



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY JULY 14, 2021
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

Minutes

Present: Bill Gardner, Brian Percy, Chad Milby, Charity Schiller, Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, Donna Stephenson, Jean, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Teryn Henderson, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Todd Turoci

Excused: David St. Pierre, Gregory Anderson

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Debbie Rose, Erin Phillips, Jesse De La Cruz, Bob Nagle, Oz Puerta, Val Ceballos

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes

Guest: Collette Lee

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Shelby Worthington-Loomis called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Self-introductions were conducted.

Collette Lee attended as a guest and spoke about the issues at her buildings and other properties from homeless defecating and causing destruction to the area. She said she has lost 3 property managers in a year as the employees are afraid to go into work, and her husband has to clean the hazardous waste up from the area. She stressed that she had heard from others on these issues and that action needs to be taken to so businesses don't leave. She said Jim Perry laid out a plan at a past Council meeting that needed to be implemented.

After Collette Lee left, Stan Morrison noted that Collette Lee was a respected business person and community advocate who has Riverside's best interests at heart. He reiterated the need for action to be taken by the City before the situation got even worse.

Bill Gardner spoke about the need for public restrooms or alternatively porta-pots for use by the homeless, saying that having those available for use would reduce human waste on business and public property.

3) Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2021.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 9, 2021

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said things have been getting progressively worse in downtown with the homeless. She said that most food establishments are opening at 10 am since many employees are still working remotely. Hopefully the establishments can start to expand their hours of operation once businesses bring back employees.

The hours of the external security patrols have been changed. There are now two one-person patrols, one from 7 am to 3:30 pm and the other from 3:30 pm to midnight seven days a week. The Ambassadors continue to work from 9 am to 5 pm.

Bill Gardner reiterated bringing porta-pots into downtown so the homeless would hopefully use them instead of the streets. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said it wouldn't help and would instead attract more unsavory behavior such as prostitution and drug deals. Janice Penner related RDP's experience with public restrooms and porta-pots, noting that they needed to be continually monitored and were prohibitively expensive as a result. She said that the cons far outweighed the pros for bringing porta-pots into downtown.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Letters to the City of Riverside

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Board package included two letters sent to the City; one on evening parking rates, and one on the sale of Parking Garages 1 and 2. Both represented RDP's positions as recommended by the Security and Land Use committees respectively.

Also attached to the Agenda package was a letter sent to the City regarding amendments to the Riverside Municipal Code on food trucks and sidewalk vendors. The letter stated the positions adopted by the RDP Board of Directors on these amendments. Draft ordinances will go to the City Council in September and in July respectively. The minutes of the City's Land Use, Sustainability and Resilience Committee's May 27 meeting were also attached for reference.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Update at June 30, 2021 – draft pending financial review by CPA

Janice Penner stated the draft financial report for the year to date showed a deficit of \$103,061 compared to the budgeted zero balance. BID Levy income for the year to date was \$145 higher than the budgeted amount of \$368,000.

The negative variance of \$103,061 was due to the non-budgeted but approved expenses of \$149,201 for external security patrols, which were offset in part through a \$15,000 grant from the State, \$21,500 from events not held, and approximately \$9,600 in other cost savings. There was an additional \$25,004 in external security patrols funded through \$25,000 in grants from the County and the City.

As of June 30, 2021, RDP had \$190,523 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizen Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves included four CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and Provident Bank for total reserves of \$330, 212.

The Accounts Receivable equaled \$11,113 which consisted of \$6,221 from the City for the external garage patrol and \$4,830 from HealthNet. The Accounts Payable equaled \$29,608.

There was no motion as the financial report was a draft pending the annual financial review.

Attached as a separate file was the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 revised to reflect the \$67,160 operational deficit due to the approval of an external security patrol for six months. As discussed when it was approved at the June 9, 2021 Board meeting, the budget will be reviewed periodically with the first review in September. Additional BID Levy income will be directed to additional security.

7) Adjournment of Meeting and Convening of Advisory Board of the Riverside Downtown Parking and Business Improvement Area for the Approval of Annual Report for 2022 Renewal (see separate agenda)

The Board meeting was adjourned and the Advisory Board of the Riverside Downtown Parking and Business Improvement Area was convened so the Advisory Board could review and approve the annual report for 2022 renewal.

