



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

Minutes

Present: Bill Gardner, Chad Milby, Charity Schiller, Chuck Beaty, David Bristow, Gregory Anderson, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Teryn Henderson

Excused: Clarissa Cervantes, David St. Pierre, Erin Edwards, Miguel Lujano, Paloma Montes, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin

Absent: Brian Percy, Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Debbie Rose, Oz Puerta, Todd Turoci, Val Ceballos

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Acting as Chair, Patrick Brian called the meeting to order.

2) Self Introductions and Public Comment

Self introductions and public comments were conducted. Chuck Beaty mentioned the BMX 'ride out' which goes throughout Riverside, including the Mount Rubidoux area.

David Bristow said there was a misconception regarding the Festival of Lights. The City did not discontinue the vendors and entertainment for FOL on its own. The City and the Mission Inn owners came together in the summer and mutually decided what FOL would include based on the condition of the pandemic at that time.

Janice Penner noted that many of the sidewalk vendors on Main Street did not have a permit from the City to be there. The Ambassadors and Multi-Housing were taking pictures of these vendors to provide to Code Enforcement for contact.

3) Approval of Minutes of November 10, 2021.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 10, 2021

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

Chuck Beaty pointed out the minutes stated the post office would be renamed in honor of a local resident. As the resident is Woody Rucker Hughes, who was a notable figure in the community, that should be included.

Motion carried with that correction.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the hospitality industry had not reached festival numbers but with the increased business in downtown, was starting to rebuild after the losses due to the pandemic. Shelby Worthington-Loomis also commented on the high level of trash and human

waste on the sidewalks in downtown. This prompted a discussion on the continuing issues with the homeless in downtown Riverside.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Approval of extension of external security patrol until March 31, 2022

Janice Penner said the budget review was discussed at the Executive committee meeting on November 30, 2021. Staff advised that BID Levy income was still fluctuating and that it was difficult to predict at that time. Staff also advised as a 30-day notice was needed to terminate the existing external security patrol, a decision on whether to extend was needed to be made at the meeting. Staff's recommendation was to extend the external security patrol until March 31, 2022 based on the continuing security issues, noting that doing so would continue to draw down reserves. The Executive agreed and adopted a motion to that effect. That motion needed to be approved by the Board as it was an unbudgeted expense.

Motion: To approve the extension of the external security patrol until March 31, 2022

Motion made by: Justin Tracy **Motion seconded by:** Bill Gardner

Motion carried.

5b) Consultant for Strategic Planning - Update

Janice Penner stated the RFP was sent out to ten specific consultants and posted on both the California Downtown Association and the International Downtown Association website. The due date for submissions was Friday, December 3 but no proposals were received. Based on comments received, the lack of response was due to the budget offered being too low for a strategic planning process. Janice Penner said she would do more research before going back to the Executive and Board about either increasing the Budget or looking at an abbreviated process with a consultant plus internal assistance.

5c) Annual Meeting on February 16, 2022

Janice Penner said the Annual Meeting was booked at the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa for Wednesday, February 16, 2022. RDP staff will work with the banquet staff on the menu and pricing. Sponsorships, particularly for the event and the awards, and donations for the Opportunity Drawing will be solicited and a sponsorship form sent out shortly.

Letters notifying award recipients were sent out December 3. The request for nominations for the Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' Award was included in the December 2021 BID Bulletin, posted on Facebook, and sent out by email to RDP contacts.

The invitations will be printed and sent out once the Roy Hord award recipient has been determined. "Save the Date" emails will be sent out and notices posted on Facebook.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial report at November 30, 2021 - MOTION

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of November showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$58,657 compared to a budget deficit of \$83,955. The \$25,297 positive variance was due in part to BID levy income received to date being \$15,892 higher than budget. Other positive factors included certain expenses being lower than budget. BID Levy income for the month was lower than budget but hoped to increase over the next few months.

As of November 31, 2021, RDP had \$151,332 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves included two CDs with Pacific

Premier Bank and one CD with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$273,090. RDP assets had decreased due to funding of the external security patrol.

The Accounts Receivable was \$36,207 from the City; \$13,608 for the external garage patrol, \$22,399 for BID Levy income, and \$200 additional payment. The Accounts Payable equaled \$17,721.

Motion: To approve the November 30, 2021 financial reports

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

Motion carried.

6b) Approval of Treasurer Nanci Larsen as check signer and signatory - MOTION

Patrick Brien said Nanci Larsen was formally appointed as Treasurer at the November 10, 2021 Board Meeting. A separate motion was required to approve her as a check signer for RDP (non-payroll checks over \$2,000 require two signatures and payroll checks are direct deposit), and as a signatory when required for certain documents.

