



Minutes

Present: Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Charity Schiller, David St. Pierre, Philip Makhoul, Geoff Neely, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Erin Edwards, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Randy Hord, Scott Megna, Stan Morrison, Nick Pacific, Brian Percy, Debbie Rose, Kevin Townsend, Justin Tracy, Todd Turoci, Jesse De La Cruz

Excused: Gregory Anderson, Nanci Larsen, Sergio San Martin

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Anderson Ewing, Jeff Kraus, Brandy Marion, Bob Nagle

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: 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. No public comment.

3) Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2019.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of September 11, 2019

Motion made by: Bill Gardner

Motion Seconded by: Chuck Beaty

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said there are people looking into the lighting in the alleyways. She said that they are looking to clean everything up and light up the alleyway because it is really important for the safety of the City to have everything lit. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce, the City, and Police Department are all involved. Shelby Worthington-Loomis is hoping this can be done before Festival of Lights.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Salted Pig will be closing their original doors on October 13 with an anticipated opening of their new location on Main Street at the end of October or early November.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP's last Strategic Plan covered the period from 2014 to 2016 and that it was decided in 2017 and 2018 that an update was not needed. She stated that in view of the changes coming downtown and in the City, RDP will be preparing an updated Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2022. She stated that this will include an organizational review including By-Laws and structure. She stated that there will be major updates being made to the By-Laws and Strategic Plan. She stated that everyone will be involved. Erin Edwards inquired about the involvement of the neighborhood groups in the Strategic Plan. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that a committee will be created and will let everyone know the process thereafter.

5) Items for Information

5a) RDP activities and items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Art and Music Festival took place on September 14 and had good attendance with strong vendor participation. Patrick Brien said that he had done an "Artist Spotlight" for the Press Enterprise for a 22 year old girl named Aubrey Rutter. He said that it was her first time participating as an artist vendor at any kind of event and really enjoyed her time. He said that overall the event was successful.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Fall Fashion Show took place on October 3rd in partnership with the Pink Ribbon Place. She said Encore High School kicked off the show with a performance. She stated RDP will be looking at changes to the event next year to encourage more businesses to participate and expand beyond a fashion focus. She said the partnership with Pink Ribbon Place will continue. She thanked Sarah Hom and Shirley Schmeltz for all of their hard work, as well as, David St. Pierre.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said as a business owner of a restaurant on the Main Street Mall and facing Main Street from the Imperial Hardware Lofts, all the events that are occurring Downtown have been really nice. She said the Vintage Flea Market, although it was not an RDP event, was still very successful. She said having new and more activities Downtown help clean up the area.

Bill Gardner inquired about the new residential buildings that are going up in Downtown and asked Nathan Freeman for a list of the locations. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP will have Nathan Freeman talk about the economic development in the City at an upcoming luncheon and will schedule it soon.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP is sponsoring the Riverside Halloween Fest again this year. She said that Charity Schiller and Amy Hoyt have agreed to judge the costume contest.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP is participating in a special business magazine issue featuring Riverside with a destination advertisement. Erin Edwards inquired about the type of magazine that will be featuring Riverside as a destination. Nathan Freeman said it is a nationwide magazine that has selected to showcase Riverside as a city that is innovative.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the October luncheon will be on October 22 at the Convention Center and feature a presentation by City Manager, Al Zelinka. She stated that Best Best & Krieger is sponsoring this luncheon. She said that the November 26 luncheon will be at First Congregational Church.

5b) BID Renewal

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the report was submitted to the City on September 11th. She said that staff is confirming the date for the required public hearing, which could be held on November 5 at 3 pm. She stated that a summary of the report was included in the October BID Bulletin.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial reports at September 30, 2019

David St. Pierre stated that the financial report for the month shows a deficit of \$9,996.03 compared to an expected deficit of \$ 7,413.48. He said that for the year to date there is a deficit of \$12,537.10 compared to an expected deficit of \$ 28,936.78 resulting in a positive variance of \$16,399.67.

He said that RDP had \$17,492.66 in Checking and \$120,659.68 in Money Market with Citizens Business Bank, and \$135,415.00 in Checking with Provident Bank. He said the RDP reserves include three CDs with Pacific Premier Bank totaling \$238,516.73 and one with Provident Bank of \$85,758.76 for total reserves of \$324,275.49.

