



## Minutes

**Present:** Bill Gardner, Brian Percy, Charity Schiller, Chris Wagner, Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, Debbie Rose, Donna Stephenson, Erin Phillips, Gregory Anderson, Jeff Krauss, Jesse De La Cruz, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Nathan Freeman, Nick Pacific, Paloma Montes, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Stan Morrison, Todd Turoci

**Excused:** David St. Pierre

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Geoff Neely, Justin Tracy, Simone Sink, Oz Puerta,

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

**Staff:** Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

### 1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order. Note – Charity Schiller later served as acting Chair.

### 2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Conducted. There were no Public Comments.

### 3) Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2020.

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2020

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Brian Percy

**Motion carried.**

### 4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said Felix the Barber located between House of Flames and Worthington's passed away. He had been a barber for over 40 years in the same location in downtown. His daughter is going to try to keep the business running.

### 5) Items for Discussion

#### 5a) Continuation of External Security Patrol until February 28, 2021 - Motion

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the County CARES Act grant was used to fund an external security patrol of the outer boundaries of the downtown core. There were two security guards on patrol and the patrol area included Market from 12<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Streets which covered the Market Street hotels. That patrol would have ended December 31, 2020.

RDP received positive feedback on the success of that patrol and so staff recommended it continue to at least February 28. It was continued to January 8 pending the Executive Committee's decision. The cost to extend the patrol to February 28 would be \$21,712 which could come from the additional \$50,000 allocated by the Board for downtown security. The Executive Committee approved the continuation subject to final approval by the Board at the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the continuation of the external security patrol of the outer boundaries until February 28, 2021.

**Motion Made by:** Nanci Larson **Motion Seconded by:** Chuck Beaty  
**Motion Accepted Unanimously**

Stan Morrison asked where the homeless go when they are moved along. Janice Penner said they don't leave downtown altogether but leave the immediate area. Moving them is more to mitigate disturbances with businesses and customers. Patrick Brien said he has noticed a lot of homeless are now loitering in the Wood Streets hanging out there.

A discussion broke out on that point plus the expansion of the security program into certain areas of the BID, and what areas of downtown Riverside are currently being patrolled by security right now. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP cannot do this type of security by themselves as the resources are not there for the long haul. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the City to provide security to all of downtown.

#### **5b) Ratify Motion of Support from Land Use and Executive - Motion**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated an amendment to the Riverside Municipal Code section 9.04.400(D) went before City Council on January 12 with Public Works presenting the Staff Report. The amendment dealt with conduct on public property, and included a provision to not allow people to enter the decorative fountains for any reason. The issue is that the decorative fountains do not have a filtration system like a swimming pool and so entering them poses a health hazard.

The Land Use committee adopted a motion of support for the amendment and asked that the Executive approve it at their meeting. The Executive did so along with staff sending a letter of support to the City. That letter is attached. The Board was asked to ratify the motion.

**MOTION: To support the amendment to the Riverside Municipal Code, and the posting of signage to educate and dissuade potential misuse of the downtown fountains by people or animals.**

**Motion Made by:** Brian Percy **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner  
**Motion Carried.**

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

##### **6a) CARES and Other Grants Update**

Charity Schiller stated RDP staff filed the final report for the City CARES Act grant of \$15,000. The final report for the County CARES Act grant of \$10,000 is due in January 2021.

Staff sent the documentation to the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau for reimbursement for marketing expenses to promote downtown businesses. The \$15,000 for the marketing campaign came from a grant from the County. The campaign included about \$10,500 for radio ads on KOLA and KFROG and just under \$5,000 for social media on Facebook and Instagram on RDP's pages. The radio campaign included a contest to win one of five gift cards from downtown businesses purchased by RDP.

##### **6b) Security Task Force Update**

Charity Schiller said the first meeting is set for Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 am via Zoom. Meeting information will be sent out prior to the meeting for their review including a recap of current and past security efforts. They will be asked for recommendations regarding future security efforts.

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

Charity Schiller stated the Purchase Order for the four shift a week parking garage patrol was received and the patrol started December 24, 2020.

The evening and weekend patrol by Ambassadors of City-owned parking garages was terminated by Republic Parking and the City effective January 16, 2021. The daytime Ambassador program that is funded by RDP will continue Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. RDP will sell one of its GEM cars as surplus.

RDP shared pertinent posts on Facebook except during the social media campaign as it would have diluted the impact.

Over 900 boxes of masks have been distributed to downtown businesses. Currently 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 should be held in January but with the current condition of the pandemic, it is uncertain when it will be held.

## **7) Financial Reports**

### **7a) Financial Reports at December 31, 2020 – MOTION**

Janice Penner stated the financial report for the five months to date showed a deficit of \$36,558 compared to an expected deficit of \$61,858 resulting in a positive variance of \$25,299. BID Levy income for the five months to date was \$29,385 higher than budget which contributed to the positive variance. Also contributing were budgeted expenses that were not paid due to events not taking place. Non-budgeted but approved expenses to December 31, 2020 were \$23,736 for the external safety patrol funded through RDP reserves.

As of December 31, 2020, RDP had \$192,150 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 \$328,759.

The Accounts Receivable equaled \$50,889 which consisted of \$9,734 from Republic Parking for garage parking patrol, \$26,373 for the November 2020 BID levy from the City, and \$14,782 for holiday promotion from the County through the RCVB. The Accounts Payable equaled \$4,020.

