

Minutes

Present: Bill Gardner, Brian Percy, Charity Schiller, Cherie Crutcher, Chris Wagner, Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, Debbie Rose, Gregory Anderson, Jeff Krauss, Jesse De La Cruz, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Nathan Freeman, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Stan Morrison, Todd Turoci

Excused: David St. Pierre, Donna Stephenson, Justin Tracy, Randy Hord, Shalini Lockard, Val Ceballos

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Andy Melendrez, Erin Phillips, Geoff Neely, Simone Sink, Oz Puerta, Nick Pacific

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

No Public Comments were provided.

3) Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2021.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 13, 2021

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented on the reopening of outdoor dining, and how more people are visiting the downtown area once again. She noted that the homeless situation was still an issue and seems to get worse each week.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Continuation of Board Terms

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said in December 2019, the RDP By-laws were amended to change the composition of the Board so that all members were elected, the Executive Committee numbers increased from seven to nine, the Board term lengthened to two years from one, and Board members required to pay an annual membership fee of \$100 (reduced from the regular membership fee of \$150). The first Board term under the new By-laws started March 1, 2020 and ends February 28, 2022.

All Board members continue until February 28, 2022 as long as they remain in good standing which includes paying the annual membership fee of \$100 for Board members by February 28, 2021. Membership renewal notices have been sent out to all members but Board members can

effectively resign from the Board by not paying the membership fee. An election may then need to be held to fill vacant seats if the Board doesn't meet minimum numbers.

5b) Authorization to Continue External Security Patrol

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the RDP Board of Directors approved continuing the external security patrol until February 28, 2021 at the January 13 meeting. Pending recommendations from the Security Task Force, the RDP Executive should be authorized to continue the patrol until March 31, 2021 if warranted.

MOTION: To approve the continuation of the external security patrol of the outer boundaries until March 31, 2021.

Motion Made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

6) Items for Information

6a) Showers of Hope

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated that RDP Security Task Force members were advised at their meeting of a plan to bring a shower trailer downtown to the First Congregational Church parking lot to provide showers to the homeless. The plan was put together by the church, Path of Life Ministries, IEHP, and Shower of Hope Los Angeles. Members of the Security Task Force expressed concern about the plan, particularly the location and the time (10 am to 2 pm).

A meeting was arranged by the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, February 2 at 10 am for a dialogue between the church and its downtown neighbors. While there was consensus about the value of the program, there was also consensus from the business community that a location outside the downtown core was preferable. The program partners agreed to look for an alternative location.

Bill Gardner mentioned the Salvation Army does offer showers for the homeless already so there are places they can go for showers.

6b) CA COVID Relief and Other Grants Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP staff applied for the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant in the amount of \$15,000. RDP did not make Round One and was rolled over to Round Two.

Staff completed and submitted the final report on January 22 for the County CARES Act grant of \$10,000.

Janice Penner mentioned there are no new grants RDP can apply for at the moment as most grants right now are for businesses, not non-profits.

6c) Security Task Force Update – Survey

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the first meeting was held on Thursday, January 14 at 9 am via Zoom. At the meeting, it was decided a survey needed to be sent out to business and property owners to gauge their opinions on downtown security. The survey was reviewed at the January 21 meeting and approved. It was emailed out to RDP's email lists, RDP Board, Security, and Land Use committees on Friday, January 29. A second email was sent out on Friday, February 5 along with a hard copy distribution to businesses in the downtown core.

Janice Penner said there have been 52 responses to the survey so far, with more coming in. There is no cutoff date to turn in the surveys as of yet. If the Security Task Force members decide there is enough information to work with, then a cutoff date will be determined at that time.

The RDP Security Task Force is meeting bi-weekly for the short term.

6d) Update on RDP Activities and Items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the four shift a week parking garage patrol by Multi-Housing District Patrol started December 24, 2020. The RDP Ambassadors no longer patrol the garages effective January 17, 2021 and Multi-Housing District Patrol has been instructed not to patrol except for the four contracted shifts. This prompted a discussion on the lack of funding to provide more security to City buildings.

Per Nilsson mentioned the issue of businesses, and the Marriott in particular, not having Multi-Housing District Patrol's phone number. Janice Penner responded the information had been distributed at a past Board meeting, as well as in the minutes which are sent to Board members and in the recent BID Bulletin.