As of September 30, 2019 Accounts Receivable equal \$29,453.71 and Accounts Payable equal \$4,984.46.

6b) Year-end Financial Report and Year End Tax Return

David St. Pierre said that the year-end financial report and tax returns for June 30, 2019 had been approved by the Executive Committee and filed by the CPA on September 7, 2019. He said the year-end tax return and financial reports were sent to the Board of Directors for information. The year-end financial report and year-end tax return were approved by the Executive Committee and accepted for the record.

7) City Council Updates

7a) Ward 1 Update

Mike Gardner said the Public Safety and Engagement teams are working on homeless encampments and offering service. He said about a week ago, they did one visit in the underdeveloped area of Fairmount Park. He said they are going to go back in at some time this month to finish the remainder of the area. He stated that no one among the people that were visited accepted services. He said they are going daily to visit this area to get the homeless people to go out. He stated they were just given permission to take equipment in because there is a federally protected bird that was seen in the area and could possibly be nesting. He said they were given permission from the environmental regulators to do some vegetation reduction and clear out the non-native species. He said this will improve the habitat and make the area a less attractive place to set up an encampment. He said he recalls they arrested three people and that one of those was a felony for being in the possession of an illegal firearm. He said they could not get anyone to accept services. Charity Schiller inquired about why someone would refuse services and whether they gave a reason why. Mike Gardner said there are certain restrictions at the shelters such as, no partner, no pets, curfew, no drugs, and no alcohol that keep people from accepting the services available.

Mike Gardner said that the public safety power shutoffs that are happening are mostly done by the Investuro Utilities that are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. He stated Edison went to the Council a couple of weeks ago and proposed the idea of shutting off the power in Riverside too. He said this would be a big risk to the city. He said no one has yet to consider how to notify the users that the power is going to go off. He stated that there is no clear form of communicating as to what circuit someone is on and that the State needs to work on coordinating the finer details. He said he hopes that Riverside will never be shut off. He said he thinks that Edison is building a new line to get Riverside power from a different direction with higher voltage. Discussion took place about if the plants have a role in this situation.

Bill Gardner inquired about the status of the parking meter update and the granny flat details. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that Lynn Anderson sent an email out about the granny flat update a few days after the September meeting. Mike Gardner stated that the parking meters have an RFP out and that he will get Bill Gardner an update about them soon.

Mike Gardner said there was a homicide on Bandini Avenue, east of Magnolia Avenue where a tow truck driver was shot. He said the suspect is in custody and is not from Riverside. He is from Landers by Joshua Tree in the High Desert. He said he does not know if the victim was a local or not. He said the RPD were able to catch the suspect shortly after the incident.

7b) Ward 2 Update

Andy Melendrez said a lot of things have been going on in the Eastside of the City. He said there was a stabbing in Lincoln Park between two homeless individuals who were new to the community. He stated that he reached out to their department after two to three days of noticing there were homeless people in the area since it is now a common occurrence in the park. He said that one of the individuals that were involved died at the scene and the other individual was apprehended shortly thereafter. He said the incident was not gang related and that the Eastside has been very good in regards to gang-related issues except the shooting that involved the CHP officer off of the freeway.

Andy Melendrez said the neighbors are still moving forward with the Eastside Art Night that will occur every fourth Saturday of each month. He said they are going to work with the Riverside Art Museum, the Riverside Community Settlement House, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Andy Melendrez said there will also be a Park Avenue makeover. He said they are going to be working with the artisan residents and have received some CBDG money to install specialized bike racks designed by the community. He said these bike racks will be specially designed for Park Avenue. He stated that there are going to be bike lanes added and two or three parklets in front of restaurants. He said that there will also be some overhead wiring that will go criss-cross across the street. He said several local artists are going to be doing facade murals on some of the walls of buildings and building owners are looking forward to having this done. He stated that over the next 24-36 months, Park Avenue will be completely different. He said the murals will take about three to four months to finish and the bike racks will take about two months to develop. He stated that properties have been purchased and he is expecting good retail developments to go in. He said the main focus is to create more art and making Park Avenue more of the Art District of Riverside.

Andy Melendrez said there has been a good partnership with the Bobby Bonds Center in establishing a new skateboard park. He stated that an artist who is volunteering their time who did some work for Adidas will be painting a mural on the bottom of the skate park. He said there is a new skate bowl at the park for the kids, so the bowl and the mural will be unveiled on Saturday, October 12.

