



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

Minutes

Present: Bill Gardner, Brian Percy, Chad Milby, Charity Schiller, Chuck Beaty, Gregory Anderson, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Lou Monville, Miguel Lujano, Nanci Larsen, Patrick Brien, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Stan Morrison, Jake Orta

Excused: Cherie Crutcher, Clarissa Cervantes, Debbie Rose, David St. Pierre, Gregory Anderson, Justin Tracy, Paloma Montes, Paul Gill, Bob Nagle, Sherry Shimshock

Absent: Andrew Walcker, David Bristow, Erin Phillips, Oz Puerta, Randy Hord, Teryn Hernandez, Todd Turoci, Val Ceballos

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

Self introductions were conducted.

3) Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2021.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of July 14, 2021

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Motion Seconded by:** Nanci Larson
Gregory Anderson abstained. **Motion carried.**

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis reminded everyone of the Riverside Art and Music Festival on September 25 at White Park, and noted it was in person and not virtual. Janice Penner said White Park was chosen to avoid over \$5,000 in street closure costs at the previous location of Ninth and Orange Streets.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Dates for 2022 BID Renewal

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said based on the information from the City's Finance Department, the City Council meeting on September 21 will have an item on the Consent Calendar to set the Public Hearing for 3 pm on October 19. The PowerPoint presentation for the Public Hearing will be submitted to the Finance Department by September 24.

5b) Strategic Plan

i) Board and Committee Survey Results

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said a memo and the results of the survey was provided as a separate attachment for ease of sending and reading. Janice Penner said one of the issues with

the survey was that it was sent out to 72 individuals but only 18 responded, and those 18 did not answer all of the questions. As a result, the survey was not statistically valid due to the small sample size combined with the low response rate. However, the survey did bring to light some issues that need to be addressed.

For instance, the results showed promotion and security were highly rated as RDP's core values. In addition, RDP acting as an advocate/liaison for businesses to the City was also favorably rated. It was also mentioned that some felt RDP provided certain services that they shouldn't. Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked what specific services were mentioned. Janice Penner said it was felt the burden of extra external security should be shared with others.

Erin Edwards commented on question 8 from the survey which asked what were the three least favorable services RDP provided. Janice Penner said only 8 people out of the 18 answered this question and it was answered differently by almost everyone who responded, making the responses not statistically relevant.

ii) Downtown Business Survey

Lou Monville asked how RDP planned to move forward based on the survey results and the low responses. Janice Penner said attached to the agenda was a draft survey of what RDP planned to send to downtown businesses. That survey was simplified to hopefully generate more responses considering the low response rate from those who one would expect to be invested in the organization.

The Executive committee proposed the idea of holding a forum for businesses to attend as a way to gather more information, in addition to the survey. A discussion broke out in regards to the idea of a forum and the benefit of direct input. holding one. It was agreed to look at a date and time for the forum.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Update at July 31, 2021 and August 31, 2021– draft pending financial review by CPA

Janice Penner said the financial reports are considered draft until the annual financial review is completed by the CPA, expected by the end of this month.

The draft financial report for the month of July showed a deficit of approximately \$13,233 compared to a budget deficit of \$3,005. The \$10,229 negative variance was due in part to BID Levy income received in the month being \$8,997 lower than budget, and additional external security costs of \$3,312 to cover nine days of notice for two guards.

The draft financial report for the month of August showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$29,678 compared to a budget deficit of \$30,699. The \$1,021 positive variance was due to BID levy income received in the month being \$8,117 higher than budget, which almost completely offset the lower than budget BID Levy income of the previous month.

As of August 31, 2021, RDP had \$207,124 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizen Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include two CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and one CD with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$272,410. One CD with Pacific Premier Bank that matured in August was redeemed and deposited in the Citizens Business Bank Money

Market Account. The redemption was due to the draw-down of liquid assets to pay for external security patrols.

The Accounts Receivable equaled \$13,997 from the City for the external garage patrol. The Accounts Payable equaled \$22,009.

NO MOTION - DRAFT REPORT PENDING FINANCIAL REVIEW

6b) Budget Review

Janice Penner stated when the budget was adopted, it was agreed that it would be reviewed after two months to see if any adjustments needed to be made. However, it was not possible after the two months to determine any trend in BID Levy income. Accordingly, the Executive committee adopted a motion to postpone the review for another two months after the October 31 results.

7) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards said a 50-bed facility opened on Franklin in partnership with the Illumination Foundation to address the issue of homeless people who are displaced when released from a hospital due to injury. Medical care personnel are on staff to help them fully heal, and once they are fully healed they will be released back onto the streets.

There are still two outreach workers and one additional on modified duties. As a result, the City is working with a group called Step Up to get two more outreach personnel out on the streets.

City Council will be holding a special meeting on September 30 to discuss public safety and homelessness, and where they intersect with one another. The meeting will start with discussing a 5-year plan to address homelessness. The plan will consist of 6 pillars to guide the discussion at the meeting. Another issue to be discussed will be increasing the homeless outreach team so there are two for the east side and two for the west.

The City is continuing to work on the Housing Element where the City has marked locations to add more housing units on a map. At this point, more locations cannot be added but they can be taken away if necessary. This will go before the City Council on October 5.