Per Nilsson asked why security is not a more important matter for the City. Erin Edwards said they are looking into the information gathered together by the Security Task Force so they are able to identify the areas of concern. This started a discussion on when the City would actually provide security rather than discuss it and what RDP's role is moving forward regarding security in downtown.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP received another supply of masks from the County. The RDP Ambassadors distributed boxes to restaurants, retailers, and hair salons on January 28. Distribution to other businesses will start the week of February 1st. RDP will continue to provide masks to businesses who request them after that distribution.

RDP both posts and shares pertinent posts on Facebook at least once daily, more attention will be paid to Instagram in the coming months.

Staff submitted a request for City sponsorship for the second half of 2021. The request was for movie equipment for Movies on Main and for the mobile stage for the Riverside Arts and Music Festival.

Staff has started preparation of the Annual Report to go out in March. The report will be smaller than in previous years due to reduced activity. However, RDP's security efforts will be highlighted.

The security meeting and the Land Use meeting continue to be held monthly using Zoom. The Entertainment District meeting will likely be scheduled in the next few weeks.

7) Financial Reports

7a) Financial Reports at January 31, 2021 – MOTION

Janice Penner stated the financial report for the seven months to date showed a deficit of \$37,281 compared to an expected deficit of \$38,762 resulting in a positive variance of \$1,481. BID Levy income for the seven months to date was \$24,787 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 January 31, 2021 were \$40,825 for the external safety patrol funded through RDP reserves.

As of January 31, 2021, RDP had \$199,259 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 \$329,121.

The Accounts Receivable equaled \$52,302 which consisted of \$2,621 from Republic Parking for garage parking patrol and \$49,681 for the December 2020 BID levy and garage patrol. The Accounts Payable equaled \$13,442.

MOTION: To approve the financial report at January 31, 2021

Motion made by: Patrick Brien **Motion Seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

8) City Council Updates

8a) Ward One

Erin Edwards said continuing the outdoor dining program post COVID-19 was discussed at the City's Land Use committee meeting. She said the program would need to comply with the needs of the surrounding businesses on both Main Street and other areas of the City. The discussion is in the early stages, and will include issues such as fees.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis mentioned there are a few issues to consider for keeping the outdoor dining program going. One issue is the wind tunnel effect on Main Street particularly between City Hall and Mission Inn Avenue. The windy weather has destroyed the temporary tenting at times so for the long term more permanent structures need to be in place so the weather doesn't destroy temporary structures. Another issue is involving ABC in the early stages as there are dining regulations which won't be kept once COVID is under control. It is important to work with them from the start to keep everyone in compliance. Erin Edwards replied the City was already in conversation with ABC.

Erin Edwards said COVID-19 vaccine roll outs are going well. Appointments continue to be booked in fast order by those eligible to receive the vaccine so the demand is high at this time.

There will be a discussion at the next Council meeting to send a services-protections matter to the Charter Review Commission to be placed on the ballot for June. The City's Electronic Transfer which funded general funding for 911 calls, street repairs, homelessness, senior services, etc. has been challenged. This is a way to find funding to continue those day-to-day operations.

The grant to have two nurses on the City's homeless outreach team was passed.

The Council is in the process of creating housing maps to see where best to propose new housing options. The City must create a certain number of new housing options to meet the regional housing regulations.

A brief discussion took place in regards to what City-owned buildings were considered to be surplus, what the City budget looks like currently, and where the information can be found so people can read and be educated about it.

8b) Ward Two

Councilmember Melendrez was not in attendance.

9) RPD Security Update

Chris Wagner said there were four auto thefts since the last meeting. One car was recovered in San Bernardino and an arrest was made. There were three vehicle burglaries. All vehicles had a window smashed and items taken from the seats. There were a few commercial burglaries. One involved the Tamale Factory, where a window was broken and some property was smashed inside the building. The Main Street carwash had a window broken.

One individual was attacked by two female suspects. They approached the individual, asked her where she was from, then started beating her once she replied to them. The suspects took her bag and other personal items. Several arrests have been made in downtown regarding burglaries, drugs, vehicle theft, etc.

The police are seeing more guns on the streets.

The Homeless Outreach team visited 227 locations and made contact with 253 individuals. Seventeen accepted services, 23 were arrested, 16 received citations, and 66 tons of trash picked up.

Two more peace officers were added to the force and are set to start in two weeks.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Nathan Freeman left the meeting early so no update was provided.

11) Arlington Business Partnership Update

No update was provided.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – March 10, 2021