



Minutes

Present: Bill Gardner, Brian Percy, Charity Schiller, Cherie Crutcher, Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, Debbie Rose, Donna Stephenson, Gregory Anderson, Jeff Krauss, Jesse De La Cruz, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Nathan Freeman, Paloma Montes, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Stan Morrison, Jake Orta, Sherry Shimshock

Excused: Chad Milby, David St. Pierre, Justin Tracy, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill,

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Erin Phillips, Nick Pacific, Oz Puerta, Per Nilsson, Todd Turoci, Val Ceballos

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

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Acting as Chair, Charity Schiller called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Gregory Anderson wanted to let everyone know that RCC's athletic program will be back in the fall and tickets to games are available for purchase.

3) Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2021.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 12, 2021

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Gregory Anderson

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Charity Schiller mentioned that everything will be reopening in a few weeks.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) 2021-2022 Budget for Board Approval

Janice Penner said the budget was attached for review and approval by the Board. The budget format was the same as presented in previous years.

Janice Penner made note of several items. BID levy income is assumed to remain the same as the previous budget. The reduction in medical insurance expense is due to one staff member going on Medicare while one remains on the existing plan. Movies on Main will not be held in 2021 and the Art and Music Festival is being moved to White Park to avoid the costs associated with road closures. Operationally, the budget is balanced, with minimal allowance for external security. However in recognition of the need for external security, staff is recommending that the one-person external security patrol from 4 pm to 12 pm in the Downtown Entertainment District continue, but that it be funded from RDP reserve funds to a maximum of \$50,000. RDP will be seeking additional funding to continue the two other external patrols beyond June 30, 2021.

Janice Penner said the budget was presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting on Tuesday, June 1. The Executive Committee recommended that the Board approve it at their June 9 meeting. The Executive Committee also recommended that the budget be reviewed

once the Strategic Plan for 2022 through 2026 was adopted, and that the budget then be adjusted as needed.

Chuck Beaty made a motion to approve the budget. Following the motion, the question of the funding for the additional security was raised. Lou Monville expressed his concerns that the budget as presented doesn't reflect an operating deficit. Charity Schiller said the money for the additional security comes from the reserves, and isn't shown in the operating budget. She said any additional operating revenue would offset the additional security costs.

David Bristow asked several questions about general line items in the budget such as ambassador expenses, miscellaneous security expenses, etc. Janice Penner explained the various line items detailed in the budget for the Board members.

Lou Monville said people don't need to be drawn to downtown Riverside anymore so promotion and events such as Movies on Main don't need to happen. He said RDP needs to focus on safety and security in downtown to bring people back to downtown, and so he wished to be shown as a no vote for this budget.

A discussion broke out on the need for security, safety, and cleanliness in downtown versus the other needs RDP should address. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said ultimately RDP has to do advertising and events to promote downtown. If RDP waited until the City was safe and secure to do events, there would never be any events again.

Charity Schiller suggested that the motion be amended to approve the budget with the provision it be revisited in 6 months with the reopening taking place within a few weeks. The original motion to approve the 2021-2022 budget as presented was defeated.

An amended motion was presented, namely to approve the operating budget as presented and approve an additional \$67,160 from reserve funds to be used for external security patrols of the BID area, not just the Downtown Entertainment District.

Following the motion, Erin Edwards questioned how much of the budget will be used for public events and how much of that overall amount would be spent within the 6 months before the budget could be revisited. Janice Penner said roughly \$45,000 of the total \$55,000 would be spent within the 6 months due to the Art and Music Festival, the Halloween Fest, as well as advertising. It was suggested that the budget be reviewed in three months instead of six months.

Motion: To approve the budget as presented, and approve \$67,160 in reserve funds to be used for external security patrols of the BID area, and revisit the budget in three months.

Motion made by: Charity Schiller **Motion Seconded by:** Gregory Anderson

Motion carried with Nathan Freeman and Randy Hord abstaining, and Donna Stephenson voting against.

