



**Minutes**

**Present:** Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Charity Schiller, David St. Pierre, Philip Makhoul, Gregory Anderson, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, David Bristow, Jesse De La Cruz, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Paul Gill, Randy Hord, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Brian Percy, Thomas Portugal, Debbie Rose, Sergio San Martin, Steve Goodson (for Kevin Townsend), Justin Tracy, Todd Turoci

**Excused:** Shalini Lockard, Bob Nagle, Kevin Townsend

**Absent:** Daniel Iglesias, Geoff Neely, Cherie Crutcher, Brandy Marion, Nick Pacific

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Andrew Guerra, Andy Melendrez, Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes

**Staff:** Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz, Sarah Hom

**1) Call to Order**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

**2) Self Introductions and Public Comment**

**3) Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2019.**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 13, 2019

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty

**Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

**Motion carried.**

**4) Chair's Report**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the furniture on the Main Street Mall has been removed and one step closer to getting new furniture. She said she has someone who will be making steel box covers for the outlets. She said the Executive Committee discussed installing metal fences around the planter boxes between Antonious Pizza and the Mission Galleria. She said she is going to find a way to make sure Main Street is very well lit, trees trimmed, and outlets covered. She stated she believes it would be a great idea to eliminate the ability for the homeless individuals to move the furniture around. She stated she will be drawing up a map, address it all with Councilwoman Erin Edwards, and take it to Public Works.

**5) Items for Discussion**

**5a) Strategic Plan process and timeline**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Strategic Plan process and timeline are attached to the Board packet for review and comments. She said the timeline allows for input from the current Board and the incoming Board. She said the call for participation will be made at the Board Meeting, and at all January Committee Meetings. She stated those who wish to participate in the planning meeting should advise Janice Penner. She said RDP does have people who they are going to ask to be on the Committee.

**5b) Board nominations and preliminary ballot**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated nomination forms will be accepted up to January 9 at noon. She said the ballot format is attached for reference. Janice Penner stated the ballots with the

nominations received to that date will be sent out Friday, January 10 to all voting members for return by January 27. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated there has been a lot of participation.

Bill Gardner inquired about the Roy Hord nominations. Janice Penner said the deadline was Friday, January 3. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about the number of nominations RDP received. Janice Penner stated there were nine nominations. She said there was one person who was nominated by three separate people.

### **5c) RDP Annual Meeting**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa has confirmed their pricing for the meal. She said in return for consideration on the pricing, they will be recognized as the Arts and Culture Award sponsor.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated to cover all expenses and encourage sponsorship, the ticket price has been increased by \$5 per person and sponsorship levels remain the same. She said a 'Save the Date' was sent out with the incentive to reserve early and receive a \$5 discount. She said the sponsorship and donation request was also sent out and both forms are attached to the Board packet for information. She inquired about whether or not all the awards were already sponsored. Janice Penner stated not all the awards are accounted for.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the letters to all Award winners have been sent out and the RDP staff will follow up with requests for photos etc. for preparation of the PowerPoint presentations.

## **6) Items for Information**

### **6a) BID Renewal Public Hearing – BID Levy approved for 2020**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the annual BID levy was renewed for 2020. She said the City Council approved the renewal unanimously at the December 17<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. She said there was one letter of opposition and the individual who wrote also spoke during public comment, saying that monies raised should be used City-wide. She stated there was another individual who was a Downtown resident and said she appreciated RDP events but questioned the removal of ficus trees on University Avenue. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Chair spoke to her later and explained the rationale. She said the City staff also explained how the removal was approved by the City and in accordance with forestry guidelines.

### **6b) RDP activities and items**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the January Luncheon will be held at the Life Arts Center on January 28 and feature a presentation by Nathan Freeman on Downtown Development. She said the March Luncheon is planned for the Riverside Municipal Auditorium and will feature Patrick Brien of the Riverside Arts Council. She stated the April Luncheon will be at the Riverside Woman's Club, and the May luncheon at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa. She said suggestions for future speakers and topics are welcome. She stated at the Executive Committee meeting there was discussion on having Hafsa Kaka from Homeless Services present at a future luncheon. Bill Gardner stated he thinks the Salvation Army would be a good option for a guest speaker at a luncheon.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Doors Open Riverside event won the 2019 Governor General's Historic Preservation Award, which is one of five awarded. She said a notice was sent out to the Board that included a link to the state website.

