



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2022
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

Minutes

Present: Brian Percy, Bryan Crawford, Joe Guzzetta, Nanci Larsen, Philip Makhoul, Rachael Dzikonski, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Philip Falcone, FeRita Carter

Excused: Chuck Beaty, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Paul Gill, Sergio San Martin, Teryn Henderson, Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes

Absent: Amy Hoyt, Andrew Walcker, Collette Lee, Clarissa Cervantes, David Bristow, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Miguel Lujano, AJ Licon, Oz Puerta

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: None present

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 November 9, 2022.

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

Motion made by: Brian Percy **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented that the weather is colder for the Festival of Lights this year than in previous years. Business has been down so far, and other bars and businesses have said their numbers are down as well.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Approval of Extension of External Security Patrol Until March 31, 2023

Janice Penner said the external security patrol is funded until December 31, 2022. The recommendation is to extend it to March 31, 2023. The cost to cover one guard in a vehicle from 5 pm to 1:30 am daily at a cost of \$30 per hour would be \$21,600. There are sufficient reserves to cover the additional 3 months. The Executive Committee recommended the extension at their December 6th meeting.

Motion: To approve the extension of the external security patrol until March 31, 2023, and the expense of \$21,600 and its inclusion in budgeted expenses.

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

Motion carried.

5b) Approval of Contribution to Economic Impact Study

Janice Penner explained that the preparation of an Economic Impact Study for downtown Riverside is being considered. The study would be prepared by the UCR School of Business and funded by interested parties including RDP and the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau. Lou Monville is coordinating the initiative and is the point person with UCR.

The Executive Committee recommended that RDP participate in and contribute to the Economic Impact Study. It's expected that the cost will be between \$18,500 and \$20,000. RDP's contribution will be dependent on the number of contributing participants. Once the dollar number is known, staff will send an email to the Board for approval of the amount.

5c) Rescheduling of Reception and other 2023 Dates

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said it was decided to reschedule the RDP Holiday reception to January 2023. Staff is recommending that no luncheon be held in January. The next luncheon would be February 28 with the Annual Meeting on March 15, 2023.

6) Financial Reports - Motion

6a) Final Financial Reports at November 30, 2022

Nanci Larsen stated as of November 30, 2022, RDP had \$148,121 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 \$274,146.

The Accounts Receivable was \$18,009 consisting of \$13,219 for the external garage patrol, \$4,500 for Festival of Lights, and \$290 other. The Accounts Payable equaled \$8,334.

The financial report for the month of November shows a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$9,379 compared to a budget deficit of \$56,551. The \$24,067 positive variance was due in part to BID levy income received year to date being \$10,977 higher than budget.

Motion: To Accept the Financial Reports at November 30, 2022

Motion made by: Shalini Lockard **Motion Seconded by:** Brian Percy

Motion carried.

7) County of Riverside District 2 Update

No update was provided.

8) City Council Updates

No update was provided as no council members were in attendance.

9) City Community Development Department Update

Sherry Shimshock said she had no update for garages 1 and 2, the Riverside Alive Project or the Greyhound Hub station. There is a consultant working with the City on the negotiations for these projects but she is not privy to those discussions.

Sherry Shimshock applauded the Economic Impact Study on downtown Riverside, and the intended data to be provided by that study.

The PBID discussion will be picked back up in January to decide if a PBID is the right solution for downtown. The consultant will arrange a PBID 101 meeting, comprised of downtown business and property owners, which will take place in January at Loft 84.

Brian Percy asked if the County, State, and School Districts have been invited to attend this PBID meeting as they occupy a large portion of the buildings in downtown. Sherry Shimshock said a list is being put together of all stakeholders.

Brian Percy said there is a history of talks about the City and County trying to put in a Federal Plaza on the westside of downtown Riverside near the Courts. Sherry Shimshock said she never heard of that before. A brief discussion took place regarding what the conceptualized Federal Plaza would entail according to Brian Percy's understanding over the years, and the importance of having stakeholders from that area represented at the PBID meetings and conversations.

