



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2021
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

Minutes

Present: Bill Gardner, Brian Percy, Charity Schiller, Chuck Beaty, Debbie Rose, Gregory Anderson, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Justin Tracy, Nanci Larsen, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Todd Turoci, Val Ceballos

Excused: Chad Milby, David St. Pierre, Lou Monville, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, David Bristow, Per Nilsson, Teryn Henderson, Clarissa Cervantes

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Oz Puerta, Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes, Miguel Lujano

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Charity Schiller called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Self introductions were conducted.

3) Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2021.

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

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

Correction made to minutes in Councilmember Edward's update as the new Park and Rec director is Pamela Valera, not Galera.

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Charity Schiller, acting as Chair, commented that both Art Littleworth and Charlie Field who were with Best Best & Krieger. passed away recently. She asked that members keep their families in their prayers.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) November 2 Downtown Business Forum - Debrief

Janice Penner said the Downtown Forum took place on Tuesday, November 2 at 2 pm at Loft.84. There were 28 people in attendance, who were a mix of businesses and stakeholders. The forum was recorded using Zoom for later review.

Recurrent themes throughout the forum were the need for clean and safe programs to deal with crime and transient issues as well as the waste left by homeless and others, improving the perception of downtown Riverside as unsafe and unwelcoming, making parking more accessible and safer, and dealing with abandoned properties, particularly in key areas such as the hospital. Other comments were RDP acting as a conduit between businesses and the City, taking a more active role with new businesses, increasing its communication with businesses and stakeholders, and expanding its services to all areas of the BID, particularly in the area of the hospital.

The information gathered during the forum will be part of the research and information provided to the consultant engaged for the strategic planning process. Survey results will also be provided.

5b) RFP for Consultant for Strategic Planning - Update

Janice Penner stated the Executive approved the proposed RFP and the budget of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for consulting services. Staff is preparing a list of potential consultants for review by the Executive prior to sending out the RFP. Copies of the RFP are available on request.

5c) Appointment of Interim Executive Committee Members

Janice Penner stated that at their November 2 meeting, the Executive moved to appoint Nanci Larsen as Treasurer and Patrick Brien as an Executive member to fill those vacant positions.

Janice Penner said David St. Pierre requested a formal leave of absence from the Board and tendered his resignation from the Executive. Nanci Larsen is willing to serve as an interim Treasurer until the end of the current Board term, and has served on the Board since 2014, has financial experience, and is available for signing checks.

Motion for the Board to Formally Adopt Nanci Larsen as Interim Treasurer

Moved: Gregory Anderson **Seconded:** Bill Gardner

Motion Carried.

Janice Penner stated Erin Philips resigned from the Executive and the Board. Patrick Brien is willing to serve on the Executive Committee until the end of the current Board term and potentially beyond, and has served on the RDP Board since 2008, and has experience in strategic planning.

Motion to Formally Adopt Patrick Brien as a Board Member

Moved: Bill Gardner **Seconded:** Chuck Beaty

Motion Carried.

5d) Nominees for the 2022 Downtown Distinction Awards – Suggestions

Charity Schiller said past recipients and suggested 2022 recipients were shown on the document attached to the Agenda. As noted in the minutes of their November 2nd meeting, the Executive Committee approved the suggestions.

Janice Penner said the suggested recipient for the Arts and Culture award be Assemblyman Jose Medina who had done so much for arts and culture including securing \$10 million to restore the Harada House and another \$10 million for the Cheech. For the Business Activity award it was suggested the downtown businesses as a group be honored in recognition of their surviving the pandemic. The Tamale Festival which highlights Hispanic culture was recommended for the Public Event award. The new Main Library was recommended for the Improvement award while the County Department of Public Health who helped to keep people safe during the pandemic was recommended for the Safety and Security Award. Doug Shackelton was recommended posthumously for the Chair's Award.

Motion to Approve the Award Winners as Presented

Moved: Chuck Beaty **Seconded:** Bill Gardner

Motion Carried.

Janice Penner said the invitations would be printed once the Roy Hord Award recipient has been chosen. Solicitations for nominees would start in late November with the nomination form on the RDP website as well the award promoted in the December BID Bulletin. Bill Gardner asked if previously nominated individuals for the Roy Hord Award who did not win would automatically be in the running to win, or if the individual needed to be re-nominated by a Board member. Janice Penner said the individual would need to be re-nominated.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial report at October 31, 2021

Janice Penner said the financial report for the month of October shows a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$24,445 compared to a budget deficit of \$71,661. The \$29,216 positive variance was due in part to BID levy income received to date being \$20,134 higher than budget.

Other positive factors were the Riverside Arts and Music Festival coming in \$3,200 under budget, RDP liability insurance savings of \$2,100 from budget (actually \$3,230 as the premium would have gone up with the old carrier), plus a \$1,200 refund from Worker's Comp.

As of October 31, 2021 RDP had \$202,137 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include 2 CDs with Pacific Premier and one CD with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$272,925.

The Accounts Receivable was \$7,612 from the City; \$7,387 for the external garage patrol, and \$225 additional payment. The Accounts Payable equaled \$23,722.

Motion: To approve the October 31, 2021 financial reports

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Motion seconded by:** Nancy Larson

Motion carried.

Bill Gardner commented that a PBID was looked into several times previously but was not feasible. A discussion broke out about the different PBIDs investigations conducted over the years, including the one conducted 5 years ago on a Community Benefits District. Janice Penner said PBIDs were not been feasible in the past as private property owners were not enough to fund the requisite benefits due to the concentration of publicly-owned buildings.

Janice Penner stated the Executive Committee deferred the budget review until the end of November so the revenue trend can be better assessed.

