



## Minutes

**Present:** Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Chris Wagner, David St. Pierre, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Randy Hord, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Debbie Rose, Donna Stephenson, Andrew Walcker, Anderson Ewing, Gregory Anderson, Sergio San Martin, Paul Gill, Simone Sink

**Excused:** Charity Schiller, Erin Phillips, Oz Puerta, Justin Tracy, Philip Makhoul, David Bristow

**Absent:** Cherie Crutcher, Nick Pacific, Bob Nagle, Jesse De La Cruz, Brian Percy, Todd Turoci, Geoff Neely, Per Nilsson

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Erin Edwards

**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

Donna Stephenson stated the Made Shop will be at 6520 Magnolia Avenue on March 14 for Shop for a Cause from 10 am to 5 pm. She said 10% of the profits are donated to DANA. Nanci Larsen stated volunteers are needed for Doors Open on May 9.

### 3) Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2020.

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2020

**Motion made by:** Bill Gardner

**Motion Seconded by:** Chuck Beaty

Bill Gardner stated there are minor corrections that are needed to be made to the minutes regarding a date and the name of a park.

**Motion carried.**

### 4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated she looked at her statistics for Retro Taco and noticed one third of the business from yesterday was Uber Eats orders. She said the number of Uber Eats orders has increased over the past several days.

### 5) Items for Information

#### 5a) Strategic Plan Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated a call for participation went out on Tuesday, February 4 with a reply date of February 18 and three possible meeting dates. She said less than ten responses were received with no consensus on the meeting dates. She stated it was recommended to send out another call for participation with meeting dates in late April or early May.

#### 5b) RDP Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated there were 179 RSVPs for the event and 159 actual attendees. She said fourteen seats were released by sponsors and in effect resold. She stated cash sponsorships were \$7,749 and there were additional in kind sponsorships of about \$1,250. She said there were twenty-nine donations for the opportunity drawing with a value of about

\$4,745 and proceeds of about \$928. She stated net proceeds from the event were \$2,200 compared to budgeted net proceeds of \$1,500. She said while the event is not a fundraiser, the sponsorships keep the price of the event down. She said the most expensive ticket price was \$80 compared to other events which range in the \$125 level. She said this allows for more people to attend and support the award recipients. She stated the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa has been booked for February 24, 2021. She said the event will be a week later than usual because the hotel has a conference booked during the week prior.

Anderson Ewing stated there are a lot of City-wide cancellations due to the COVID-19 outbreak. He said they are trying to postpone a lot of their events rather than cancelling them. He said the groups who normally come early in the year are coming later on.

### **5c) Update on RDP activities and items**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the March 24 Luncheon will be at Loft.84 with Patrick Brien presenting on the Arts Council with a brief update on the Riverside Community Players. She said it was originally planned to be at the RMA, but they had a conflict. She said Hotz Kitchen | Cocktails will cater.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the April 28 Luncheon will feature a presentation on Homeless Services by Hafsa Kaka. She said it was originally planned to be hosted at the Riverside Woman's Club, but they are no longer able to accommodate the event. She said Janice Penner and Shirley Schmeltz will be looking into having Raincross Pub and Kitchen as the new location. She said the May 26 Luncheon will be at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa and the June 23 Luncheon will be at the Hyatt.

Janice Penner stated RDP has guest speakers lined up for a few of the Luncheons. She said suggestions and recommendations are still welcome. Bill Gardner suggested having the Salvation Army provide an update.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP is assisting Inspired Vibe Events with their all-day Modern Vintage Flea event on Saturday, March 28. She said RDP is encouraging Downtown Businesses to participate. She said the women behind Inspired Vibe Events really enjoy planning events in Riverside. She stated this is the second time the Modern Vintage Flea Market will be in Riverside. Janice Penner stated the merchandise that is being sold is high-end artisan goods. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated she is working with Christin Daniels and her partner on putting together a quarterly event at Citrus Park.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the first call for participation in the 2020 Doors Open Riverside has gone out. She said several new sites have been identified and added to this year's location list. She asked for the list of the new sites. Nanci Larsen stated Fairmount Park, Post 79, the Tank, the Library on La Sierra, Camp Anza, and several others are on the list of locations for this year's event. Janice Penner stated several churches have also been added to the list. Nanci Larsen stated there is a tour from Los Angeles coming with 55 people specifically for Doors Open. Janice Penner stated since the courthouse was such a popular location, more security is necessary.

