



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 2022
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Bill Gardner, Bryan Crawford, David Bristow, Debbie Rose, Gregory Anderson, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Nanci Larsen, Patrick Brien, Paul Gill, Per Nilsson, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Shalini Lockard, Shaya Edwards, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Teryn Henderson, Val Ceballos

Excused: Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, Jean Eiselein, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Brian Percy, Clarissa Cervantes, Miguel Lujano, Oz Puerta

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

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 and public comments were conducted.

3) Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2022.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 9, 2022

Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Motion Seconded by:** Stan Morrison

Motion carried with Nanci Larsen abstaining

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented that day light savings time would happen that weekend, so it would stay dark longer in the morning and stay light later in the evening. She said the Main Street pedestrian area could be impacted by homeless staying longer in the morning, and suggested that the situation be monitored.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Extension of External Security Patrol until June 30, 2022

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said at the March 1 Executive meeting, staff recommended that the external security patrol be extended to June 30, 2022 due to continuing security concerns. Staff noted that the rate adjustments under the Public Parking Program's Sustainability Plan would be effective July 1, 2022 and the additional revenue would be used in part to finance additional security in the garages and, by extension, the Downtown Entertainment District. I

Staff indicated that further extension of the external security patrol would not be financially feasible, noting that RDP would have spent over \$300,000 on external security patrols from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022, with over 90% coming from RDP reserves. The Strategic Plan and

possible implementation of a PBID will require resources that will come from RDP's remaining reserves. The Executive Committee adopted a motion to recommend this action to the Board.

Motion: To extend the external security patrol for a further three months until June 30, 2022 at an additional cost of \$33,488.

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

Motion carried.

5b) Strategic Plan Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the consultant had completed the scheduled focus groups and interviews and would be compiling the information and input for presentation to the Executive Committee at their scheduled retreat on April 26 from 8 am to 3 pm. Following that retreat, a special Board meeting will be scheduled to review and adopt the proposed Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2026.

5c) Annual Meeting Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated both a 'Save the Date' notice and a press release announcing all recipients including the Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' honoree, Virginia Blumenthal, were sent out. In return for a discount on the price of the meal, the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa will be recognized as the event sponsor on all materials, advertising, and at the event.

The "Save the Date" notice and Press release as well as the Sponsorship request was provided to the Board. Janice Penner said the discounted ticket price was available up till March 31st, and then would go up by \$10.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial report at February 28, 2022 - MOTION

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of February 28, 2022 showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$59,316 compared to a budget deficit of \$107,397. The \$48,080 positive variance was due largely to BID levy income received to date being \$45,132 higher than budget.

As of February 28, 2022, RDP had \$144,725 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 \$273,367.

The Accounts Receivable was \$54,614 from the City; \$13,219 for the external garage patrol, \$41,320 for the BID levy income, and \$75 additional payment. The Accounts Payable equaled \$20,201.

It was noted that the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 would be revised to reflect the additional expenses that were approved but not shown. These were the two extensions of the external security patrol (\$33,050 plus \$33,488) and the consultant fee for the Strategic Plan (\$12,000). That revision would be reflected in the March 31, 2022 financial statements and show the revised budgeted deficit of \$141,328.

Bill Gardner asked if the reserves were going up or going down. Janice Penner said they were going down with no expectation of increasing in the foreseeable future due to the extension of the external security patrol and the Strategic Plan expenses. She noted the remaining reserves should be retained to fund new activities resulting from the Strategic Plan, and reiterated RDP was financially solvent.

Motion: To approve the February 28, 2022 financial reports
Motion made by: Bill Gardner **Motion seconded by:** Patrick Brien
Motion carried.

7) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards said the ARPA funding applications for non-profits were released last week. Applications are due on April 15 with the first training session on how the money can be used taking place later today.

The Magnolia Paving Project which includes Brockton Avenue and the Wood Streets should hopefully be completed by the end of April.

The Park Ranger Program should be starting next week with the goal of being fully staffed by the end of summer.

Accessory Dwelling Units training workshops will be held this month on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. The toy store on Main Street, Things They Love, has opened officially.

The discussion for lifting the ban on cannabis will be held at the Economic Development Committee on March 24. Topics to be included are if the ban on retail sale of cannabis should be lifted, and if so, how many permits should be issued, etc. The Fairmount Golf Course discussion was pushed out to the April meeting.

Stan Morrison asked if the meeting on cannabis was going to be a 'nuts and bolts' type of meeting or a philosophical meeting. Erin Edwards said it would be both, and that the committee could potentially make a recommendation to adopt lifting the ban at that meeting. Stan Morrison said his experience was that cannabis was one of the most common drugs used before people moved on to heavier drugs, and it could be very damaging to families. Erin Edwards suggested Stan Morrison attend the meeting and share his feedback to the committee. She also mentioned the committee would be looking at the issue from an economic perspective rather than the history of drug use and addiction. As many surrounding cities already have retail sale of cannabis, is Riverside missing out on additional revenue.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if the City was trying to make Riverside a "green zone" where anyone who could get a permit could put a retail cannabis location wherever they like. Erin Edwards said the phrase "green zone" was never mentioned but people wishing to sell cannabis would not be restricted where they could place their shop. Shelby Worthington-Loomis then asked what would happen to illegal vendors already selling cannabis at various locations. Erin Edwards replied that other agencies such as the police and Code Enforcement would deal with illegal vendors.