Once the report was approved, the Advisory Board was adjourned and the regular Board meeting reconvened.

8) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards said City Council attended openings for Slater's 50/50 as well as Eco Now and Meraki Plants. The City Council Chambers is now open to the public. The Main Library opened officially on June 26.

Maria Fernandez was hired as the new artistic director for the Cheech.

Various housing programs are continuing to move forward in their construction including Mission Heritage Plaza, and many have opened such as the Senior Program on Palm.

The new Council members were sworn in earlier in the week for wards Two, Four, and Six.

The City's Land Use discussed hiring a consulting firm for the permanent outdoor dining program the City plans to adopt.

On Mulberry the 10 tiny homes are being built and the Mark should be open late 2021. Helping Hearts is adding 23 more beds at their Hulen Compass location.

Bill Gardner asked to confirm if the Cheech is still on track to open in May of 2022. Erin Edwards said yes, that was still the plan. Bill Gardner then recommended the new director be invited to attend some of RDP's meetings. Janice Penner replied she hoped to have the new director be the speaker at RDP's October luncheon meeting.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if all City workers are back into the office. Erin Edwards said the City is still using a hybrid program where employees work remotely half the week and in the office for the other half.

9) City Community Development Department Updates

Sherry Shimshock said the Commons on First and Main Streets was still working on the design process as well as their water quality management plan with the City.

Staff is working on the possible allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds the City expects to receive through the State. Sherry Shimshock said qualification and reporting for these funds is more involved than for previous federal grant programs.

10) RDP Security Update

Chad Milby said he has oversight over PSET, the team that follows up on 311 calls on illegal homeless encampments on public property. The team works seven days a week and has made over 300 contacts and cleaned up over 400 tons of debris. The POP officers specifically deal with livability issues, such as encampments on private property and homeless swimming in the downtown fountains.

The CBAT team deals with more long-term issues, such as obtaining help for the mentally impaired homeless. Chad Milby said he is trying to expand the CBAT teams to three from two.

Janice Penner asked if any of these teams are able to remove an individual if they are a danger to themselves or others. Chad Milby said yes but the individual had to be assessed and determined to be either unable to care for themselves or showing behavior which was a danger to themselves or someone else. If the individual did not exhibit signs that met those criteria they cannot be removed. A discussion broke out in regards to the homeless taking over the City and how steps needed to be taken before the problems were insurmountable.

Chuck Beaty asked about the Park Ranger program. Chad Milby explained the Park Rangers will be under a different lieutenant in RPD, and will receive education first about municipal codes and the like. In addition they will be trained on a variety of topics by the police such as situation de-escalation training.

Chad Milby said the jail system has done some realignment of how bail works. In the past people who committed a violent crime were being released right back into the general public. Now with the realignment the jail system has enacted, people who commit violent acts are now being kept in jail.

Shalini Lockard asked if some of the funds coming in to the City could be directed to cleaning up the hazardous waste homeless leave on the streets. Erin Edwards replied that some of the funds could be used for that purpose but a long-term plan is needed, not just a short-term solution. David Bristow stated RDP's priorities should be focused on security and cleanliness, and marketing and events taken out of the budget entirely.

A discussion broke out that RDP is not a security company and a partnership with the City is needed to work on security and cleanliness together. The organization will be damaged if stripped down to nothing but security. Janice Penner mentioned RDP was nearly bled dry when RDP was hosting the Concerts at the Courthouse until the Board recognized that RDP was not just an event organization. This is a similar situation, only now RDP is being bled dry by focusing only on security and neglecting the other aspects of the organization. She added that the homeless issues would not be resolved by moving people around on the streets, but by getting them off the streets into programs and shelter.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis pointed out if RDP did only security, downtown might be deemed safe to be in but there would be nothing to draw people into downtown. RDP needs to be promoting the businesses in the area and planning local events.

11) Items for Information

11a) Update on RDP Activities and Items

The Board was referred to the notes to the Agenda.

11b) Arlington Business Partnership Update

No update was provided.

12) New Business

There was no new business.

13) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – September 8, 2021