Andy Melendrez said the Riverside Arts Academy is having their annual conference lecture with Dr. Nina Kraus on October 17 at 5:30 pm for free at the UCR Extension. He said Dr. Nina Kraus will be talking about music and what it does to children at an early age.

Andy Melendrez said on October 18, they will be hosting their conference where more than 150 teachers come out and learn how to incorporate music in their classrooms. He stated that there are approximately 2,500 students coming from the Riverside Unified School District and 1,900 coming out of Alvord School District who are given services. He said Collette Lee is their current Director who is putting a lot of work in for this show and meeting with their Board. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that she and Roger Clark agreed to sponsor the lunches. Andy Melendrez said that about \$80,000 to \$90,000 needs to be raised annually to maintain the school.

8) RPD Security Update

Lt. Kevin Townsend said the crime trends are doing pretty well in the Downtown area with very few cars that have been broken into or stolen. He said at the weekly crime meeting, it was reported that there has only been one car broken into in a week and then another car a couple weeks after that along with one car stolen. He said that the crime map shows that Downtown Riverside is doing pretty well as far as those go. He stated he asked the Narcotics Unit to come check out Downtown and see how things are doing. He said that on September 27 the unit spent the entire day walking around Downtown trying to find someone to buy drugs from. He said that the unit did find one person on Main Street near Mission Inn Avenue at night. He said the unit did not see this assignment as successful, but Lt. Kevin Townsend and his team did think it was successful since there were no real signs of a lot of drug sales happening in Downtown.

Lt. Kevin Townsend said that on November 5, there will be free training for the Downtown security people and an email was sent out. He said they are trying to figure out a date for another hospitality meeting for all the bars, restaurants, and night clubs. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that she would like to get the hospitality meeting planned before Festival of Lights. Shirley Schmeltz stated that the date they are looking at is October 29.

Chuck Beaty inquired about the status of filling empty positions. Lt. Kevin Townsend stated there are still a lot of vacancies, but he does not want to lower the standards. He stated that he worried about mass hirings. Mike Gardner said that was funding for 399 officers and there are 368 officers in place. He said Chief Gonzalez is committed to filling them as quickly as he can with the caveat of not handing out a gun and badge to just anyone. Discussion took place in regards to the amount of training an individual would have to go through. Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that it takes about four to six months to hire an officer alone. He said if they need to go to the Academy that is 5½ months, in addition to a 5-month field training after that. He stated it takes approximately a year and a half to completely hire an officer. Mike Gardner inquired about hiring an officer from a different department. Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that they would still have to go through the field training. Discussion took place in regards to the age requirement to be an officer, in addition to, the reasons officers leave the force and retirement.

Erin Edwards inquired about whether or not there is data that covers how long an officer stays at one department before moving to a different one. Lt. Kevin Townsend stated that the department usually receives offers and it is rare that they lose officers, mainly to retirement and injury. He said that at least half of his department is filled with laterals, which are also known as officers who have transferred from a different department. He said his department is a medium-sized department that allows for more opportunities than the smaller cities surrounding Riverside and allows officers to be more than a number like those in Los Angeles.

David St. Pierre inquired about the entertainment permit update. Lt. Kevin Townsend said that the entertainment permits went to the Public Safety Sub-Committee and were approved. He stated that they were scheduled for November to be voted on by the full Council before Festival of Lights. He stated that if everything goes accordingly, then January 1 as long as the full Council does not have to send it back for any reason. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about whether or not someone who is opening a new establishment would need to go through the entire entertainment permit process. Lt. Kevin Townsend confirmed.

9) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman said the magazine that Riverside will be featured in is called "Business View Magazine" and will send the link to the magazine to Shirley Schmeltz and Shelby Worthington-Loomis. He said the magazine with Riverside in it has not been published yet, but will still send the link and keep everyone updated about when the magazine will be published.

