Approval of Board Slate – MOTION

Motion: To formally adopt the elected Board of Directors Slate for the years March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2020 as presented

Motion made by: Bill Gardner
Motion carried.

Motion Seconded by: David St. Pierre

5b) Measure A support – MOTION

Bill Gardner stated he read the Measure A support document that was included in the board packet. He said he would like to see more details regarding Measure A. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated she can have some more information emailed to him. Janice Penner stated more information is also available on the RCC website.

Lou Monville inquired about whether or not RDP checks the legal regulations as they relate to RDP's non-profit status. He said there were some federal law changes that changed a few years ago. Janice Penner stated RDP has endorsed such petitions in the past. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP will look more into it. Brian Pearcy asked Lou Monville if he could share any details from the meeting he was in. Lou Monville stated it was a closed meeting, but can try to send some documents over to Janice Penner.

Motion: That RDP supports Measure A and advise the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees accordingly.

Motion made by: Patrick Brien

Motion Seconded by: David St. Pierre

Abstained: Jeff Kraus, Bill Gardner, Debbie Rose

Motion carried.

6) Items for Information

6a) RDP Annual Meeting

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the invitations for the Annual Meeting went out on January 25th and a number of "Save the Date" went out in advance. She said reservations are coming in and RDP anticipates another sell-out. She said the tables will have pens and notepads as small gifts. She stated sponsorships are a little down in comparison to last year's event. Janice Penner stated for the 2019 Annual Meeting, there were multiple people who sponsored awards. She said all five awards for the 2020 Annual Meeting are sponsored. She stated the opportunity drawing donations are down for this year's event and RDP would greatly appreciate any donation. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP is expecting a small surplus.

Bill Gardner inquired if the donation to the opportunity drawing could also be a service and not a physical award. Janice Penner said services are also accepted.

6b) Joint position on parking with the Raincross Group

Janice Penner referred the board to the minutes from the Land Use Committee meeting and the Executive Committee meeting. She said at the Land Use Committee meeting, Dulce Gomez attended and there was a large discussion on parking in Downtown. She said at the Executive Committee meeting, Doug Shackelton attended as a representative of the Raincross Group. She said a lot of the issues are outlined in the minutes. She stated Doug Shackelton attended the meeting to advise that there were certain parking issues the Raincross Group raised. She said the issues that were discussed were issues that have been discussed in the Land Use Committee meetings. She stated it was agreed that RDP would take a position with the Raincross Group on several of those issues. She said the Raincross Group agrees that the individual pay stations need to be replaced as soon as possible, that there is a need for a parking garage near the art museum, and the data from the Dixon Study needs to put forth sooner. She stated RDP has agreed to work together with the Raincross Group. She said the Raincross Group is going to bring in the Chamber of Commerce. She said RDP is waiting on the

staff report for Parking Services to understand the bigger picture. She stated there is no actual position at this point in time for a motion.

Brian Pearcy stated at the Land Use Committee meetings, there have been discussions in regards to equipment and the placement of equipment. He said the Land Use Committee has also discussed the potential increase of parking rates for the meters and parking structures. He said he anticipates the City will be looking at adding charges for parking in the structures after 5 pm and reducing the 90 minute free parking during the day. He said there have been some revenue issues. Janice Penner stated one of the issues is the leakage in revenue due to how the garages are staffed. She said people know when to enter and exit the garages to avoid paying the fee. She said Riverside has some of the lowest parking rates in Southern California and it is difficult to a profit.

6c) Strategic Plan Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated a call for participation was sent out with three possible first meeting dates and a reply date of February 18. She said the first meeting will be to discuss the process and obtain preliminary input on issues, opportunities, and challenges. She stated based on the input from that meeting, a realistic timeline and needed resources will be identified.

Janice Penner stated she has started to receive replies about which dates are good. She said she realized that not everyone will be able to participate on the date selected. She said there will be other dates and other meetings. She stated if someone is unable to attend a meeting, they are still able to provide input.

6d) RDP activities and items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the March 24 Luncheon is planned for the Riverside Municipal Auditorium with Patrick Brien presenting on the Arts Council. She said the April 28 Luncheon will be at the Riverside Women's Club with Hafsa Kaka presenting on homeless services. She said the May 26 Luncheon will be held at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa and the June 23 Luncheon will be at the Hyatt. She stated suggestions for speakers and topics are welcome.

Bill Gardner suggested the installation of porta-potties in Downtown to help alleviate the messes made by the homeless. Janice Penner stated RDP has looked at the issue of public restrooms. She said she went through several proposals with former Councilman Mike Gardner. She said the general consensus was that public restrooms only work if they are staffed 24/7. She stated if they are not staffed all the time, then they are the perfect places for problems to arise. She said she has seen public restrooms work well in cities where they are connected to public parking garages so that staff could monitor them.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP is assisting Modern Vintage Flea with their Saturday, March 28 event and encouraging Downtown businesses to participate. She said at the 2019 Modern Vintage Flea, there were not any homeless people on the mall and all of the vendors sold well-crafted merchandise. She stated she would like to bring back the Wednesday night market nights and is looking into partnering with Inspired Vibe Events.