### **5d) Position on changes to parking**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the City's Staff Report was finalized yesterday regarding the position on Downtown Parking. She said before the Board taking a position on parking, RDP thought it was important to be more educated on the matter. Janice Penner stated the position on changes to parking will go to the Land Use Committee next week and their recommendation

will then go to the Executive Committee on March 31. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the matter will be at the Executive Committee before going to Council.

Bill Gardner stated the parking subject is going to the City Council on April 7. He said one of the recommendations is to review the parking meters and parking rates. He stated the Raincross Club letter includes a lot of improvements that the City would like to make regarding parking. He said there are a lot of areas in Downtown that need better parking. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP will be sending out as much information as possible to educate the Board. She said she hopes Councilwoman Erin Edwards will be able to update and fill everyone in at the April 8 Board Meeting.

## **6) Financial Reports**

David St. Pierre stated the financial report for the year to date shows a deficit of \$27,633 compared to an expected deficit of \$2,873, resulting in a negative variance of \$24,760. He said the major reason is the variance between actual and expected BID levy income for the year to date. He stated this will hopefully reverse over the next few months.

David St. Pierre stated 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 \$189,504 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. He said RDP reserves include four CDs with Provident Premier Bank and Provident Bank for total reserves of \$326,292.

David St. Pierre stated as of February 29, 2020 Accounts Receivable equal \$73,253 and Accounts Payable equal \$7,712.

### **6a) Financial reports at February 29, 2020 – MOTION**

**Motion:** To accept the Financial reports at February 29, 2020

**Motion made by:** Bill Gardner

**Motion Seconded by:** Patrick Brien

**Motion carried.**

## **7) City Council Updates**

### **7a) Ward 1**

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated there used to be a program called the Cleaning Camp Coalition that Inland Empire Waterkeeper was running, but they no longer have funds for it. She said they used to tell people in the river bottom that they would come and pick up their trash once a week at a specific location and time. She said the Cleaning Camp Coalition found it to be very successful and it helped build trust between both parties.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated at the March 10 afternoon City Council Meeting, there was a workshop on sustainability. She said the recommendation that went before City Council was to create an Office of Sustainability in-concept. She said the Council Members did vote to do so. She said it was a great presentation by City staff members that discussed what the City currently does to be as sustainable as possible.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated yesterday evening, City Council voted six to one to put a short-term 45 day pause on warehouse building in the Northside. She said this is very important

for the Northside neighborhoods as they get closer to finishing their plans. She stated this short-term pause will allow them to have enough time to completing their plan.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards quoted the official City script on the COVID-19 update. She said, "City Leaders are actively monitoring the COVID -19 epidemic, working closely with the Riverside County Department of Public Health and other agencies. The lead national agency is the Federal Government who is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The lead local agency for this public health matter is the Riverside County Department of Public Health. For more information about COVID-19 including guidelines, business planning resources, and local updates, please visit this page frequently". She said to visit the City's website and click on the scrolling banner to find information regarding the COVID-19 virus. She said Lea Deesing and the City Manager's Office are responsible for the hard work being put into the webpage for the COVID-19 updates. She stated the City is not the lead, but the County.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis inquired if events and meetings are being cancelled. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated the City is talking about how to making meetings virtual if need be. She said she has not heard any official update on if the meetings are going to be virtual yet. She said she will update the Board as she learns new information.

