



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2022  
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Amy Hoyt, Brian Percy, Bryan Crawford, Chuck Beaty, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Justin Tracy, Nanci Larsen, Paul Gill, Philip Makhoul, Bob Nagle, Shalini Lockard, Sherry Shimshock, Teryn Henderson, Oz Puerta

**Excused:** Collette Lee, Randy Hord, Sergio San Martin, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Stan Morrison

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, David Bristow, Debbie Rose, Lou Monville, Shaya Edwards, Clarissa Cervantes, Miguel Lujano, Paloma Montes, AJ Licon, Jake Orta

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Erin Edwards

**Staff:** Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

**1) Call to Order**

Acting as Chair, Shalini Lockard called the meeting to order.

**2) Self Introductions and Public Comment**

Self introductions and public comments were conducted.

**3) Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2022.**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 2022

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Philip Makhoul

**Motion carried.**

**4) Chair's Report**

No Report was given.

**5) Items for Discussion**

**5a) Approval of Draft Strategic Plan – Motion**

Janice Penner said the first draft of the Strategic Plan was attached. The Executive Committee referred adoption to the Board. Once the Board adopted the draft plan, the document will be finalized with additional refinements as the plan moves forward.

**Motion:** To Adopt the Draft Strategic Plan as Presented

**Motion made by:** Nanci Larsen **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

**Motion carried.**

**5b) Response to Implementation of New Parking Rates**

Shalini Lockard said a letter outlining RDP's concerns was sent via email to the City on June 15, 2022. Janice Penner commented that RDP will be preparing a response to the staff report at the City's July 19 meeting.

**i) Establishment of Downtown Parking Committee – Motion**

Janice Penner said the Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation that a Downtown Parking Committee be formed as either a sub-committee of the Land Use Committee or as an adjunct to that committee. Members would be sought from the business community.

**Motion:** To Establish a Downtown Parking Committee

**Motion made by:** Joe Guzzetta **Motion Seconded by:** Paul Gill

**Motion carried.**

### **5c) Designation of Bill Gardner as Director Emeritus – Motion**

Janice Penner said Bill Gardner resigned from the Board. The by-laws state a Director may be granted emeritus status on the Board of Directors by a vote of the Board. Eligibility for non-voting emeritus status is 20 or more years of exemplary service to the organization with recognition of significant contributions to the downtown. The Executive Committee recommended Bill Gardner be designated as a Director Emeritus and formally recognized at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**Motion:** To Approve the Designation of Bill Gardner as Director Emeritus

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Brian Percy

**Motion carried.**

## **6) Financial Reports**

### **6a) Financial Report at June 30, 2022**

Nanci Larsen said the draft financial report as of June 30, 2022 showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$55,295 compared to a budget deficit of \$141,328. The \$86,033 positive variance was due in part to BID levy income received to date being \$71,315 higher than budget, plus savings in other areas as well as selling the surplus GEM.

As of June 30, 2022, RDP had \$182,241 in two Checking and one Money Market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include two CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and one CD with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$273,932. The Accounts Receivable was \$13,961; consisting of \$13,608 for the external garage patrol and \$353 other. The Accounts Payable equaled \$7,714.

No motion was taken as the report was draft pending the financial review.

## **7) County of Riverside District 2 Update**

No update was provided.

## **8) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards said the City heard from many businesses about concerns with the new parking rates and problems with the schedule of rates. The July 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting will include recommended modifications for the public parking program, not a review of the entire parking program. The modifications will include increasing the number of validation booklets and tokens businesses can purchase plus changing the Discount Employee Parking Permit to reflect the needs of the hospitality industry, and potentially not charging special events for lost parking revenue due to street closure. The example of the Saturday Farmers Market was cited where they would have to pay \$900 every Saturday when they closed down the street. It was noted that only one person had a DEPP passe so the program isn't structured to make it attractive to downtown employees.

A number of members commented on what they had heard or experienced due to the impact of the new rates and schedules, and asked if the City had asked for input from businesses on the loss of revenue due to customers choosing not to come downtown with the new parking program. Janice Penner said she received reports from multiple businesses that saw a decrease in sales

of between 20% to 60%. Erin Edwards said the City did need to keep an eye on it but it was hard to determine trends after just two weeks. Erin Edwards stated she'd be attending the July 19 meeting remotely, adding that she was not in attendance at February 15<sup>th</sup> due to a family emergency.

Other items noted:

- The six-month review of the street vendor ordinance will also be discussed at the July 19 meeting.
- A new green waste policy was put into place on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The City's website has information on how it affects a business or residential households.
- The Housing and Homelessness 5-year plan had feedback from Council and will be brought back to the Housing and Homelessness Committee in September and to City Council for final review and approval in October.
- Council passed a new budget back in June which increased the PSET team, added public safety teams for the wildland areas such as the river bottom, and increased funding for sidewalk repairs and street cleaning.
- The Mulberry Village project is 45 days out from completion.
- New businesses coming to downtown include the Raincross District located by the Food Lab opening in September, and Every Table's to be located in the old Subway location.

Paul Gill asked about Riverside Alive. Erin Edward said the Council wanted to see the Riverside Alive project as originally proposed, so staff was now working on that.

Janice Penner asked if there was an update regarding the State CARE Act regarding mental health treatment for those in distress. Erin Edwards said there was no recent update.