7) Financial Reports

David St. Pierre stated the financial report for the year to date shows a deficit of \$41,481 compared to an expected surplus of \$14,355, resulting in a negative variance of \$55,836. He

said the major reason is the variance between actual and expected BID levy income for the year to date. He said hopefully this will reverse over the next few months.

David St. Pierre stated it should be noted that the unbudgeted expenses for the StreetPlus Safety Patrol will continue to be reflected in the variances.

David St. Pierre stated RDP had \$187,279 in two Checking and on Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. He said RDP reserves include four CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and Provident Bank for total reserves of \$326,292.

David St. Pierre stated as of December 31, 2019 Accounts Receivable equal \$69,728 and Accounts Payable equal \$12,248.

Brian Percy inquired if the BID levy is down because of time or less revenue. David St. Pierre stated RDP does not know exactly why. He said RDP expected the BID levy to be up because of the new businesses that are Downtown. Janice Penner stated she and Shirley Schmeltz checked with business tax. She said RDP is monitoring the situation. She said the RDP budget is based on previous years. She said the fluctuation in BID levy is a reflection of what happened last year.

Brian Percy inquired if the City has noticed if their business tax revenue is also down. Janice Penner stated the City has noticed a fluctuation in how people pay as well. Brian Percy suggested having the data from the City pulled and presented at the next RDP board meeting to see if there is a correlation between variances. Janice Penner stated she will reach out to the City.

Justin Tracy stated the change in payment methods is not beneficial because it delays payments. He said his general revenue has tripled over time, but he is still paying the same initial percentage as he did years ago.

Janice Penner asked Councilman Andy Melendrez if he has a different perspective on the matter. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated he can look into it and discuss it with Councilwoman Erin Edwards.

7a) Financial reports at January 31, 2020 – MOTION

Motion: To accept the Financial reports at January 31, 2020

Motion made by: Brian Percy

Motion Seconded by: Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward 1

Paloma Montes stated the river bottom fire was approximately 60 acres. She said the fire department evacuated two streets for a short period of time. She said it was a four acre fire at Martha Macqueen on Monday. She said there was another fire in the river bottom near the solar farm yesterday.

Paloma Montes is co-hosting a community meeting on February 19 at 7 pm at Trinity Lutheran with the Grand Neighborhood Group, DANA, and the Riverside Fire Department. She said the Riverside Fire Department will have a chance to go over their Santa Ana river bottom response plan. She said although the meeting falls on the same night as the RDP Annual Meeting and

Award Ceremony, Councilwoman Erin Edwards will still attend both events. Chuck Beaty suggested the Council member from Jurupa Valley should also attend the meeting because the other half of the river bottom is on the Jurupa Valley side.

Brian Percy stated when the fire happened in the river bottom, there was a power shut down in parts of Downtown that lasted for several hours. He inquired as to why areas of Downtown were shut down when surrounding neighborhoods of the fire were not. Justin Tracy stated there is a power line that runs right through the river bottom that is connected to a small strip of Downtown. He said the power lines are routed in a strange shape. Brian Percy inquired if there was any way the power source could have been switched to a different line. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated he is not familiar with how the power grid works, but similar actions are taken for other neighborhoods.

Paloma Montes stated Ward 1 honored DANA for their twenty members that completed service training. She said there is a DANA meeting at 7 pm on Monday, February 17 at the Isaac Walton Club. She stated Nathan Freeman will be speaking.

Paloma Montes stated Ward 1 received an update on the 2019 Festival of Lights council. She said there was more money received through sponsorship this year than ever before. She said the FOL attendance was down overall, which was mostly due to the weather and time frame. She said the report is on the City website.

Paloma Montes stated there is a Community Service and Youth Committee meeting today at 3:30 pm with an update from the Cheech.

Paloma Montes stated there will be important updates going to Council on February 25. She said the Innovation District will give an update and there will be a presentation by TIG/m on the possibility of an electric tram coming to Riverside. She said there will be a discussion item on the potential creation of an Office of Sustainability in the City. She said the board can stay up to date with the agenda details through social media.

Bill Gardner inquired about including the Arts District with the Innovation District. Nathan Freeman stated the Innovation District is a geographic area that includes the Arts District and other surrounding areas of the City. Jeff Kraus stated the title "Innovation District" is considered to be a place holder and there are discussions to brand it something else.