The discussion on lifting the ban on food trucks in downtown will take place on Tuesday, March 15th at the City Council meeting at 6:15 pm.

The City is currently putting together a task force to review the City's 5-year plan to address homelessness and housing. There are three dates for community engagement; March 31 at the Stratton Center, April 7 at the Arlington Library, and April 14 at the La Sierra Senior Center.

Bill Gardner asked if there was any effort to clean up the area of Fairmount Park that was overrun by fallen palm fronds and debris. This prompted a discussion about what could be done about Fairmount Park including the rose garden. It was suggested that an organization could rally volunteers to help clean up as the City didn't have the funds for such an endeavor.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if the Legion at Fairmount Park funneled any financial resources to the City. Bryan Crawford said the Legion was its own entity within the park with their own resources and had no interest in fortifying their business with the City.

Janice Penner noted that the sale of cannabis was cash only and could have the potential for increased violence/theft in the area. Erin Edwards said she toured a property in San Bernardino and the amount of security and the measures taken to keep the employees and product safe was astounding. There would be many rules and ordinances which would have to be followed for anyone wishing to sell cannabis as well as restrictions near school zones.

8) City Community Development Department Updates

Sherry Shimshock mentioned the ARPA small and micro-business grants. She said they were currently working on an RFP draft proposal and hoped to hire a consultant to manage the grant process as soon as possible. She added that further review of the documents for the ARPA grant revealed there could be a way to include start-up businesses as recipients.

9) RDP Security Update

Bryan Crawford provided an update about the status of garage 1. Due to a post tension failure on level 4 during the week it was currently closed with Level 4 blocked off by water barricades. Extra patrols were going through the garage trying to keep it clear as people were going up to that level for dancing, drinking, etc.

Last weekend, one of the Downtown Entertainment District officers was attacked and hurt.

There are three problematic homeless individuals downtown who make up the majority of calls officers receive. They continually refuse services so police are continuing to work with Homeless Solutions on other possible options. Unfortunately no headway has been made so far.

The Dickens Festival went off without any issues. The next big event will be St. Patrick's Day and permits are being issued for downtown businesses to hold special events that day. Additional police will be staffed on that day just in case.

The POP Officers investigated an individual living in the river bottom who was suspected of being involved in many illegal activities downtown. Substantial amounts of drugs as well as stolen vehicle parts, and stolen motorcycles were found at his camp site. The insurance companies did not want the parts back so they are still sitting in the river bottom but no longer considered stolen.

The POP Officers also followed up on reports from the homeless on individuals selling drugs to them. The officers searched a house in Riverside where the suspects lived and three people were arrested and substantial amounts of drugs confiscated. It was also found out the individuals had just shipped a shipment of fentanyl to Idaho. The police tried to intercept this shipment as well as file federal charges against these individuals but no update at this time.

The first four Park Area Neighbor Specialists were given job offers this week. They will be going into training with the POP team as soon as the job offers are accepted. Some logistics need to be figured out so the short-staffed POP officers are not tied up with training the park specialists and instead out on the streets protecting the citizens.

Janice Penner asked Bryan Crawford to provide an update about 'homeless court' and how it would deal with repeat offenders. Bryan Crawford said so far there are four signatures in support of this project and there need to be at least ten. It would be a voluntary program with no starting date in site at this point in time.

Bill Gardner commented on a taco stand on Chicago Avenue and wanted to bring it to the attention of police. Bill Gardner also asked if flood control was involved/invested in cleaning/removing the car parts from the river bottom. Bryan Crawford said having the river bottom cleaned was difficult as the City owned 21%, Flood control owned fewer than 10%, and Riverside County owned the rest. There are meetings and strategies being created with these entities to come up with a plan to clean the river bottom.

10) Items for Information

10a) Update on RDP Activities and Items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated staff continued to participate in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Curb Space Study as part of the City's advisory group. The section of University Avenue from Market Street to Lime Street will be included in the Riverside study.

The March 22, 2022 luncheon with Sheriff Chad Bianco at the Hyatt Place Riverside was reconfirmed. Speakers for May, June, and July will be scheduled shortly and include those previously scheduled.

Doors Open Riverside was rescheduled for June 11 to coincide with the new State-wide event. Doors Open California will be the largest statewide celebration of historic places in California and take place over the weekend of June 11 to 12.

RDP was working with the Miracle and Dreams Foundation on a backpack distribution to school children on July 9 at the Main Library.

RDP was working with the 2022 Night of Arts and Innovation committee on including downtown restaurants and bars in the event on October 13, 2022 to demonstrate the art and science behind food preparation and brewing.

RDP was still providing masks to those who request them.

11) New Business

Teryn Henderson said Food Lab would be hosting a blood drive on March 24.

Janice Penner said the meetings will be going back to in person meetings starting in April. Bill Gardner encouraged all members to start attending the meetings in person.

12) Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – April 13, 2022