



Minutes

Present: Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Charity Schiller, David Bristow, Philip Makhoul, Erin Phillips, Gregory Anderson, Chuck Beaty, Patrick Brien, Nathan Freeman, Bill Gardner, Paul Gill, Lou Monville, Jeff Kraus, Nanci Larsen, Stan Morrison, Bob Nagle, Geoff Nealy, Nick Pacific, Per Nillson, Brian Pearcy, Debbie Rose, Sergio San Martin, Donna Stephenson, Justin Tracy, Todd Turoci, Steve Goodson

Excused: David St. Pierre, Randy Hord, Andy Melendrez

Absent: Cherie Cruthcher, Simone Sink/Vanessa Rogers, Andrew Walcker, Jesse De La Cruz, Oz Puerta

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Erin Edwards

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 May 13, 2020.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 13, 2020

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Patrick Brien

Motion carried. Bill Gardner abstained from the vote.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated it was important to find positives in these uncertain times. She mentioned the beautiful artwork on the various boards protecting the boarded up businesses throughout downtown. She also talked about how the police force stepped up their game during the protests, saying there was damage but it was minimum compared to how it could have been. She applauded the police force for their efforts in keeping downtown safe. A question was posed about how many Antifa members were involved in the demonstrations. Steve Goodson stated it was hard to tell because they don't usually wear identifiable clothing or items to associate themselves with that group. He said there were probably some there but the police tried to identify any problem individuals in the crowds. Chuck Beaty mentioned a video being posted of someone dressed in black being beaten and wanted to know what the condition was of that individual. Steve Goodson stated at this time it is unknown how the individual is doing. Medical was able to get to the individual and transport them to the hospital but no more information is known other than that.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) RDP Budget – Recommendation to Board for Contribution to StreetPlus Safety Patrol including Caveats

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the motion to contribute \$50,000 to the StreetPlus Safety Patrol is withdrawn as the City does not have the money for a fourth year of the program. Instead RDP will work with the City to determine a different method of providing safety to

downtown businesses. The new security plan needs to be able to grow as the situation with the pandemic evolves and RDP would like to take the lead on developing a plan. Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked for the Board's approval on doing so, noting that there was not a request for money at this time as it was uncertain what the plan would involve and how expensive it would be.

Stan Morrison says it is critical to make clear RDP is not perceived as taking money away from security as some people may not know what StreetPlus Safety Patrol is or did. He suggested collaborating with RPD to make sure security goals and measures still happen as planned. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP is working with the police, and discussions are already taking place with Kevin Townsend and others in the City.

Lou Monville asked about the process moving forward and if a security plan would be created and then go out to bid. The first step would be to get the hospitality establishments, hotels, bars, and businesses involved to find out what they need to create the plan.

A discussion took place about what needed to be done for security moving forward. Shelby Worthington-Loomis wanted to make it clear there would be a security presence. She noted that StreetPlus wanted \$200,000 to provide security on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights and she felt there needed to be something to deal with the new normal the world is facing.

5b) Strategic Plan – Recommended Process

Janice Penner stated input is essential when creating a strategic plan. She said RDP is looking to the Board and committees to provide what they think the questions should be. From there the questions can be narrowed down and then send out to the broader community of downtown.

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. The Fall Fashion Show will not be held and the retailers will be encouraged to coordinate with the Modern Vintage Flea event on October 17. RDP partnered with the organizers of the Modern Vintage Flea event on promotional totes.

Janice Penner provided an update in regards to the Art and Music Festival. The event can't be held on the 19th of September as the City says there is a conflicting event, The Deaf Festival, happening on the same day. RDP is currently working with the City to see what other dates are available.

The office is now open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am till 4:30 pm and from 9 am to 4:30 pm on Friday. The RDP Ambassadors are continuing to patrol both day and evening shifts with some adjustments in hours. Staff continues to observe social distancing and wear face masks provided by RDP.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial Reports at April 30, 2020 - Motion

Shirley Schmeltz said the financial report for the year to date showed a deficit of \$24,556 compared to an expected deficit of \$9,934 resulting in a negative variance of \$14,622.