The Land Use Committee will be discussing raising the parking rates in the parking structures on September 13. There is a link online for information on what the proposed rate changes would be over a three-year period starting in July of 2022.

In October, the City Council is having its meeting on the ARPA funding, which is onetime funding that can positively benefit the City and businesses in the area.

On September 21, City Council will discuss sidewalk vendors, specifically changing wording in the City ordinance including where and when they are allowed to set up. Sidewalk vendors are already allowed in California but cities can restrict their operation for health and safety concerns.

Bill Gardner suggested that the City try a six-month trial with portable restrooms in downtown. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the problem was not just the cost but the security and maintenance required to keep them clean and keep people from using them for other purposes. Erin Edwards said she was open to the conversation but there were some huge issues with bringing portable restrooms downtown. If there was a comprehensive program in effect to support portable restrooms then it might be possible at a later time. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said some

cities have public outdoor restrooms, not portable restrooms, which the City would have to maintain with a onetime cost to build the facility.

Chuck Beaty asked if there was a replacement named yet for Adolfo Cruz who retired from Park and Recreation. Erin Edwards replied that the final three candidates had their final interview earlier in the week so a decision should be made soon.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if the nurses coming on would be walking or driving to locations where they receive call outs. Erin Edwards said they will be walking around with the County Behavioral Health Team as well as the Step-Up Team when that group starts.

Miguel Lujano reported on behalf of Clarissa Cervantes for Ward 2 and said there were currently a few projects in the works to deal with the vandalism and graffiti. The mural initiative has been successful in stopping graffiti and vandalism against small businesses who were getting hit fairly hard. The mural initiative is funded thru private funding and each mural takes about one to three months to create. The artists are local and the murals created reflect the culture or history of the business who requested the mural.

Market Nights are being brought back and the location will be rotated for each night.

Chuck Beaty asked if the RUSD school being built would cause Lincoln Park to become unavailable for public use. Miguel Lujano said RUSD is currently working on 3 different layouts for the school but Lincoln Park would not be lost. RUSD has proposed a partnership with the City to utilize the park during school hours and then open it back up to the general public after school was over for the day.

8) City Community Development Department Updates

Sherry Shimshock was unable to attend and so no update was provided.

9) RDP Security Update

Chad Milby said the increased parking rates being proposed for the garages during weekend evenings would allow more police officers to be hired to patrol the parking structures rather than the current two officers two weekends a month.

City management has been trying to improve getting people back to their place of origin after they are released from jail. There is currently a program called Trips Home, but a person in the individual's place of origin who can receive the released individual must be identified before they can be given a bus ticket to that location. City management is working on changing the wording for the program so that people who have all their mental faculties are able to go back to their place of origin without someone waiting for them at that location.

Sergio San Martin asked what percent of people being released actually want to go home and were they from California or from out of State. Chad Milby said he didn't know the statistics on how many actually did go home or not but typically most of the people being released were from within the County of Riverside, but not necessary from Riverside.

On September 15, Riverside University Health System, Code Enforcement, PSET, and POP officers will come together to perform a public engagement throughout the City. Hot spots of homelessness have been identified throughout the City and seven different groups comprised of

individuals from each organization, plus mental health workers and police officers for safety, will go to those areas and offer services to any individual they encounter.

There was a meeting held regarding the Bike path barrier project to protect bicyclist and pedestrians in the river bottom area as well as limit the number of off road vehicles entering the bike path. Some issues were identified and boulders placed near the entrances to the bike paths, and there has already been a reduction in the number of vehicular accidents and less off-road vehicles driving on those paths. This is still a work in progress but some great improvements have been made so far.

Bill Gardner said the federal assistance to renters is being abolished so homelessness could be on the rise. He wondered if there was or will be a survey or study conducted in regards to the potential for more homeless coming into downtown. Erin Edwards said the City was aware of the assistance going away, but both the City and State have rental assistance programs to help renters stay in their homes.

10) Items for Information

10a) Update on RDP Activities and Items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the July 20 Council meeting included an item on sidewalk vendors. RDP submitted an e-comment to City Council. The decision of Council was to (1) delay introducing an ordinance to amend the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 5.38 regarding sidewalk vendors for 60 days; and (2) schedule a City Council workshop. Council members Edwards, Cervantes, Fierro, Conder, Hemenway, and Perry voted aye and Council woman Palscencia voted no.

Planning is well under way for the Riverside Art and Music Festival on Saturday, September 25 at White Park from 2 pm to 7 pm. Posters and postcards went out the first week of September. Social media has started and the event posted on the City's Community Calendar.

RDP continued to provide masks to businesses who request them. The most frequent requesters were restaurants and hair salons. The County advised RDP that more masks, including N-95s, were available if needed.

The first luncheon meeting since the pandemic is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at the Hyatt Place hotel. Newly-elected Ward 2 Council member Clarissa Cervantes will be the speaker. Lunch will be a selection of sandwiches, salads, and deserts, and the cost of the luncheon \$25 with the Hyatt charging RDP \$22 all in.

10b) Arlington Business Partnership Update

No update was provided.

11) New Business

There was no new business.

12) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – October 13, 2021