



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2023  
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Brian Percy, Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Lou Monville, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Philip Falcone, FeRita Carter, Jeff Greene, Sarai Arellano, Damien Fussel

**Excused:** Amy Hoyt, Bryan Crawford, Justin Tracy, Nanci Larsen, Paul Gill, Sergio San Martin, Teryn Henderson

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Jean Eiselein, Rachael Dzikonski, AJ Licon, Clarissa Cervantes, Miguel Lujano, Oz Puerta, Erin Edwards

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Paloma Montes

**Guests:** Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, City Manager Mike Futrell, Jorge Barrera, Edward Coronado

**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. Stan Morrison asked if holding ponds to capture runoff water was within the purview of the City or the County. Mayor Lock Dawson said it was in the purview of the City to have above water storage containers, and RPU could be a part of it.

**3) Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2023.**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 2023

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beatty **Motion Seconded by:** FeRita Carter

**Motion carried.**

**4) Chair's Report**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented that this was the last Board meeting in the current space, and that next month will be on the third floor of the Walling Building.

**5) Items for Discussion**

**5a) Homeless Issues and Care Court**

Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson commented on how homelessness is a crisis not just in the city, but in the state as well, and she came into the Mayor's office with a plan on how to address the issue. As Mayor she cannot overturn Prop 77 nor can she change any of the state laws that are in place, but she can focus on what is going on in the immediate area. The homeless in the area are mainly the mentally disabled, addicts, former incarcerated individuals, aged out foster youth, and elderly

individuals. To combat these specific populations, the Mayor's office is focused on prevention but also programs to help these various populations.

Mayor Lock Dawson worked with the Governor's office to launch Care Court for the mentally disabled. The County of Riverside will be one of the first to implement this program due to their advocacy. For people with addiction, Home Court is being established. Project Connect will connect incarcerated individuals released from jail to the services they will need once they get back into the general population. The Aspire program will help place foster youth into homes to avoid them being on the streets. All these programs will take time to implement and get started, but they are in the works along with more beds for homeless individuals taken off the street.

Crime and public safety are also big issues being dealt with in the Mayor's office. Mayor Lock Dawson is meeting with the Chief of Police and the County Sheriff to figure out what can be done. A lot of the jails are being closed in the state but without alternative solutions.

Youth Job Core has been launched. The City received 4.4 million dollars from the state to help youths aging out of the foster care system receive the skills and training they would need to be on their own.

Mike Futrell said the long term plan for homelessness remains the same as before; permanent affordable housing with wrap around social services so those individuals can get back to some semblance of self-reliance. In the short term, if the homeless do not fall under any of three categories; mentally disabled needing services, individual sentenced to jail time for a warrant out for their arrest, or willing to accept services, then they must move along. Individuals will not be allowed to stay laying on sidewalks and public places. The first effort will start in downtown and then it will expand to Magnolia and University.

Mike Futrell also stated that they have hired additional security for the garages and will be upping security in general within the downtown area.

Mayor Lock Dawson said the City is using a different approach to deal with these issues, working with what they have and within the constraints the state has placed on the city.

The City has recently invested in a façade improvement fund for business owners who get their property violated, for example having their windows smashed out, to help them pay for the repairs.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented on how housing in downtown's Entertainment District can lead to frustration. There are already issues with Imperial Hardware Lofts residents complaining about the noise on Main Street, and business owners are concerned that bigger companies will come in and have a louder voice than them. This prompted a discussion on the housing element in downtown, and the potential for creating rental units priced for the workforce. The state mandate is for 40,000 new homes to be built in Riverside.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis next mentioned the homeless who refuse to leave from in front of businesses, and even if arrested, get out almost immediately and come right back. These people have an effect on business owners' ability to generate revenue because people do not feel safe walking by them. Mayor Lock Dawson said that is one of the many reasons Project Connect was created in order to be more assertive in dealing with the homeless. Collette Lee hoped this new approach included a faster reaction time because currently response was slow when dealing with calls regarding nuisance homeless.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said that RDP's external security company, Multi-Housing District Patrol, usually responded within minutes on receiving a call, and served a number of downtown businesses. She stated that the City allocating money to fund additional security is a necessity as the police force is down in numbers from where it should be. RDP has already spent over \$300,000 of their reserves to fund security downtown but RDP cannot continue to do so.

Brian Pearcy encouraged the Mayor and other City officials to attend a few additional meetings so they can get the full scope of the issues business owners and the population in general are dealing with. Homelessness is the main issue, but cleanliness, city service performance issues (i.e., potholes on many roads throughout downtown and the surrounding areas), and downtown parking and the continuing decrease parking inventory are also issues of major concern.