8b) Ward 2

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated there were two fires at Sycamore Canyon. He said the fire department suspects that the fires were started by homeless. He said the fires will cause people to be more aware of large open spaces where the homeless may be living. He said with the increase in higher winds, it is necessary to be more proactive in moving the homeless people out of the areas.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Riverside County Transportation Commission is looking to expand their platform at the Metrolink Station to provide more reverse commutes for people living in Orange County and Los Angeles. He said for RCTC to expand the platforms, they would go east into the Eastside. He said there are discussions to knock the Royal Citrus buildings down to be able to expand the platforms. He stated he suggested an adaptive reuse of the buildings because they are a historical location in the City. He said RCTC is doing some community outreach. He stated he thinks the expansion would be a good idea and allow for an

increase in the Eastside community. He said it is a good time to make comments and visit the RCTC website to provide input.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated RCTC made a presentation to City Council a month ago and he suggested the implementation of a pedestrian bicycle bridge going over the 91 freeway into Downtown and connecting it with the Metrolink Station. He stated RCTC would be open to talking about the bridge if the City staff was also open to a discussion. Nathan Freeman stated he has the project managers contact information that he will send to Janice Penner for her to send it out to the rest of the Board. He said RCTC is looking for feedback.

Andrew Walcker stated a couple years ago, the City entered into a hub grid system with RTA and moved out the station where the New Main Library is being built. He said he understands the on-street transfers are a temporary situation. He inquired about the timeline as to when the on-street transfers will be moved to Vine Street. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated he is not aware of a timeline. He said RTA is going to start building a new location between Vine Street and the 91 freeway. He said the new location should alleviate some of the issues. He stated he is not sure if it will be a full transfer or not. He stated he will talk to RTA about the timing of it and assumes construction will start within the next year.

Brian Percy inquired about whether or not CalTrans has been brought into the discussion about the pedestrian walkway from the Metrolink Station to Downtown. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated he is not aware of CalTrans being brought into the discussion yet. He said a road was being discussed to connect the bus transits. He said the County Administrative parking lot would be where the bridge would connect to Downtown. He said this is just a conceptual idea.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis suggested gathering all the fire and police reports for Lemon Street and University Avenue for the bus hub and grid. She stated she believes RTA needs to take some informative action in this area. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the grid allows the City to reconfigure some of the bus routes through our ten year plan, which allows for more frequency.

9) RDP Security Update

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated the river bottom issue is difficult to monitor for the police department. He stated the police department has their officers focus more on the developed parts of the City and in Downtown. He said the officers do not visit the river bottom that frequently, but when they do, they have an alternate uniform to put on because of how dirty they get. He said officers have made contact with homeless people in the river bottom. He said the homeless stay on the Downtown Riverside side of the river bottom instead of the Jurupa Valley side. He said the river bottom is a constant battle. He said in order to have a large presence in the river bottom; the department would need more people.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated since 2020 began, the new municipal codes and ordinances took effect. He said the new street performer ordinance does not outlaw street performers, but requires the performers to do it safely without blocking the sidewalk and being ten feet from a bus stop or storefront.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated the bars and nightclubs are slowly transitioning into the new entertainment permit that took effect on January 1. He said there is a grace period for the

entertainment permit. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired if the application process is something that can be done in one day. Lt. Kevin Townsend stated he is not sure.

Lt. Kevin Townsend stated Larry Gonzales is now the permanent Chief. He said Bruce Blomdahl was promoted to Deputy Chief. He said he was promoted to Captain and today will most likely be his last RDP Board Meeting. He said the new officer that will be replacing him at the RDP meeting is being discussed.

Shalini Lockard stated two weeks ago there was a transient that started a fire in her parking lot by the electrical box. She said she wanted to thank the Fire Department for their quick response and the Police Department for handling the transient.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commended Captain Kevin Townsend for all of his hard work and service to the RDP Board.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman stated he will be giving a presentation on Downtown development updates to the DANA Board on Monday, February 16 at 7 pm at Fairmount Park.

Nathan Freeman stated in May he will be attending a conference in Las Vegas for the International Council of Shopping Centers. He said every single retailer in the country will be in attendance. He asked the Board to let him know if there are any specific retailers they would like to see in Downtown so that he and his team can try to reach out to them in Las Vegas.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about the status of the Main Street Mall furniture. Nathan Freeman stated all of the furniture and umbrellas have been purchased. He said the installation had to be re-bid because the initial cost was outrageous. He said the splash pad is also going to be addressed.

Bill Gardner inquired about status of the wood structures on First Street and Market Street. Nathan Freeman stated the Centerpointe Apartments have not stalled. Lou Monville stated the apartments are getting their electrical work done, so it is all internal.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Oz Puerta stated he is the new Executive Director as of Monday and ABP is transitioning with some staffing changes. He said ABP are preparing for the Annual Chili Cook-Off. He said ABP is revamping their website to enable forms for grants to be completed online.

12) New Business

Chuck Beaty stated there was an article on Boise, Idaho and their homeless problem. He said in Idaho, the homeless are put in jail to keep them off the street. He said it would be beneficial for the City to look into having another facility for the homeless people to go to and give them the option of the facility or prison. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated she has a lot of ideas and plans for how to best handle the situation.

13) Adjournment and next meeting date – March 11, 2020

