



7:30 AM

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2020  
VIRTUAL – ZOOM APP**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Brian Percy, Charity Schiller, Chris Wagner, Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, David St. Pierre, Debbie Rose, Donna Stephenson, Gregory Anderson, Jeff Krauss, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Nathan Freeman, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Stan Morrison

**Excused:** Justin Tracy, Sergio San Martin

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, Andy Melendrez, Bill Gardner, Cherie Crutcher, Erin Phillips, Geoff Neely, Jesse De La Cruz, Nick Pacific, Bob Nagle, Simone Sink, Oz Puerta, Todd Turoci

**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**

Gregory Anderson mentioned Riverside Community College received a one-million-dollar grant from the National Bank of America focusing on job opportunities in the public health field.

**3) Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2020.**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 11, 2020

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Philip Makhoul

**Brian Percy abstained. Motion carried.**

**4) Chair's Report**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said she was pleased to see many people ordering take-out from the restaurants in downtown and supporting the local businesses.

**5) Items for Discussion**

**5a) 2021 Annual Meeting**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Executive Committee discussed the options available for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Staff had advised that unless full capacity was allowed, the event wouldn't be financially viable. With the current pandemic situation, the likelihood of holding any large indoor event in the near future is remote. The options were to cancel the 2021 event completely, or to hold some form of virtual event focused on award recipients. The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa had advised they would roll the 2021 deposit over to 2022 and would hold February 16, 2022 for RDP.

The Executive felt that it would be best to cancel the 2021 Annual Meeting rather than try to hold a virtual event. They felt much of the cachet of the event was from family and friends gathering together to recognize award recipients.

Brian Pearcy said he agreed with the decision to cancel the event rather than hold a virtual event. However, he suggested that if the pandemic tapers off by the middle to next year and large indoor events are once again allowed, that RDP hold some type of mixer event.

#### **5b) Security Task Force Update**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Security Task Force membership has been set. Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Scott Megna, Per Nilsson, and Todd Turoci from the Board have agreed to serve. Lieutenant Chris Wagner, Hafsa Kaka, and Paloma Montes from the City, plus Debbie Rose from the County, and Jeffrey Higgins from Riverside Transit Agency are serving on the task force as resource/stakeholder members.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that an email regarding the meetings would go out shortly. The purpose of the task force is to decide on how the \$50,000 additional allocation from RDP will be spent, plus how to leverage other security efforts by resource/stakeholder members.

The Board was provided with an outline of current security efforts.

- RDP Ambassador patrol weekdays downtown core, evenings and weekends focus on garages – funded through BID funds and ongoing.
- External security patrol of Entertainment District seven days a week from 4 pm to midnight – funded through RDP \$50,000 allocation of reserve funds to June 30, 2021.
- External security patrol of the Entertainment District seven days a week from 11 am to 7 pm – funded through City CARES Act grant of \$15,000 to December 31, 2020.
- External security patrol by two security personnel of outer boundary of Entertainment seven days a week from noon to 8 pm – funded through County CARES Act grant of \$10,000 to December 31, 2020.

#### **6) Items for Information**

##### **6a) 2021 BID Renewal**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the Public Hearing was held with no written objections from businesses, and that the renewal of the BID Levy was unanimous.

##### **6b) RFP for Garage Security Patrol**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said all of the necessary information has been filed with the City. City Council approved the Professional Service Agreement with RDP. However, until the Purchase Order is issued, RDP cannot officially take over. The Purchase Order is to be issued once Risk Management approves the liability insurance documents. Multi-Housing District Patrol is on standby to start. Janice Penner said RDP is expecting the Purchase Order by the end of the week.

Per Nilsson asked how many ambassadors are currently employed with RDP. Janice Penner replied there are currently six ambassadors who work from 9 am to 5 pm and from 5 pm to 1 am in two shifts for 15 hours a day. Monday thru Friday the Ambassadors patrol the downtown core during the day which is funded through RDP, and on the evenings and weekend shifts they focus on the garages which is funded through the contract with Republic Parking.

### **6c) Update on RDP Activities and Items**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP continues to share pertinent posts on Facebook, and distribute informational emails.

RDP continues to distribute the masks which are provided by the County. Six shipments of 10,000 masks have now been received and just over 950 boxes of masks have been distributed to downtown businesses. Businesses requiring more masks, particularly restaurants and retailers, contact RDP when they need additional masks.

The Security meeting and the Land Use meeting are held monthly using Zoom. The Entertainment District meeting is held quarterly with the next meeting planned for January 2021.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked about the deadline for businesses to contact RDP regarding advertising funded through the County grant money. Janice Penner replied through the efforts of Lou Monville, the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau received a \$15,000 grant from the County to help promote downtown Riverside through the holidays. RDP was approached to partner with them to use that money. Given the short time frame, RDP is looking at radio ads with KOLA 99.9 and KFROG 101.1 as well as Facebook and Instagram ads. The campaign is scheduled to start December 14.