## **7) Financial Reports**

David St. Pierre stated the Financial Report for the year-to-date shows a deficit of \$66,433 compared to an expected deficit of \$25,952, which results in a negative variance of \$40,481. He said the major reason for the drastic shift in financial results from last month is the variance between actual and expected BID Levy income for December. He stated this hopefully will resolve itself over the next few months.

David St. Pierre said 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 has \$198,331 in two Checking and one 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 a total reserve of \$325,424.

David St. Pierre said as of December 31, 2019, Accounts Receivable equals \$34,573 and Accounts Payable equals \$5,713.

Janice Penner noted the BID Levy income in the previous year was approximately \$40,000 more than the current year, which is the reason for the variance.

### **7a) Financial reports at December 31, 2019 – MOTION**

**Motion:** To accept the Financial reports at December 31, 2019

**Motion made by:** Charity Schiller

**Motion Seconded by:** Lou Monville

**Motion carried.**

## **8) City Council Updates**

### **8a) Ward 1**

Councilwoman Erin Edwards introduced the Board to her Council Assistant, Paloma Montes.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated that at the Council meeting on Tuesday, January 7, the different committees were approved. She said she will be serving on the Land Use, Finance, and Community Services/Youth Committees. She said the Council is considering renaming the current committees and would assess whether or not the committees are areas the City would like to address.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated the policy for short-term rentals, like Airbnb, were discussed by the Council and they are considering analyzing specific zones in the City to restrict Airbnbs. She said there are some cities that have restricted Airbnbs in industrial zones. She stated the City of Riverside has approximately two hundred Airbnbs and there have not been many complaints about Airbnbs being in zones where they should not be. She stated the Council did not feel the need to put a policy in place at the moment, but agreed that the issue will be revisited.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated that at the Land Use Committee meeting next week on January 13, there will be a discussion about the unpermitted demolition of the house on Beacon Hill. She said the committee will be discussing the appeal of the CHP's denial of the certificate of approval.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards said the meeting on January 14 has several large topics that will be of interest to the RDP Board members. She stated that at the 1 pm session, the City's Waste

Management Plan will be discussed as a whole as well as the fact that the City is out of compliance with the State laws when it comes to organic waste, and the idea of privatizing the services. She said at the 3 pm session, the entertainment permits will go before City Council in a hearing about amending the Municipal Code. She stated the Mulberry Village Project, which is the partnership with Habitat Booking Humanity, is coming before City Council. She said at the 7 pm session, the Riverside County Transportation Committee has their Executive Director coming to speak about the County Line Transportation Plan and their work on the Plan. She stated later today with the Community Services and Youth Committee, fireworks will be discussed to prepare for the upcoming Fourth of July celebration.

Bill Gardner suggested creating a new committee that focuses on the Arts and Innovation of the City. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated she will make not of Bill Gardner's idea and discuss it with the other Council Members. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said she is working with David Welch to figure out how to implement ideas like this. She stated they are putting together a PowerPoint with notes from Nathan Freeman. Janice Penner advised Shelby Worthington-Loomis to include the Arts Council on any new information about implementing a new committee that is focused on the Arts and Innovation of the City.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated there is limited street parking at the Imperial Hardware Lofts due to the number of different types of garbage bins. She said there is no guidance for where people can get permitted street parking. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated she thinks multi-unit buildings will be impacted by where the Council decides to go next in order to be in compliance. She said Shelby Worthington-Loomis' feedback is very important and would like to see it in writing to be able to share it with the whole Council.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated after the BID Levy Renewal meeting and discussion about the tree removal, she asked the City staff to prepare a report that covers what the City's current practices is for the removal of trees and how the City may change their current practices for the benefit of the City. She stated she inquired about how the City may do a tree audit to analyze the cost of the tree, the different benefits of trees, the impact trees have on the community, in addition to the cost of the infrastructure.