Nathan Freeman stated the Fire Up Grill is supposed to open on November 1, the Donut Bar is planning to open on November 15. He stated that the Main and 9th project is now opened and has 36 units inside and ten of those units have already been leased. He said he was able to tour them with Councilman Mike Gardner and the units are very nice. He stated that in the same unit, there is office space on the second floor and half of which has been leased to Black Roses Marketing Firm, which is similar to Mind and Mill. He said that Black Roses Marketing Firm has a staff of about seven or eight people. Nathan Freeman stated that the Greens Development Group that is building the Hampton Inn in Downtown decided to open a Riverside Office, which will be leasing the second half of the Main and 9th second floor project. He said that there will be an announcement for the tenant on the ground floor soon since there is another 4,000 square foot space that they are trying to lease. He said the Hampton Inn is on track with plans to open at the end of November or early December.

Nathan Freeman said that Andy Melendrez asked him to bring up the old Sevilla site that has been purchased by Chuck and Naomi Avila. He said their goal with the space is to turn it into a conference/event center and that Shelby Worthington-Loomis has been working with them. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that the night club and rooftop may be called the Avila Station and the restaurant/flamenco Bellatarineo, which she has added to the wedding and events venues.

Nathan Freeman said the Game Lab opened on September 28. He said it has been great to see the synergy of the people going between the Game Lab and Food Lab. He stated that Nick Pacific said the Food Lab celebrated its' first birthday on September 28. He said that the Food Lab still remains to be very popular and crowded.

Nathan Freeman stated that SteelCraft, which is an outdoor version of the Food Lab where they use old retired shipping containers, is coming to the Eastside. He said they are about to open escrow with SteelCraft LP that is based out of Long Beach for the City-owned property off of University and Ottawa right next to Churches Chicken. He said that SteelCraft has already committed to Riverside and that the development is going to be community themed where they will bring in local artists and local tenants. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about Nathan Freeman sending updates for people to find out how to become a tenant.

Nathan Freeman stated that Riverside has approximately north of 1,200 residential units that are finished, in the process of completion, and in the entitlement phase. He said that a few years ago, the council directed the staff to facilitate 5,000 units in Downtown by 2025.

Bill Gardner inquired about the furniture outside of Simple Simons. Nathan Freeman said he just met with Mark Ruben last week to discuss this topic. He said they are in the process of buying new furniture for the Main Street Mall and are hoping to have it completed before Festival of Lights. Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired about what is going to happen to the furniture that is out on the Main Street Mall right now. Nathan Freeman said the furniture is most likely going to be recycled. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said she would be interested in having them. Nathan Freeman said typically they would inventory them and then surplus them if they are still in good condition. He said that all of the furniture in front of Cal Tower and Simple Simons will be replaced. He said the new pieces of furniture will be more colorful. Shelby Worthington-

Loomis inquired about the patio limit. Nathan Freeman said there is a limit, but does not think that he is able to say what it is.

Brian Percy said his understanding is that Stater Brothers is not putting a location downtown and inquired about what the City is doing now to find a different grocery store to come to Downtown. Nathan Freeman said there are a couple candidates and that he spoke with one grocery store that is close to submitting a letter of intent. He said he is unable to share more information about the matter and is unsure if it will go anywhere. He said there are grocery stores that are very interested in coming Downtown and that the City sees the need for a grocery store. Mike Gardner said part of the retail at the Convention Center expansion project is anticipating some form of a grocery store.

Stan Morrison inquired about the Main Library construction and whether or not they are on target. Nathan Freeman said the project is on schedule. He stated that he has been talking with the project manager often about developing the other half of the library. He said by all accounts, everything is on schedule.

Nathan Freeman said on October 11, he and one of his colleagues are hosting a networking event that is open to everyone at the Game Lab from 5 pm to 7 pm. He said he and his colleague are providing the pizza, the beer, and the tokens. He said this event is in celebration of innovation in Riverside, so a lot of Riverside's entrepreneurs are going to be present.

Bill Gardner said he has asked the UCR Botanical Gardens to consider having a satellite location in Downtown that would enhance Downtown and also advertise for the main Botanical Gardens.

10) Arlington Business Partnership Update

There was no update.

11) New Business

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said there is a flyer going out for the Long Night of Art and Innovation happening on Thursday night. She said Lot 713 Brewery is going into where El Sarape was and is going through the construction right now. She said it will be a few more months before opening. She said Route 30 Brewery is going into where Mission Martini was located. She said Elephant Thai restaurant is gone and she and her partner along with another colleague will be opening a new barbeque restaurant that will be more Nashville-style barbeque.

12) Adjournment and next meeting date – November 13, 2019