A discussion took place regarding outdoor dining, what people who are ordering take-out can or cannot do as far as sitting in a public place, and the impact of the homeless congregating in those public spaces.

### **7) Financial Reports**

#### **7a) Financial Reports at November 30, 2020 – MOTION**

David St. Pierre stated the financial report for the five months to date showed a deficit of \$12,641 compared to an expected deficit of \$52,488 which resulted in a positive variance of \$39,846. BID Levy income for the five months to date was \$20,023 higher than budget which contributed to the positive variance. Also contributing were budgeted expenses that were not incurred due to events not taking place. Non-budgeted but approved expenses to November 30, 2020 were \$18,032 for the external safety patrol funded through RDP reserves.

As of November 30, 2020 RDP had \$248,729 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include four CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and Provident Bank for total reserves of \$328,597.

The Accounts Receivable equaled \$14,867 which consisted of \$4,867 for Republic Parking for garage parking patrol and \$10,000 for the County CARES Act grant. The Accounts Payable equaled \$683.

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Stan Morrison

**Motion carried.**

#### **7b) CARES Grant Update**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP received the \$10,000 grant under the County's CARES Act program. The money is to be used to provide an additional external security patrol for downtown during the holiday season. As there is coverage of the Entertainment District from the City CARES Act grant, the County grant money will be used for patrol beyond that area. The area will be Market Street from University Avenue to Third Street, plus University from Market to the new Library, and

Mission Inn Avenue from Lime Street to Market. The grant will provide for two patrol persons from noon to 8 pm seven days a week until December 31, 2020.

## **8) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards said yesterday the City celebrated its induction of a new mayor, Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson.

On December 15 the City Council will have public hearings for three new housing projects in downtown Riverside. One is the “Espier Project” which will help youth who have aged out of the system and are experiencing homelessness.

On December 17 at the Budget Engagement Commission meeting at 5 pm, the management agreement with The Cheech will be going forward. A study was done earlier and it showed an estimated 317 million dollars would be brought into Riverside within 10 years by The Cheech. The issue of The Cheech will go before the Finance Committee in early January and a final decision will occur later in the month.

Erin Edwards said ICU bed availability is at 10.1 percent, and the best people can do is to stay home as much as possible and test often. The City’s partnership with Curative to provide COVID-19 testing is going very well. Many individuals are visiting the various testing sites throughout the area. The City will be taking over the testing site at the old Sears on Arlington as well as opening a site at UCR which will serve the UCR and Westside community.

A discussion took place on how often a person who is regularly in contact with other people should get tested, and when the best time to go is for an accurate result if an individual believes they were exposed. The discussion also included the efforts both the City and County have made to keep people safe.

Brian Pearcy asked if the hospital beds placed in the Sears building were taken away. Both Erin Edwards and Lou Monville said there have been discussions on using the Sears location if necessary but at the moment the resources have been deployed elsewhere in the county. A big challenge is the lack of available nurses.

David St. Pierre asked if parking enforcement was suspended temporarily while the three week stay at home order was in place. Janice Penner replied that Republic Parking told RDP there is no parking enforcement on the streets while the new parking meters are being installed. Once the new parking meters are installed, parking enforcement will resume.

## **9) RPD Security Update**

Chris Wagner said there have been no auto thefts and no robberies in the last four weeks. There were two vehicle burglaries, both in the parking garages, one at garage 1 and the other at the Mission garage. Both vehicles were left open by the owners and items from either the car seats or glove box were taken. There was one commercial burglary and one vandalism case. The burglary occurred at the recycling center in front of Maxi foods where someone broke in and stole money out of the cash register. The vandalism occurred at Lake Alice where an individual broke one of the windows and proceeded to just go in and out of the establishment. Nothing was taken and there was security video of the incident.

The homeless outreach team visited 132 locations in the last four weeks, 28 being parks. From the visits, 130 people were contacted, five accepted services, nine people were arrested, five

people were cited, and 31 tons of trash was removed. Among the places visited by homeless outreach were RMA, the Library, White Park, Ryan Bonamino Park, and Fairmount Park.

This past weekend for Festival of Lights everything went well. There were a lot of people walking around but all had masks and no large gatherings occurred.

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

Nathan Freeman had to leave the meeting early so no update was provided.

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

Oz Puerta did not attend the meeting so no update was provided.

#### **12) New Business**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis mentioned an idea she had about RDP partnering with the City, the County, and the Riverside Arts Council to put on a light show at White Park when the pandemic ends and large outdoor events are once again allowed.

Nathan Freeman sent a text to Shelby Worthington-Loomis that \$1.5 million in CARES act money was freed up to address the 400 applications submitted by businesses for grants that were not approved for funds as the original allocation ran out.

David St. Pierre commented that the Raincross Kitchen & Pub has been officially closed permanently. The owner decided to close and move all equipment to his other two locations in Mission Grove and Canyon Crest.

#### **13) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – January 13, 2021**