7) City Council Updates

Ward One - Erin Edwards commented on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding of \$73 million coming to the City of Riverside. The funding will be broken up into two rounds. In the first round, \$6 million will be going towards grants for businesses and \$1 million towards the security issues in downtown. These grants will be matching grants. There will be funding going towards childcare, River bottom encampment enforcement, food security, and non-profit support, among other allocations.

Hotz Kitchen is open and Stone Church Brewing should open any day now.

California Air Resources Board will open on November 18.

The Riverside Alive Project was discussed at the last Council meeting. The original plan included a parking lot, hotels, expansion of the Convention Center, an amphitheater, as well as new retail shops. Council will determine the best course of action moving forward, and more information will be given once it's available.

Next year will be the 30th year for the Festival of Light, and it is hoped that the pomp and circumstance which has been missing for the last two years will return.

The annual Chanukah Festival will be November 29 at the Historic Courthouse.

Twenty-eight new beds will be provided at the Hulen Campus under the Helping Hearts Program for people experiencing homelessness, and the grand opening will be next Monday. It will provide a continuum of care for people who are released from the hospital but still need care regarding injuries, and/or medication, and/or mental health.

Conversations for the 4th of July celebrations are already taking place.

The public hearing will be coming soon along with a conversation on the AC Marriott proposal at the old firehouse location. Bill Gardner commented that he agreed with the Historical Society that the AC Marriott structure is too high for the location. He also commented on the need to maintain public parking in downtown. Erin Edwards said the Riverside Alive Project included a new parking structure which would alleviate parking issues. Bill Gardner replied that the structure would be too far from the main area of downtown.

Stan Morrison asked if any of the ARPA funding would go towards increasing the police force in the identified problem areas such as downtown to address the problem issues in those areas. Erin Edwards said that funding would be directed to that effort but in a layered approach. The funding won't put more police on the street but instead would help the businesses invest in security, such as cameras or security patrols, with input from the police.

Chuck Beaty mentioned the 4th of July fireworks, and said a survey conducted by a Board member showed an overwhelming response to have the fireworks moved back to Mt. Rubidoux. Erin Edwards said she would not support moving the fireworks back to Mt. Rubidoux because the risk of fires was too high, and that the City was looking at other locations with less fire risk.

Ward Two - Miguel Lujano said they were working on a few different projects, including one to make food more accessible in partnership with the Botanical Garden at UCR.

They were also partnering with two local clinics to bring 50 individuals with underlying medical conditions, like diabetes, to the Botanical Garden for workshops. This would help provide them with locally sustainable food and monitor their health over time to see how their conditions improve or not during the course of the workshops.

The Chicago Post Office will be renamed, honoring a local resident. A mural will be put up to honor this individual as well.

8) City Community Development Department Updates

Sherry Shimshock said there had to be accountability so that the business support grants went to the businesses who needed the funds most. There were two things which prevented businesses from receiving funds from previous grant programs. One was the "shoebox syndrome" where businesses didn't keep accurate records, or just placed everything in a shoebox so they were unable to properly demonstrate losses to the state. The second issue was the grant was applied for incorrectly. A number of the businesses applied for the County's grant thinking it was the City's and so did not receive funds.

An RFP has gone out to hire a consultant for the Charette for Fairmount Park's golf course. The City is not selling the golf course. The Charette is simply a vision process to gather information from the community to see what they would want in place of the golf course if the City decided to sell the property in the future. Chuck Beaty asked if the City was currently operating the golf course or if it was another agency. Sherry Shimshock was unsure but would find out and let Chuck Beaty know at a later date.

On November 18th the City will be taking in a grant request to fund Epic Insight Science. This would be to support them along with UCR who already donated a lot of money to the project.

9) RDP Security Update

Chad Milby was not in attendance. Janice Penner said RDP submitted an e-comment asking that there be consideration on how business security was defined. She said Chad Milby came by RDP office and gave more information about it. The security match program would run through the police department with the police going to the business upon request, regardless of size, to assess security needs. The police would then provide written instruction on how best to secure the property, with the security match money being used to cover half the cost.

10) Items for Information

10a) RDP Board Members Nominations

Charity Schiller said the 2022 - 2024 nomination form was included in the Board package. Board members wishing to continue on the Board are to complete and return the form to the RDP office by January 4, 2022.

Board members who don't plan to continue should advise Janice Penner as soon as possible so the number of positions to fill can be determined.

10b) RDP Holiday Reception December 2 from 11 am to 2 pm

Charity Schiller stated the RDP holiday reception will be held at Loft.84. Invitations will go out in mid-November.

10c) Update on RDP Activities and Items

Charity Schiller said the downtown BID levy was approved by Council on October 19th with no protests from businesses. The motion for approval included a requirement that RDP evaluate the feasibility of a PBID, as well as consider programs and services in its strategic planning. A meeting was being set up between the Executive and the City to discuss the PBID option.

RDP was still providing masks to those who request them. The County advised more masks, including N-95s, were available should they be needed.

Luncheon speakers and locations for the next three meetings are:

November 23, 2021 at Raincross Concert Lounge – Gary Merk and Tom Chisum on sidewalk vendors

January 25, 2022 at Hyatt Place – Maria Esther Fernandez on the Cheech

March 22, 2022 at the Life Arts Center – TBC hopefully Sheriff Chad Blanco

11) New Business

Janice Penner mentioned the Day of the Dead Festival was held last weekend with 16,000 to 18,000 people in attendance. The altars were amazing and there was a lot of live music.

Bill Gardner thanked Shirley Schmeltz for being a long time, dedicated RDP employee.

12) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – December 8, 2021