Lou Monville stated he spoke with the Mayor's Office yesterday. He said on the Convention Center's side, staff has been in the trenches over the last ten days trying to rebook business. He stated he was not notified that the City was going to cancel the Boards and Commissions event. He said the cancelation of this event contradicts the City of Riverside portraying itself as a safe place. He stated the Convention Center would greatly appreciate closer coordination with announcements. He said luckily, the Convention Center has been able to rebook a lot of groups for June and July. Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated the Boards and Commissions event was cancelled due to commissioners not feeling safe enough to attend. She recommended Lou Monville to reach out to Lea Deesing for the most up-to-date information about the crisis.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated there will be two major items of discussion at the City Council meeting on March 17 during the afternoon session. She said the first item will be the discussion of the frequency of Council meetings. She stated about a year ago, City Council meetings were changed to be every other week. She stated Councilman Perry brought it back for discussion to determine what the best timing is for everyone. Discussion took place in regards to the pros and cons of changing the frequency of Council meetings. She said the second item of discussion is the Cheech contract.

Councilwoman Erin Edwards stated the St. Michaels housing appeal will be coming before City Council at the City Council meeting on March 17 during the evening session. She said the Parking discussion is still planned to happen at the April 7 meeting, but will let the Board know if anything changes.

#### **7b) Ward 2**

There was no update.

#### **8) RDP Security Update**

Lt. Chris Wagner stated property crimes have been low in the Downtown area. He said there was an approximate 60% drop in the last month for vehicle burglaries and auto-thefts. He stated there were three incidents in February in the area. He said most of the incidents happen

between 8:30 pm and 12 am. He said on February 8 workout bags were stolen out of a Toyota Corolla, on February 25 an Infiniti was stolen, and a Toyota Tacoma was broken into this past week. He stated Toyota vehicles are the most common vehicles that have been broken into. He said the burglars are able to get into the Toyotas on the driver side door without making it seem like the car was broken into.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated there were three other car burglaries at the Riverside Community Hospital. He said the vehicle break-ins happen the most often on Thursdays with no specific time frame. He said Toyota Corollas between 2007 and 2019 models are the most popular cars. He said the RPD arrested a suspect in another area on March 8 and the break-ins have gone down.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated RPD has noticed a city-wide trend in commercial burglaries between nail salons, restaurants, and dollar stores. He said most of the incidents happen between 1 am and 6 am. He said most of the time the windows are smashed because the cash registers are targeted. He recommended those who own similar businesses take the cash out and leave the register open so they know there is nothing inside. He said there was one incident on North and Main Street which was the closest to the Downtown area.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated there was a theft at 3777 Mission Inn Avenue. He said a contractor left his tool bag inside a fenced area overnight and someone cut open the fence. He said the value of the tools was approximately \$3,000.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated he has had the Downtown entertainment team working really hard. He said in the last few weeks, there have been 129 patrols done and 14 arrests within the Main Street Mall area. He said these numbers do not include 911 calls. He stated of the 14 arrests, nine were felonies and five were misdemeanors. He stated his team stopped an individual off of Market Street with over an ounce of methamphetamine selling drugs on the Main Street Mall on a bike. He stated his team also stopped a guy over by the Starbucks vandalizing a car. He said there was a subject bothering people off of Fifth Street and Main Street for being under the influence of drugs. He said he has seen a lot of people who are out on parole/probation that are in the area.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated the pallet shelter press conference is today at 11 am at Hullen Place. He said on March 16, the first five people will move in. He said he hopes the new shelters will alleviate some of the issues Downtown has had with the homeless.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated he met with RCH yesterday to talk about the COVID-19 crisis. He said RCH is screening everyone at each entrance prior to entering the building and tagging people with wristbands. He stated RCH is not allowing any children under the age of 16 years old inside.

Lt. Chris Wagner stated RPD did two major clean ups in the last two weeks for the homeless encampments. He said one of the locations was Hole Lake and approximately 85 tons of trash was collected. He stated there were forty officers that helped with the clean up along with Code Compliance and heavy machinery. He said the second clean up was in the Northside off of Orange Street and Garner Road. He said there were 8 shipping containers full of trash.