Motion: To approve Treasurer Nanci Larsen as check signer and signatory

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

Motion carried.

7) City Council Updates

No council members were in attendance. no City Council update was provided.

8) City Community Development Department Updates

Sherry Shimshock said that next week at the December 14th Council meeting there would be an update on the Innovation District and the Vision Plan, and on the EPIC Small Business Development Center Program and ExCITE Riverside program. The latter will be moving into the Mission Lakes office complex next to Heroes Restaurant.

Riverside Alive passed and it will include most of the original package including the large parking structure and a new hotel. Escrow will need to be closed before December of 2022 in order to avoid the contract being timed out. More details and information will be released as becomes available. There is currently no timeline for when the new parking structure or any other structure will be completed.

Janice Penner asked if there was any update on garages 1 and 2. Sherry Shimshock said she had no updated information on the sale of the garages.

9) RDP Security Update

Chad Milby said he recently added six more officers and one additional sergeant to deal with the increased crowd and activity in the downtown area as a result of Festival of Lights. The additional officers are working primarily in the evening for additional security and garage patrols.

Chad Milby requested additional security in downtown due to the increase in vandalism and theft. Margie Haupt from the City did an emergency purchase order to contract Multi-Housing to patrol from 8 pm to 3 am during the festival.

Chad Milby said violent crime continued to increase. Last year police officers took roughly 650 guns off the street while this year they have taken over 900 guns and counting. There have been more homicides as well.

The police department continues to promote enforcement action which serves as a deterrent to unlawful behavior. Police do not control whether or not those individuals the police detain are released from jail immediately. The jail reinstituted a cite denial, which essentially means people who are repeat offenders can be held in jail instead of released with just a citation.

The police are partnering with RUHS to conduct another saturation engagement day next week in the most problematic areas of downtown. This provides outreach to try and get the homeless in those areas to accept services and get off the streets.

Chuck Beaty commented about the people living in the river bottom. He read an article which stated the people there created their own governmental structure with a mayor, and wanted to know if that was true. Chad Milby said it was true, and noted that the river bottom belonged to a number of different entities, including the County. If the river bottom is cleared out then the people there will be displaced and most likely will end up in downtown or the surrounding areas.

Stan Morrison wanted to know how many offenses a person had to conduct in order to be considered a habitual offender, and how long those individuals would spend in jail. Chad Milby said the length of time a person can spend in jail would fluctuate from case to case and was largely dependent on space. Two jails were shut down during the pandemic so there is less space overall to house offenders. How long it takes for an individual to be labeled a habitual offender was largely dependent on the ability of law enforcement to articulate that the individual was performing the same criminal acts over and over again.

The police department was struggling with recruitment and retainment of officers. Fewer individuals want the job right now and so with more retiring, the police are having to think outside the box in obtaining new recruits.

Chad Milby mentioned the Project Home program the police now have. Michelle Davis gave the police department \$10,000 to return individuals who have full control of their mental faculties to their place of origin. Michelle Davis and the police are also working on a MOU to require the County to have people in place to ensure people get back to their place of origin, and to have two deputies staffed on County Farm Road, which houses the County's mental health facilities, 24 hours a day. In the last two years RPD has responded to 4,000 calls to serve at County Farm Road.

10) Items for Information

10a) Reminder about RDP Board Nominations

Janice Penner reminded Board members who wished to continue on the Board to complete and return the Board nomination form to the RDP office by January 4, 2022.

10b) Update on RDP Activities and Items

Janice Penner said RDP was a sponsor of the 17th Annual Chanukah Festival held on Monday, November 29 in front of the historic County Court House.

The RDP Holiday Reception was held on December 2 at Loft.84 with Landmark.41 catering. RDP contributed the amount it would have paid for food and beverage towards the catering costs.

RDP hosted a window decorating contest for downtown businesses during the Festival of Lights. First, second, and third place prizes plus five honorable mention prizes would be awarded December 10 and posted on Facebook.

RDP was assisting the Riverside Arts Academy in promoting their Flash Mob recognizing a military family on December 15.

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

Luncheon speakers and locations scheduled for the next two meetings were:

- January 25, 2022 at Hyatt Place – Maria Esther Fernandez on The Cheech
- March 22, 2022 at the Life Arts Center – TBC Sheriff Chad Bianco

Staff would be submitting a request for City sponsorship for second half 2022 events, due by January 31, 2022. Even though changes might be made to certain events, the sponsorship request will be made based on staff expectations.

11) New Business

There was no new business.

12) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – January 12, 2022