Chuck Beaty asked Councilwoman Erin Edwards to comment on pallet shelters and their placement. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated she will have more updates by the February Board meeting. She said at the December 17 Council meeting, the Council discussed the possibility to put in pallet shelters or a bigger tent structure to house up to 150 beds. She stated Council did not take action to do so at this time, but were made aware of certain faith-based groups that are raising the money install some of the shelters. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated he does not think the City will pay for the temporary structures, but private entities and non-profit organizations would be able to fundraise for the money. He said the other component City Council was focused on was to more beds to the shelters for temporary residential housing for the homeless. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated the discussion on the December 17 meeting was about using state dollars for this project. She said the Council learned that the state funding coming to the City is a seven million dollar allocation. She stated there will be many more discussions to come.

Bill Gardner addressed the trees that were removed on Brockton by Maxi Foods about eight years ago and have yet to be replaced. Janice Penner stated RDP assisted in the removal of those trees and the City was supposed to be responsible for replacing the trees that were removed. She said Bill Gardner would have to follow up with them. She stated there were two reasons why the trees were removed. She said the first reason was a request from Maxi Foods

because there were homeless people congregating under them and the second reason was the cracking of the sidewalks. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the ficus trees that were removed are short-term trees due to the problems they cause underground. She said the new trees have long-term benefits. Janice Penner stated one of the things that was discussed at the Security Meeting was the issue of funding for the Downtown improvement projects with the City. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated she would like to continue the conversation about the replacement of trees. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated there needs to be an allocation of funds to repair the damage of the sidewalks. Janice Penner stated when the Main Street Mall was renovated most of the trees were replaced with trees that are fast-growing. She said RDP wants to make sure the trees are trimmed properly. She said if RDP wants to assist with the trimming of the trees, then they have to go through the City to get their approved arborist and help provide the funds for the project.

### **8b) Ward 2**

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Council made a formal approval to take on the homeless issue on a regional level rather than on a local level. He said the City Manager is going to be reaching out to other City Manager's throughout the County to communicate to them the importance of working together.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Sevilla's Project is moving along. He said there are a few issues with the parking. He said the area was approved prior to him coming on to the Council. He said they are considering creating an event center, which requires more parking than a restaurant, but they plan to encourage people to utilize alternative modes of transportation or walk.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated that RCTC is still working on their metrolink station. He said RCTC is looking to expand the platform, which would expand into the royal citrus area causing the demolition of one of the historic landmarks. He stated he suggested they had the trains go through the building, but it was an unpopular opinion. He said this means the metrolink station is moving over to the Eastside and facing Lincoln Park, which will create opportunities for the Eastside community.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Park Avenue and University Avenue building is moving forward. He said the owner had some family business to take care of, so the property fell into default. He said the property will be coming back to the Council agenda for renewing and restructuring the agreement and timeline. He said the owners are committed to doing the mixed income, which is 80% market and 20% affordable. He said the project plan is still four stories with roughly one hundred units.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the fence is up to begin working on the installation of the SteelCraft project. He said he anticipates the start of construction to be anytime between March 2020 and June 2020. He stated he believes the SteelCraft project will have a positive impact on the City.

Councilman Andy Melendrez stated CARB is moving along well. He said the contractor is doing a lot of work. He stated CARB will be located on Iowa Avenue. He said the Starbucks that is located on the corner of Iowa Avenue and University Avenue has taken off. He stated the drive-thru has taken some of the pressure off of the Starbucks located on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Blaine Street. He stated the Extended Stay Hotel at the University Village is coming along.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the homeless problem is primarily a mental health issue. She inquired about what the City is going to do with mental health issues and strategically placed housing. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Council discussed this issue at the December meeting. He said he does not think housing is the answer to solving the homeless and mental health issues. He stated there are a lot of people on the streets that the City has no data on. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the people on the streets are not just displaced from a home, but also mentally ill. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Council will need to begin to address the issue as more of a mental health issue than a homeless problem. He said at the December Council Meeting, the homeless population in Riverside jumped by 20%. Jeff Kraus stated Councilman Andy Melendrez gave a nice presentation to the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership about the homeless. He said one of the statistics Councilman Andy Melendrez shared was that 71% of the people who are in the Riverside shelters are not from Riverside. Councilman Andy Melendrez stated the Council knows other County's are sending their homeless into Riverside and understands how it is an issue. He stated the City needs to be more open to talking about these issues.