Bill Gardner stated he has received a lot of scam calls regarding installing the best security system. He said he is suspicious of these calls, contractors, and other professions that have people come into the house. Lt. Chris Wagner stated RPD has encountered situations with

scams. He stated it is important to watch the people all the time and be cautious. He said these incidents do not happen all the time, but they do happen.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated Retro Taco has received scam calls from people who claim to be with Edison saying they are going to turn the utilities off if they do not pay their bill. She stated none of the restaurants, retailers, etc. on the Main Street Mall have Edison as their utilities carrier. She stated somehow they manage to request an amount that is very similar to the actual amount they owe.

Stan Morrison inquired if anyone in the river bottom is helping pick up the trash. Lt. Chris Wagner stated they are allowed to help, but do not.

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

Nathan Freeman stated he talked to the owners of Simple Simon's. He said he was told that the umbrellas do not work. He stated he has a crew going out this week to repair the umbrellas.

Nathan Freeman stated the International Council of Shopping Centers event in Las Vegas is in May. He said every bar, restaurant, and retailer will be in attendance. He stated meetings are already being set up, so if there are any specific groups the Board would like to see in the Downtown area, then they need to send them to Janice Penner or Shelby Worthington-Loomis who will then forward them onto him. Shelby Worthington-Loomis suggested Handle's Ice Cream and True Foods Kitchen.

Chuck Beaty inquired about what is happening with the old Grant School property. Nathan Freeman stated he has not talked to the school district about the Grant School property in a while. Sergio San Martin stated the building is under reconstruction and will be used for administration. He said the property will be open to being transformed into an elementary school in the future. He said with all of the development and growth in the Downtown area, an elementary school may be needed within the next ten years.

Nathan Freeman stated he presented the vision for the Innovation District to the City Council two weeks ago which was approved unanimously. He said he would like to make the same presentation at the next Land Use Committee meeting. Janice Penner stated the main discussion at the March meeting will most likely be about parking. She said Nathan Freeman can make his presentation at the April meeting.

### **10) Arlington Business Partnership Update**

There was no update.

### **11) New Business**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated a new restaurant called Plant Power is now open by Maxi Foods. She said the restaurant looks very urban and unique. She said the food is amazing.

Paul Gill stated several people he knows have commented on the lighting in the alleyway. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated it was a group effort. She said she is working with Norm Peltzer on publishing an article in *Riverside Living*. She said she wants to get everyone who was involved in the project to take a picture standing in the alley at night with it lit up. Nanci Larsen stated she has also heard several people commenting on the lighting. She said some of

the people did not know there were murals on the wall. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the walls of the alley between Ninth Street and University Avenue are being painted a variety of solid colors. She said she purchased wrought iron planter boxes that they are going to install in the alleys along with donated plants for the boxes.

Bill Gardner suggested the installation of a mural in the University Avenue freeway underpass similar to the one at the Tyler Street freeway underpass. Janice Penner stated there was a project to do a mural on the Mission Inn Avenue underpass. She said Tiffany Brooks did some proposals for the project, but the City Government at that time did not approve it. She said she knows that Councilman Andy Melendrez is trying to bring the project back. She stated the biggest thing is to get in contact with CalTrans regarding issues of keeping the murals clean and proper lighting.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated herself, Deborah Rose, and several other people are working together to implement a light show to raise money for either mental health or human trafficking. She said they would like to utilize White Park and have an art exhibit made out of lights on display. She stated they want to run and fund the event for three years with hopes that RDP will take it over.

Patrick Brien stated with the help of the City, the Arts Council will be expanding the Artisan Vendor Lot for Arts Walk to the Riverside Public Library lawn starting in April. Janice Penner stated this is a project that RDP worked with the Arts Council on. Bill Gardner inquired about the success of the Arts Walk. Patrick Brien stated the Arts Walk is very successful and is dependent on the time of the year with the weather fluctuations. Janice Penner stated new additions to the Arts Walk have attracted a lot of young artists to participate.

## **12) Adjournment and next meeting date – April 8, 2020**