Non-budgeted but approved expenses to April 30 were \$10,000 for alley lighting and \$41,667 for StreetPlus Safety Patrol.

BID levy income year to April 30 was \$17,735 greater than expected.

Motion: To approve the Financial Reports at April 30, 2020

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Seconded:** Charity Schiller

Motion carried.

7b) Financial Reports at May 31, 2020 – Motion

Shirley Schmeltz stated the financial report for the year to date showed a deficit of \$43,248 compared to an expected deficit of \$11,734 resulting in a negative variance of \$31, 514.

Non-budgeted but approved expenses to May 31 were \$10,000 for alley lighting and \$43,833.37 for StreetPlus Safety Patrol. BID levy income year to May 31 was \$928 less than expected.

As of May 31, RDP had \$177,137 in two Checking and one Money Markey account with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include four CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and Provident Bank for total reserves of \$327,216.

The Accounts Receivable equal \$60,765 including the City for 42,413 and Republic Parking for \$14,726. The Accounts Payable equal \$5,769.

Janice Penner reported they received a memo from the City regarding business tax, and why the BID levy was declining even though new businesses were coming to downtown. They said there was a delinquent business that has now paid up in full. As a result, RDP has received \$73,863 in respect of that delinquent BID income.

Motion: To approve the Financial Reports at April 30, 2020

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Seconded:** Charity Schiller

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards said the City would likely be going into stage 3 soon. She mentioned several topics at the upcoming Council meeting on June 16. One item will be the discussion to raise trash and recycling rates for both businesses and residents in Riverside. The Council will also discuss Vehicle Miles Travel which is the way they measure transportation impacts. The rollover fiscal year budget for 2020-2021 will also be discussed as well as the emergency budget which was put into action in response to the pandemic. There will be some changes to the budget such as the remodeling of the Museum of Riverside and eliminating the proposed new parking garage. The two global orders, the emergency order with COVID-19 and the minimum staffing order, will be reviewed on the 16th as well.

The third 'virtual office hours' with Erin Edwards will be happening later today via Zoom from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. No formal presentation is required.

The City Asset List was put back to the Finance Committee and will be discussed on July 8. Assets include the Fox, the Box, and the Convention Center. All feedback can be sent to either Erin Edwards or the Finance committee members who are Councilmen Fierro, Hemingway, and Placentia.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if any of the original assets are withdrawn from the list. Erin Edwards replied and said the information has not yet been published so at this time she doesn't know. The next question was how many applications the City received for the United Way grant. Erin Edwards did not know the number of applicants received but said there is about 150 people on the waiting list to receive more information about the grant and not all of those are businesses. She will follow up and provide the actual numbers when she has it.

Andy Melendrez was not able to make the meeting and will provide an update for Ward 2 at a later date.

9) RPD Security Update

Steve Goodson thanked everyone for their kind words about the police force, saying they had been very prepared for the protests and demonstrations which occurred downtown. During the Festival of Lights switch on they have about 130 to 140 officers available, and in comparison there were just over 200 deployed for the initial protests on Monday with another contingency of about 300 to 400 officers from the Sheriff's department. The cities of Montclair, Corona, and San Bernardino police also assisted with these efforts. During their planning for the protests they decided to set boundaries right away instead of letting the protesters do whatever they wanted and then try to mitigate the issues after the fact. The police set up barricades designed to keep the protesters where they wanted them rather than allowing them free reign of downtown.

