



Minutes

Present: Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Charity Schiller, David St. Pierre, David Bristow, Philip Makhoul, Erin Phillips, Gregory Anderson, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Paul Gill, Randy Hord, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Nick Pacific, Per Nilsson, Sergio San Martin, Donna Stephenson, Justin Tracy, Todd Turoci

Excused: Lou Monville

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Simone Sink/Vanessa Rogers, Andrew Walcker, Jesse De La Cruz, Geoff Neely, Brian Percy, Debbie Rose

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Erin Edwards, Oz Puerta, Andy Melendrez

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

There were no self introductions and/or public comments provided.

3) Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2020.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 10, 2020

Motion made by: Gregory Anderson **Motion Seconded by:** David St. Pierre

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the flex outdoor seating is starting to open up the restaurants downtown. There is also takeout and outside dining available.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Downtown Security

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said as of July 1, the StreetPlus Safety Patrol ceased. RDP was charged with determining what type of replacement plan was needed in the COVID-19 environment and had prepared a survey to go out to downtown hospitality establishments to get their input on what was needed. However, with the recent order to close bars and the restrictions on restaurants, the Executive felt it best to arrange an in-person meeting.

The RDP Chair (Shelby-Worthington Loomis) is working with RDP to arrange a meeting at Loft. 84. The venue is large enough to social distance with masks for the number of attendees. The purpose of the meeting will be two-fold; to ensure everyone knows the applicable guidelines for hospitality establishments, and to get their input on downtown security needs. The goal is to leave the meeting with some consensus on a plan to move forward for at least the next few months. Once a date has been set, the Board will be advised. In addition to the downtown hospitality establishments, City representatives as well as ABC and others will be invited.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked Nathan Freeman if he has more information on StreetPlus being used as security for the parking garages. Nathan replied that it was his understanding the Public Works was exercising their right to use StreetPlus for parking garage security for an additional year as stated in their contract. Shelby Worthington-Loomis brought up the need for a better security team especially on Main Street's pedestrian area due to the issues of homelessness, body fluid, trash, toxic substances etc. littering the area. If restaurants are supposed to survive on outdoor dining while the COVID-19 closures are happening, the area where it is taking place needs to be better maintained. A discussion took place on the security issue on Main Street, especially homeless individuals who are causing problems for customers and businesses alike, and possible options on what can be done.

Motion: To allocate the \$50,000 dollars originally allocated for StreetPlus to instead contract a security company to provide security for Main Street from the convention center to City Hall.

Motion made by: David St. Pierre **Motion Seconded by:** Charity Schiller

5b) Strategic Plan

Janice Penner said RDP is participating in the IDA survey on the public perception of reopening. A link to the results of the survey so far was sent with the Board packet. There are a few advantages to participating in this survey; it is free, and it is a national survey with the results being compared with the other organizations participating. RDP seems to be very close to the national results. RDP hopes to have the remaining results by the middle of July and will use those results to help formulate the strategic plan.

Janice Penner said the hospitality meeting is scheduled to take place sooner rather than later so their input can be taken into account as well. Once the survey and input from the hospitality establishments is received the questions can be formulated. The questions will be reviewed by the Executive Committee then brought to the Board of Directors. The objective is to have the first draft of the Strategic Plan ready for review in mid-September.

5c) 2021 BID Renewal

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP staff has been in contact with the City Finance Department and confirmed that submitting the 2021 Renewal Report on September 9th will be acceptable for their timeframe. The City staff advised that once they receive and review the report, they can tentatively schedule the Council meeting to schedule the Public Hearing at the end of October, and then hold the Public Hearing at the beginning of December. This would mean RDP staff will have the Executive committee review the Renewal Report at its September 1 meeting and will submit to the Board of Directors for approval at its September 9 meeting.

6) Items for Information

6a) Update on RDP Activities and Items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP continues to share pertinent posts on Facebook and distribute informational emails. All RDP committee meetings, events, and activities are still on hold. However, depending on updates to guidelines, RDP will look at resuming some activities in September. The plan is to resume the Land Use and the two Security Committee meetings in September.

Based on the reopening results, it is expected that the fall events will be canceled. This includes the Riverside Art and Music Festival.

Thanks to Lou Monville and the County of Riverside, RDP received 10,000 masks which were distributed to downtown businesses using the Ambassadors. RDP received a second supply of 10,000 masks for a second distribution.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial Reports at June 30, 2020 (Draft so no Motion)

David St. Pierre stated the draft financial report for the year to date showed a surplus of \$36,180 compared to an expected zero balance, resulting in a positive variance of \$36,180. There are a number of factors contributing to the variance including receipt of a delinquent payment, allocation of all City Match monies, and less expense due to cancellation of monthly luncheons and fewer meetings.

Non-budgeted but approved expenses to June 20 were \$10,000 for alley lighting and \$45,833.37 for StreetPlus Safety Patrol. The latter amount was reduced to \$19,682 after allocation of \$26,152 from the reserve of unallocated City Match monies.

BID Levy income year to June 30 was \$33,732 higher than budget, but only due to receipt of a delinquent payment of \$73,864. As noted previously, RDP contacted City Business Tax staff about the decline in BID Levy income. RDP was advised that the decline was due to a delinquent amount. That account subsequently caught up and RDP received approximately \$73,864 as a result. Without that, income would have been down by \$40,132 for the fiscal year, likely due to impact from COVID-19.

As of June 30, RDP has \$269,602 in two checking accounts and one money market account with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include four CDS with Pacific Premier Bank and Provident Bank for total reserves of \$328,031.

The Accounts Receivable equal \$9,959. The Accounts Payable equal \$3,280.

8) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards said the meeting which took place yesterday was supposed to discuss the Festival of Lights. However it will be continued to the August 4 meeting to revisit the ability to put on the Festival while COVID-19 is still going on. At the meeting last night the Council approved a new Memorandum of Understanding for Cheech at the Riverside Arts Museum. The Council also approved new regulations for accessory dwelling units and family day care centers.

Erin Edwards said in a meeting today at 1pm the Finance Committee will be hearing a list of City assets to potentially declare as surplus such as the convention center, the fox, parking garages, etc. Also, the Finance Committee will be discussing revenue generation within the City of Riverside.

Erin Edwards said at the Land Use committee on July 13 a public parking update will be discussed. The report shows that there is declining revenue due to COVID-19 and they are expecting it to continue to decrease. The report also mentions the garage modification and update plan which would be about \$2 million to complete and calls for a modification of the cost.

Erin Edwards said tomorrow the Riverside Public Libraries are opening for curbside pick-up, except the Main Library which will remain closed and not do curbside pickup. The reason is the

Main Library staff is working to move everything from the old library to its new location which is expected to open as early as September.

Erin Edwards said the Council unanimously decided to move to a process called priority based budgeting. This way the City can be clear about what their priorities are and then line up all budgets against that list of priorities. This process will begin immediately.

Erin Edwards said on September 15, there will be a meeting taking place about the waste disposal increase for both businesses and personal dwellings.

Lastly, Erin Edwards mentioned that Andy Melendrez was successful with the Transformative Planning Committee Grant which brings 31.2 million dollars to the City for the Eastside Climate Collaborative for 64 units of affordable housing on 7th and Chicago which will be called The Etrada House. In addition, it will allow 2000 trees to be planted, providing 4000 bus passes, providing solar to 100 homes, and 100,000 square feet of 3zeroscaping.

Jeff Kraus voiced concerns over the topic of the surplus locations within downtown riverside and the potential selling of those locations.

As Andy Melendrez had to leave the meeting, there was no update.

9) RDP Security Update

Chris Wagner said the entertainment permit submissions have been extended to October 31. Since the last meeting, there have been 5 auto thefts, 1 shoplifting, and 5 vehicle burglaries. The vehicle burglaries were mainly conducted in the parking structures and were smash and grab in origin.

Chris Wagner provided a number of statistics. There were roughly 80 officers out and about from Wednesday through July 4. They responded to 545 calls, 407 311 calls, 150 extra patrols, and contacted 271 people. 83 citations were given and 832 pounds of fireworks were confiscated

PSET visited 129 locations in the last month. 24 parks were visited, 156 people were contacted. 5 people accepted services, 11 felony arrests were made, 5 citations were issued, 1 vehicle was towed, and 28 tons of trash was cleaned up.

Riverside Police Department handled 1737 patrol calls from May 12 to June 30 which were identified as homeless related.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman said the Business Support and Recovery team recently implemented a business support hotline so the business community can touch base with City staff. The hotline number is 951-826-2438 which connects to every team member, and no call will go unanswered. The team has also been receiving a large number of calls from bar and restaurant owners who had been caught off guard by the Governor's order to close again. Many had ordered large quantities of food which will most likely go to waste. The team is strongly encouraging the restaurants take advantage of the outdoor flex dining permit process the City is implementing which can allow them to use their parking lot and public right of way outside their businesses for outdoor dining.

Nathan Freeman said the Paycheck Protect Program (PPP) is now reopened. Those who were not able to participate in the initial round of this program now have another chance to apply for these funds. The deadline to apply is August 8. A question was asked if there had been discussions about businesses who had already received PPP funds and if they could receive more if the pandemic continued. At this time there had not been any discussions for more funds being given to businesses who had already received prior funds.

A discussion took place in regards to how these closures are affecting the hospitality industry but especially the bars and restaurants.

Nathan Freeman replied that some of the local representatives realize the extent of the impact to the restaurants and bars specifically. One in particular, Gil Cisneros, has introduced what he is calling HR07197, the Restaurants Act of 2020. He is proposing to establish a \$120 billion dollar restaurant stabilization grant program which would provide local independent restaurants with significant financial relief, and would be a nationwide program.

Donna Stephenson asked about the project on First and Main because it seemed like the scope of the project had changed from its original vision. Nathan Freeman said he was unaware of any changes to the project. He said the name of the project is "The Commons" and it includes an adaptive reuse of the old firehouse and the construction of about 150 family units. He said he would look into the matter and report back to the group. Erin Edwards said the last she heard the project was thinking of downsizing and not expanding like Donna Stephenson has been hearing. They are also dealing with the issue of parking lot sharing and possible lack of parking availability.

Janice Penner asked both Nathan Freeman and Erin Edwards if the City has taken a stance on the businesses which still have their windows boarded up. Erin Edwards said the City does not have an immediate policy where the boards would have to be taken down. There are conversations taking place in regards to what needs to happen with the boards. Janice Penner then asked if there was any way the Homeless Outreach could come out and make a strong effort to try and get the long time nuisance homeless off the streets and into a program or shelter. Erin Edwards said she would speak with the Outreach team and see what can be done about the one particular homeless person in question who spits and is a health risk to other people around her.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Oz Puerta had to leave the meeting due to another obligation but sent a statement via Zoom chat with regards to the Arlington BID updates. He said that during these times Arlington Business Partnership has been proactive in helping provide Physical Improvement Grants to any businesses that have been vandalized or broken into. Arlington Business Partnership has also been absorbing costs to provide and install Ring Cameras in the areas where businesses have been having issues with transients and crime.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – September 9, 2020