5b) RDP Position on Mobile Food Trucks and Sidewalk Vendors

Shelby Worthington said on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 RDP sent an email to the RDP Land Use Committee and to Downtown Entertainment District restaurants and bars advising them of the City's May 27 Land Use meeting and the agenda items pertaining to mobile food trucks and sidewalk vendors. RDP's opinions were also provided, based on comments from the RDP Land Use Committee and comments during the two Roundtables held by the City.

RDP submitted e-comments on the staff recommendations regarding food trucks and sidewalk vendors to the City's Land Use Committee prior to their meeting. Based on the discussion at that Committee meeting, the Executive Committee recommended that RDP adopt a position on both mobile food truck and sidewalk vendors and submitted them via letter to the City. RDP will encourage restaurant owners to voice their opinions as well.

Erin Edwards said mobile food trucks are not allowed in downtown while street vendors are. The recent State mandate is the one that allows street vendors in the area. Shelby Worthington-Loomis voiced her opinion on the potential negative ramifications of street vendors in the downtown area, including taking business away from brick-and-mortar restaurants and bringing unsavory characters into the area. Chuck Beatty stated it seemed ridiculous to have outside food vendors when the focus should be on promoting the businesses already in downtown.

Janice Penner said the issue for consideration was should RDP adopt a position on mobile food trucks and sidewalk vendors as outlined, and take that position to Council, or delay doing so. Andy Melendrez wanted to make sure Board members were aware the problems lay with the illegal food vendors, not the ones who have gone through the proper channels. He said that until there is policy on the food vendors, the illegal ones cannot be addressed properly. The Council had an opportunity to address this issue two years ago but decided to delay these conversations so now it has become an issue.

David Bristow said any illegal issue should be regulated and taken care of, period. Restaurants are not allowed to have unhealthy food sanitation standards and the vendors should be held to the same standard. However, David Bristow finds it borderline offensive when these conversations degrade down to not wanting "these people" in the area.

MOTION: To approve RDP's positions on mobile food trucks and sidewalk vendors.
(positions attached to minutes)

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Seconded:** Shalini Lockard.

Motion Carried. Debbie Rose abstained.

5c) Strategic Plan Update

The Board was referred to the information provided in the Notes to the Agenda.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Report at May 31, 2021 – Motion

Janice Penner said the financial report for the 11 months to date showed a deficit of \$106,269 compared to an expected deficit of \$6,919 resulting in a negative variance of \$99,350. BID Levy income for the ten months to date was \$982 lower than budget which added slightly to the negative variance.

Non-budgeted but approved expenses to May 31, 2021 were \$121,233 for the external safety patrol funded through RDP reserves. Offsetting those factors were budgeted expenses that were not paid due to events not taking place, plus cost savings in other areas.

As of May 31, 2021, RDP had \$174,104 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 \$329,649

The Accounts Receivable equaled \$30,135 which consisted of \$16,138 from the City for the April 2021 BID levy, and \$13,997 for the external garage patrol. The Accounts Payable equaled \$35,063.

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

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Seconded:** Gregory Anderson.

Motion Carried.

7) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards said in the interest of time she provided her cell phone number in the chat section. Anyone with any questions or comments for her can call and they can chat at that time.

Andy Melendrez said RCTC wants to expand their track to the east side knocking down the historic packing house. The residents are concerned there will be parking issues flooding into their residential streets creating traffic congestion.

There has so far been five neighborhood traffic circles installed in the area, with more scheduled to be installed over the upcoming year.

8) City Community Development Department Updates

Nathan Freeman said he has been promoted and Sherry Shimshock will be taking his place on the Board. Sherry Shimshock said she has been with the City for over 20 years in the Community Development Department.

9) RDP Security Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis, on Chad Milby's behalf, mentioned there are an increased number of fights in the downtown parking garages 1 and 2. There are people coming into the structures, drinking and then picking fights.

10) Items for Information

10a) Update on RDP Activities and Items

The Board was referred to the information provided in the Notes to the Agenda.

10b) Arlington Business Partnership Update

No update was provided.

11) New Business

There was no new business.

12) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – July 14, 2021