Joe Guzzetta asked if there was going to be any discussion with the City regarding parking inventory in downtown, including the potential loss of two central parking structures for an affordable housing project. Janice Penner said there were no discussions taking place regarding additional parking downtown at this time. Erin Edwards commented that the housing project was moving along with about 90% to getting approval.

## **9) City Community Development Department Update**

Sherry Shimshock said the old Acro Gymnastics Building that was empty for some time is the new Raincross space. Elias Teshome purchased Mr. T's and plans to turn it into a parking lot for the short term but that a more long-term plan for the future.

## **10) RDP Security Update**

Bryan Crawford said the Active Shooter/Stop the Bleed training at the Fox Theater was held yesterday. If any businesses or individuals want an active shooter training session in the future please contact the police department to set something up.

Shift change comes up next week so downtown will see a new group of officers patrolling downtown. As Multi-Housing no longer patrols during the day, Bryan Crawford is working to get more police personnel into downtown for patrol during the day. There will be two officers in downtown Wednesday thru Saturday from 6 am to 4 pm as a pilot program to see if it can be sustained long term.

The police are currently short about 72 officers right now with 20 more to retire so there is not enough staff right now to answer every call in a timely manner. Erin Edwards noted there was a lack of candidates for the positions not a lack of funding. Bryan Crawford agreed. Shalini Lockard asked if people were being offered incentives to join. Bryan Crawford said he was unaware.

The Festival of Lights will be scaled back this year as far as the Main Street pedestrian area is concerned. There will be a 1-day street shut down for the Switch-on ceremony.

The multitude of issues happening at University Square with the homeless and other unsavory behavior such as drug sales and prostitution was discussed at RDP's security meeting. Police have been checking out the area to try and make some headway on the issues affecting the area. The police operation started on Monday.

Bryan Crawford commented that Homeless Outreach is important but he has now been in his position for 6 months and hasn't seen any significant change. The POP team is going to start setting up shop in the most problematic areas of homelessness to enforce and make it uncomfortable for the individuals to be a disturbance. They went to the West side earlier in the week and made contact at two different locations, arresting a large number of people at each location. One person arrested has been arrested before as he has a felony warrant for a violent crime from Kern County. The individual kept being released because Kern County would not come and get them, so two officers drove up to Kern County with the individual to get him processed and off the streets.

There are two full time officers who patrol the garages on Friday and Saturday nights. Bryan Crawford said he would receive emails from PCI and Erik Lue on what structures were being hit, the time of day, etc. He said he has not received an email with that information in three weeks so either they aren't keeping track of the information or the person who was gathering the information is now gone.

There have been seven PANS officers hired so far, with an estimated 6 more officers being hired by the end of the month.

Janice Penner commented that even though Multi-Housing was no longer patrolling as an external security patrol during the day, they are still patrolling at night. The funding was increased for the night patrol so Multi-Housing could use a vehicle allowing for faster response times. The Ambassadors are patrolling during the day but a lot of the issues encountered during the day need police presence to deal with due to the extreme violent nature of the interactions.

Janice Penner went on to mention that as far as the University Square situation, Nathan Mustafa was very responsive to help with the issues being encountered in that area including potentially putting up a fence to separate the property from the alley. Bryan Crawford said he spoke to Nathan Mustafa and asked him to put his plans for University Square on hold for a month or so because the police are hoping to deal with the cause then change the environment.

## **11) Items for Information**

### **11a) Update on RDP Activities and Items**

Oz Puerta discussed ABP's efforts to establish a clean and safe program. RDP staff will be investigating working with ABP further.

A meeting with Nathan Mustafa to discuss the City's proposed Outdoor Dining Program was held on July 6 at 2 pm at RDP. One of the challenges for businesses is the need for shade that is sturdy enough to survive the Main Street wind tunnel. Affected downtown restaurants will be providing Public Works with their recommendations.

An Active Shooter training session was held on July 12 at 1:30 pm at the Fox Theater. There were 54 attendees, most of which had never been to a session before. The 'Stop the Bleed' staff will come out and do training sessions on how to deal with serious injuries. Anyone interested can reach out to Janice Penner for the contact information.

The July 26 luncheon will be at the Life Arts Center with George Khalil, Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Riverside as the speaker. There is no luncheon in August as RDP goes dark.

The BID Renewal Report for 2023 will go to the Board for approval at the September 14 meeting.

## **12) New Business**

Shalini Lockard said Patrick Brien has resigned from the Board due to his new position in Orange County.

Dr. Gregory Anderson is no longer with Riverside City College and Dr. Wolde-Ab Isaac will be appointing a replacement.

Chuck Beaty said the fireworks at Bonaminio Park drew thousands of people, blocking traffic in both directions. Many were unable to see the fireworks due to the low elevation while the visibility was much better at Mt. Rubidoux. Chuck Beaty said he hopes there is some consideration on getting it back to Mt. Rubidoux where it had been for 40 years and make the event safe. There was a survey conducted on Next Door last year and 85% of the people wanted the fireworks show at Mt. Rubidoux, 3% wanted the fireworks at the park, and the rest didn't want a fireworks show at all.

## **13) Adjournment – Dark in August. Next Meeting Date – September 14, 2022**