Janice Penner commented that RDP as an organization has looked at the feasibility of a PBID at least 3 times. The consensus has always been that without the involvement of the public sector, there are not enough private sector property owners who can fund what the City wants done. Sherry Shimshock said the consultant has done a breakdown of public sector ownership. The City is first, and the County is second or third in terms of how much property and buildings those entities own in downtown.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said it is important that the private property owners who own multiple small buildings throughout downtown be at these meetings as a PBID would have a major impact on their businesses. Sherry Shimshock said she would be happy to share the preliminary list for the January meeting with Shelby Worthington-Loomis so that everyone who needs to be invited is invited.

Janice Penner said most small property owners are more interested in the larger issue of parking because they have problems leasing their buildings with no parking to offer potential tenants. A discussion took place regarding the negative perception of the City and other public entities contributing to a PBID, and the growing unrest within the private sector about downtown issues such as safety and cleanliness. Janice Penner said RDP will assist with the PBID study, however, RDP's priority is to protect business owners' interests in downtown. It is vital that the public sector understands the necessity of contributing to a PBID if it is to go forward.

Philip Falcone said there were seven community workshops for City Manager, one in every Ward. There was also a poll sent out to the public asking them what mattered most to them for a City manager. There was a lot of feedback that the City considered in its selection.

As far as the Economic Impact Study is concerned, Philip Falcone told Lou Monville that many Council members believe their constituents don't come to downtown Riverside so don't support providing any additional funding. To avoid accusations that the economic impact of other areas like the Galleria Mall and Riverside Plaza were not considered, the Economic Impact study needs to show that downtown deserves more funds as it is the main hotspot for economic prosperity. There may need to be a City wide study as well as a downtown oriented one.

10) RPD Security Update

Bryan Crawford said Festival of Lights was very eventful for the police. There were a lot of discussions on what to do if specific situations went down during the switch-on, but what actually happened was a triple homicide and child kidnapping on the opposite side of town. That took

officers away from the switch-on ceremony and every policeman who was scheduled to go home that day was transitioned to patrol the Festival of Lights with most working 18 hour shifts.

The security guards the City hired for the Pedestrian Mall for the Festival are very unsatisfactory and the police are trying to work with them to improve service. The police plan to work with the City to get a better company in for next year, as well as be able to immediately nullify a contract and bring in a different company if something like this happens again. Problems include guards sleeping in their cars, being constantly on their phones, and generally ignoring any issues.

There has been an influx of homeless in the last few weeks, Bryan Crawford said he has no idea why but it could be due to the weather. The cold weather shelter does not open until January, so hopefully when it opens, the homeless will go there and get off the streets.

The Arc rehab center the County opened up was shut down by the state, but Bryan Crawford is unsure of the reason why.

One example of situations occurring during the Festival were when some security guards were hired to work at a bar but instead redirected to monitor a parking lot. The guards did not think this was their job and decided to tape it off and charge \$20 per spot. They then spent the money in a bar, got drunk and in a fight, and then arrested.

There have been 17 homicides this year and they have all been resolved, all cases closed. Patrol has recovered 919 guns to date.

11) Items for Information

11a) Timeline for Strategic Plan Framework for Review

Shelby Worthington-Loomis referred to the attached timeline and noted that the Economic Impact Study and PBID Feasibility Study were not factored in yet.

11b) Update on other RDP Activities and Items

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated RDP is working with the Collective to promote artisan vendors and entertainment during the Festival of Lights. The Collective's portion ends December 23rd, City vendors end December 31st, and the lights continue until January 6th.

Judging for the Window Decorating contest started December 9th with winners to be announced December 15th.

12) New Business

Stan Morrison brought up the issue of what is happening at the southern border. There are currently 2,400 people crossing the border each day. Stan Morrison wanted to know if this was an appropriate matter for RDP to discuss. Janice Penner said the question would be directed to the Executive Committee as it is a policy issue. She felt it might not be appropriate as RDP is focused on downtown and apolitical. She said she would add it to the agenda for the January Executive meeting. Stan Morrison feels it is a necessary conversation because people who are currently crossing are conducting kidnappings and other violent behavior which needs to be monitored and discussed. This prompted a discussion of the nature of the crimes these individuals are conducting.

Joe Guzzetta said he agrees with the comment that more areas besides downtown needed to be looked within the Economic Impact Study in order to be effective. Janice Penner said she just received the proposal for the study late last night and it will be sent to the Executive for review.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis encouraged everyone to shop at downtown businesses for their Christmas shopping needs.

13) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date January 11, 2023