There were 14 incidents of vandalism reported, mostly glass breaks and spray paint. There were a few reports of commercial burglaries such as CVS. Overall the damage was minor and Riverside was successful in sending the message that they would not accept protests which were not peaceful in nature. Monday's event was the largest crowd with between 5,000 to 6,000 individuals in attendance. The next largest event was maybe 1,000 individuals on Sunday where they marched from Fairmount Park to in front of the old court house where speeches took place. The event was peaceful in nature.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if the Tyler Mall was hit on Tuesday as other malls in the nation had been hurt pretty badly. She also wanted to know what the overall showing was for the event scheduled to happen at the mall. Chris Wagner stated there was zero protestor presence at the mall, which he attributed to the communication between the police and the Tyler mall personnel. The mall decided to close and block off all the entrances to the mall, and keep a police presence in the area. There were a few small groups of people who showed up at different times asking where the protest was taking place. They were told there was no protest happening and if they came onto the property they would be trespassing. Social media posts reflected the police presence in the area and many suggested going somewhere else due to the police in the area.

A question was asked about how many arrests occurred during the demonstrations and how long it would take to replace a police car which was damaged or destroyed during the protests. On Monday 7 arrests happened and they were for failure to disperse after the order was given. There were some other arrests which occurred during the course of the week but Steve Goodson was unsure if they were directly related to the demonstrations or not. As for the police car, only one car received minor damage during the demonstrations when someone kicked it on the door. New cars are currently being made but the electronics and extra features still need to be added before they are ready for use.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if there was concern for June 29. Chris Wagner said there is always some concern when verdicts are given out but they have resources on hand so they can prepare ahead of time rather than get caught off guard.

A discussion broke out in regards to the cost businesses faced due to boarding up their windows and how to reduce costs if businesses needed to board up again in the upcoming weeks.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman mentioned the County has met the requirements to move into phase 3. Phase 3 includes the reopening of bars, gyms, movie theaters, mini golf courses, bowling alleys, arcades, batting cages, etc. with the understanding they will open at only 25% capacity with a max of 100 people in each location.

Since it is now 3 months into the pandemic the focus is shifting from stabilization to recovery mode. Developers are still fairly bullish about Riverside. Case in point the Greens Group closed escrow on the old fire station a few weeks ago, which will be transformed into a dual residence and Marriott hotel.

Bill Gardner asked how the downtown outdoor seating furniture was coming along, Nathan replied the tables, chairs, and umbrellas have been ordered but until the umbrella installation is completed and under control they do not want to install the new furniture.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis wanted to know how the City plans to enforce businesses staying within the capacity limits. Nathan said he would have to check. She also stated there should be guidelines provided to the different businesses as phase 3 begins. She said many of the bars also double as nightclubs, however nightclubs are not allowed to reopen till phase 4. This way, businesses would have an understanding of what is allowed and not allowed moving forward. A discussion took place about what would happen if a business didn't follow the guidelines or misunderstood a guideline, and what the repercussions may look like.

Lastly, Nathan said that Slaters 50/50 is still moving forward coming to downtown, Steel Craft unfortunately did back out of the deal due to the pandemic. Farm House is still moving forward as well but the building got vandalized extensively during the demonstrations so it needs to be reevaluated.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

Oz Puerta was not at the meeting, no new update was provided at this time.

12) New Business

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked Erin Edwards and Nathan Freeman if they saw Festival of Lights happening this year. Erin Edwards said it is in discussion as far as what type of activities could happen, and how to save money because a second wave of the pandemic could still happen. The City wants to bring people together but wants to do safely. Shelby Worthington-Loom suggested perhaps making the event less of a carnival style and providing more vendors instead where people can walk around more and not be so clustered together in one area. Erin Edwards agreed and said discussions along that nature have been in the works.

Janice Penner spoke of other cities having light sculpture competitions/displays which would allow people to walk around as well.

Janice Penner posed a final question for the board, if they would prefer the meeting in July to be at 7:30 or 9:30 in the morning. She stated the 9:30 am time frame was a temporary measure while the meetings had to take place via Zoom. She asked the members to send an email with their time preference and the majority would rule on what time the July meeting would take place.

13) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – July 8, 2020