Philip Makhoul asked what was happening with the RTA Mobility Hub, noting the security issues with downtown bus stops. Philip Falcone said the Hub is not complete yet. Janice Penner said at one point RDP partnered with RTA to provide security along the University bus stops but funding ran out for both parties. There is a security car that patrols all the stops in the area.

Janice Penner asked about the ARPA grant, and the status of the proposed grant to fund security measures for small businesses. Paloma Montes said the ARPA grant application will be released to the public in the next few weeks. A brief discussion broke out in regards to security cameras being purchased using this money, and the ability to link those cameras in such a way that the police could access them. Mayor Lock Dawson said the City just approved more license plate reader cameras for the downtown area. Mike Futrell added that the goal is to eventually have them throughout the City, and link them to the cameras in the adjoining cities so police can track a suspect more easily.

## **6) Financial Reports**

### **6a) Final Financial Reports at January 31, 2023**

Janice Penner asked everyone to read the agenda notes for detailed information on the financials in the interest of time.

The agenda information read as follows: "The financial report for the month of January shows a year-to-day surplus of approximately \$5,327 compared to a budget deficit of \$38,025. The \$43,351 positive variance was due largely to BID levy income being \$27,826 greater than budget, plus expenses being less than budget, notably Festival of Lights (\$4,600) and Public and Retail Promotion (\$8,953).

As of January 31, 2023, RDP has \$178,038 in two checking and one money market account 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 \$247,364.

The accounts receivable was \$30,348 consisting of \$20,218 for external garage patrol, \$10,020 for award sponsorships, and \$110 for other. The accounts payable equaled \$5,254."

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

Damien Fussel from Supervisor Jefferies' office said that Senator Roth's bill was voted on unanimously. This bill is to address the issue of individuals being released from jail due to no judges being available to hear the case by getting more judges in the courts. It also calls for a 300 bed facility being built in San Bernardino to expand mental health services.

## **8) City Council Updates**

Paloma Montes said City staff will be in Fairmount Park from February 10 to 17 for a pedestrian pilot program on how to make the park more accessible.

On February 13 the City's Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee will be discussing ways the City can address the impacts of industrial uses (warehouses). The 14 specific ways that City staff came up with will be discussed as well. On February 21 City Council will discuss funding street improvements, establishing an outdoor dining program and the permitting process, as well as redistricting. On February 28 discussions on policies and regulations regarding the retail sale and use of cannabis will take place.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> the City's Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee will be discussing the proposed revised parking fees. The proposal will go to City Council after that.

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

Jorge Barrera, the new Economic Development Manager, provided a brief introduction and his plans on how he hopes to improve relations between the public and private sectors so they can better work together to move forward in downtown.

## **10) RPD Security Update**

Shelby Worthington said Bryan Crawford advised that the police will be doing more sweeps in the next few weeks. Janice Penner added that at the RDP Security meeting Bryan Crawford had mentioned there were no issues at the Lunar Festival, and major crime was down but petty crime is way up.

## **11) Items for Information**

### **11a) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said all awards recipients had been advised, and Staff secured sponsors for all awards. Updated Save the Date notices and requests for ticket sponsorships and donations for the Opportunity Drawing were sent out on February 1. The invitations were mailed on February 2. Staff will start preparing the 2022 Annual Report, PowerPoint presentations, scripts, and presenters' notes early this month.

### **11b) Economic Impact Study**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated at this point in time, pledges of \$19,000 have been made towards the \$20,000 cost, with RDP and another funder committing up to \$10,000. Once certain pledges come in, RDP will proceed with the deposit so the study can commence.

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

#### **i) Public Parking Program and Other Issues**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said a second committee meeting was held on January 19 at the Main Library. Based on the feedback from that meeting, City staff made certain revisions they will present to the City's Land Use, Sustainability, and Resilience Committee on March 13, 2023.

City staff briefed both RDP and the Chamber on highlights of the revisions, however, RDP had not seen the complete proposed public parking program. RDP's process is to have its Land Use Committee review the available information at its February 16 meeting, and then put forward its recommendations to the Executive Committee and then the Board.

**ii) Follow-up to Alley Paving**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP was advised that paving of the alley between Main and Orange from 10<sup>th</sup> to Mission Inn Avenue would start in mid-February. She asked if there was a specific date when it would start as the email did not provide one. Philip Falcone said he would reach out to try and get an exact date.

**iii) Other**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the partners of Doors Open Riverside decided to reschedule the event from April 30 to September 9 to coincide with the State's event and leverage marketing.

Planning began on the 2023 Riverside Art and Music Festival scheduled for September 30. The event will be expanded to seven hours from five hours, and will have more entertainment and activities.

**iv) Board Survey**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said staff will be sending out a survey to the Board to see if people would like to change the time. The 7:30 am start time is difficult for those with school age children.

**12) New Business**

There was no new business.

**13) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date March 8, 2023**