#### **9) RPD Security Update**

Steve Goodson stated the Festival of Lights 2019 went pretty well with no major incidents besides the caricature artist. He said there were several issues with the homeless people congregating by the Chinese Pavilion. He stated the homeless people were cordial and moved along. He stated there were a few illegal street performers on the weekends that were aware that they were not allowed to be there on the weekends, but cared less towards the end of the Festival of Lights. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about whether or not the street performers would have come out earlier in the month had the weather been better. Steve Goodson stated on the nights he worked, the crowd would increase at around 6:30 pm and dissipate by 8:30 pm. He said the crowds looked lighter this year and they are waiting on the assessment to analyze the amount of revenue.

#### **10) City Community Development Department Update**

Nathan Freeman stated the Donut Bar is scheduled to open the week of January 20. He said the Donut Bar chef will be in Riverside during the week of the grand opening to personally train the staff. He said Donut Bar has a huge social media following and there is some built up anticipation for them to be coming to Downtown Riverside. He said he is looking forward to giving an update on Economic Development at the January Luncheon.

Nathan Freeman stated the new furniture for the Main Street Mall was slightly delayed due to the construction costs. He said the new tables, chairs, and umbrellas were ordered, but the cost to install them is very expensive. He stated they are rebidding the project and anticipate it going to City Council in February to get a contract approved for the installation of all the furniture. He stated there will be new footings that will be poured, colorful umbrellas that can be removed and have their own footings, and colorful chairs to brighten up the Main Street Mall. Bill Gardner inquired about why the tables and chairs could not be set up before the umbrellas. Nathan Freeman stated the staff would like to install each of the pieces together. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about addressing the fountain area. Nathan Freeman stated the fountain area will not be addressed as a part of the furniture installation. He said there have been discussions as to what to do with the fountain area long-term.

Nathan Freeman said when Development goes back to City Council to get the contract approved; they are also going to ask them to approve a new sign program for the California

Tower Building. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about installing better signage for the businesses within the Main Street Mall since the City does not allow A-frames at the edge of the sidewalks. Nathan Freeman stated this will also be addressed at City Council.

Chuck Beaty stated the sign policy in terms of the freeway in Riverside has been very conservative over time. He said there are three large signs. Lou Monville stated the signs are on federal land. He said Sherman Indian Band derives the revenue from the signs. He stated the Native American community is much underserved and not appropriately funded by the federal government. Chuck Beaty stated the school has always been underfunded with the threat of it closing at any moment.

### **11) Arlington Business Partnership Update**

Andrew Guerra stated ABP hosted their Winter Fest on January 4 with approximately 2500 attendees. He said the quantity of snow was downsized due to rescheduling the event. He stated there was about 25 tons of snow for the kids and families. He said ABP sold about 500 wristbands for the Fun Zone. He said since wrapping up the Winter Fest, ABP will begin working on the Chili Cook-Off event that will be held on May 23. He stated ABP is working with the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center to coordinate monthly workshops for the remainder of 2020 to educate the local businesses on topics, specifically on social media and human resources.

Janice Penner inquired about ABP having a barbeque component with the Chili Cook-Off event. Andrew Guerra said ABP will have a barbeque component and will be working with the Riverside Police Officer Association to gather different associations to grill and barbeque in the competition. He said the deadline to enter into the Chili Cook-Off is May 1.

### **12) New Business**

Stan Morrison stated the Riverside City College football team won the State Championship and was appointed as the National Champions in Community College Football. He said the city needs to figure out a way to celebrate RCC's achievement. Gregory Anderson stated the RCC football team and the track and field team will be coming to City Council to be recognized on February 4.

### **13) Adjournment and next meeting date – February 12, 2020**