### **MOTION: To approve the financial report at December 31, 2020**

**Motion made by:** Bill Gardner **Motion Seconded by:** Randy Hord

**Motion carried.**

## **8) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards said the City provided \$5.4 million in CARES grant money to 578 businesses throughout Riverside and \$1.2 million of the overall \$5.4 million went just to Ward One. From the County grants, Riverside City received 982 grants for \$10,000 each.

On January 4, the FDA made an announcement about Curative having the potential of giving people false negative results for COVID. The City of Riverside still stands behind Curative as it lowered the barriers with getting individuals to take the test. There is a 28% positivity rate for Curative and the demands for testing are increasing. The tests are now being sent to the lab twice a day instead of just once and all test sites will now be open 7 days a week.

The Cheech's Management Agreement went before the Budget Committee late December and was passed on an 8 to 6 vote to move forward in the process. It went before the Finance Committee last week which was unanimously approved to be brought to Council.

The Riverside Transmission and Alliance Project goes before Council on January 26. The request is to appropriate \$125 million from the Electric Fund and put it towards specific components for this project.

Erin Edwards said 18,000 plus housing units have to be created in Riverside, and there will be numerous meetings in the coming weeks to discuss where these new housing units should be created.

The topic of enforcement with regards to public safety during the pandemic was pulled from the Council agenda recently but it is clear now there needs to be some sort of enforcement model in place for businesses. Law enforcement can provide education, or the City can bring lawsuits against the businesses in question. This will be on the agenda for Council at some point in the near future and dates will be provided once it is scheduled.

Chuck Beaty asked about the Cheech and the Riverside Art Museum (RAM) and how they are to be funded. Erin Edwards replied the RAM is privately funded, whereas the Cheech, which will be a program within the RAM, will be funded through the City. The Management Agreement for the Cheech will be for 25 years with a review of the agreement in year 10. She said \$800,000 a year would go towards the operation as well as approximately \$120,000 a year towards utilities/maintenance.

Andy Melendez said a case was lost with the General Fund Transfer and as a result, nearly \$25 million a year could be lost. This revenue will never be replaced unless the City starts adding fees, additional taxes, etc. to recover the loss.

The Food Truck policy is still in the discussion phase. There are a few student housing issues. For instance property managers are requiring students to pay their rent even though there are no in-person classes. Students are trying to get out of their leases but the property managers are being difficult. The students have just recently filed a class action lawsuit against the establishment.

Work continues to be done on Park Avenue. Multiple fundraisers have been done to raise money for the murals going in the area. The City does not fund this project and it will be completed entirely through fundraiser and grant moneys.

*Due to audio problems at this point, a portion of the update did not come through for recording.*

Bill Gardner asked about the lawsuit which cost the City \$25 million. Andy Melendez said it was called the Prada lawsuit, in which a woman by the name of Summer Prada filed a lawsuit against the City for overcharging of electrical rates or the general fund transfer. The judge ruled in her favor. Erin Edwards mentioned the outcome of the lawsuit is not final nor is the way in which the City plans to respond to this issue.

## **9) RPD Security Update**

Chris Wagner said there were two auto thefts in the downtown business area. One was off Brockton Avenue and involved a motorcycle that an employee had left for a week in a parking lot and when he came back it was missing. The other took place near the Santa Cruz motel where a Chevy Tahoe was parked overnight and was missing the next morning. There was one vandalism and three vehicle burglaries. A BMW parked in the Mission Inn parking garage had the rear windows busted out but nothing was taken from the vehicle. Another BMW parked in the Hampton Inn lot was burglarized. A video was taken of the suspects entering the car, taking items out of

the car then trying to get a room at the Hampton Inn. Another vehicle had the windows smashed out near garage one but the owner has not yet been identified so it is unclear at this time if anything was taken. The last vehicle had items removed from its trunk but the owner of the car could not remember if he had locked his car.

There were two commercial burglaries and one theft this month. The theft was at Mezcal where 12 propane tanks were taken from their back storage area.

Homeless Outreach visited 141 locations, 127 individuals were contacted, seven accepted services, 10 were arrested, five were cited, and 52 tons of trash was removed.

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

Nathan Freeman said the construction for the Mark has been heavily impacted by COVID. Originally, they were looking to open in May of this year but the opening date has since been moved to August. The Mark is 165 apartments units with 2000 square feet of commercial space. Michelle Rubin told Nathan Freeman there is a lot of positive interest in both apartment leases and commercial space renting.

The Center Point Apartments in downtown expects to open in April and Slater's 50/50 is slated to be open this month.

Bill Gardener asked about the tables and chairs in front of Simple Simon's. Nathan Freeman said they are in the process of fixing the umbrellas and provided additional chairs in front of the new ramen restaurant which operates next to Simple Simon's.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the tables and chairs on Main Street were picked up by the City after last month's meeting. Nathan Freeman said he would check with Public Works as they were not supposed to be picked up but said that as there is no outdoor dining allowed at this time that could be why they were removed. Nathan Freeman then clarified that although the tables and chairs had been provided for Saku Ramen and Simple Simon's use, they should not be out until such time as outdoor dining is allowed again in Riverside.

Todd Turoci asked about the occupancy of the apartment complexes in downtown, particularly Imperial Hardware Lofts, Main + Nine, etc. Nathan Freeman said Imperial Hardware Lofts is about 80%, but was unsure about Main + Nine. He said he would check in with the developer and find the information out for Todd Turoci.

Janice Penner commented that the tables and chairs in front of Simple Simon's are still there for people to sit on. Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated this is a conflict as the tables and chairs were removed from one block but not the other. Nathan Freeman said he would look into the matter.

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

No representative was in attendance.

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

There was no new business.

#### **13) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – February 10, 2021**