



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
7:30 AM WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11, 2023  
WALLING BUILDING – UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Amy Hoyt, Chuck Beaty, Bryan Crawford, Collette Lee, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Nanci Larsen, Paul Gill, Rachael Dzikonski, Bob Nagle, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Teryn Henderson, Philip Falcone, FeRita Carter, AJ Licon, Debbie Rose, Jeff Greene, Sarai Arellano, Damien (County)

**Excused:** Brian Percy, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Clarissa Cervantes, David Bristow, 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 December 14, 2022.**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of December 14, 2022

**Motion made by:** Nanci Larsen **Motion Seconded by:** FeRita Carter

**Motion carried.**

**4) Chair's Report**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said FOL was busy this year with more vendors and entertainment. There was an extension for the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa lights due to the rainy weather, which was nice for the businesses.

**5) Items for Discussion**

**5a) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony - March 15, 2023**

Janice Penner stated the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa confirmed for the March 15, 2023 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony venue. In return for consideration on the pricing of the meal, the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa will be recognized as the Event Sponsor.

**i) Approval of Award Recipients – Motion**

Janice Penner said the past recipients and suggested 2023 recipients were shown on the attached document. She gave the basis for each suggestion:

*Arts and Culture* – Division 9 Gallery Cosme Cordova, for support of community events and artisan vendors.

*Business Activity* – Mission Inn Museum Docent Tours, for the impact on downtown businesses by bringing visitors to downtown year round, as well as record numbers for the 2022 festival.

*Downtown Public Event* – Parks & Recreation Spring Eggstravaganza, for providing a family friendly event to celebrate spring and Easter.

*Downtown Improvement* – Mayor's Office Beautify Riverside, for murals in downtown and cleanups throughout the City.

*Safety and Security* – County of Riverside Gang Impact Team for their activities in response to the fentanyl crisis.

*Chair's Award* – Dell Roberts for his many contributions to the Riverside community.

The Executive Committee reviewed the suggestions and recommended that the Board approve them. She said that letters would be sent to the recipients on January 11 following approval. Sponsorship and donation requests would also be sent out, as well as 'Save the Date' notices. The invitations will be printed once the Roy Hord volunteer award recipient is chosen.

The Roy Hord Award recipient is to be chosen by the end of January. Nominations are accepted until January 18, and the nomination form (fillable PDF) is on the RDP website. Nominations are being solicited through the BID Bulletin, Facebook, and both general and targeted emails.

**Motion:** To approve the award recipients as presented.

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Paul Gill

**Motion carried.**

## **6) Financial Reports - Motion**

### **6a) Final Financial Reports at December 31, 2022**

Nanci Larsen stated as of December 31, 2022, RDP had \$114,084 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 \$274,364.

The Accounts Receivable was \$51,741 consisting of \$13,608 for City parking, \$37,903.81 for the City BID and \$230 other. The Accounts Payable equaled \$3,336.

The BID revenue for November 2022 received in December 2022 equaled \$37,904. BID revenue last year for November 2021 was \$46,701 with a decrease of \$8,797.

The financial report for the month of December showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$35,018 compared to a budget deficit of \$59,725, leading to a positive variance of \$24,707. Janice Penner mentioned that RDP reserves had decreased by roughly \$174,000 in the last four years due to the deficit spending to fund the external security patrol. RDP has spent over \$300,000 to fund the external security patrol, which is now funded through March 31, 2023 with a portion of the cost offset by higher BID levy income. The large decline in reserve assets means that RDP's ability to fund things such as the external patrol will be dependent on the BID levy income increasing. She noted that RDP is still financially stable.

A discussion broke out regarding the continued issues with break-ins at various downtown businesses. Collette Lee stated that many organizations she is a part of believe that the BID is solely responsible for providing the security for the downtown area and that there needs to be some type of education to show businesses that the BID is not solely responsible for downtown security.

**Motion:** To Accept Financial Reports at December 31, 2022

**Motion made by:** Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Amy Hoyt

**Motion carried.**

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

Debbie Rose said District 1 under Supervisor Kevin Jeffries now includes the entirety of the City of Riverside. Jeff Greene said someone from Supervisor Jeffries office will attend RDP Board and other meetings. District 1 has included 2/3's of the City for over ten years so they are no stranger to downtown. Damian Fussel is the field representative responsible for Riverside and High Grove so he will likely be the one attending meetings.

## **8) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards said the ongoing conversation regarding parking rates will take place at the Main Library on January 19 at 5:30 pm. There will be a draft for discussion regarding what will be taken forward to City Council regarding the parking rates. On January 24 the public hearing on the resale of Cannabis will be taking place. The discussion on outdoor dining, temporary and long term, will be taking place on February 13 at the Land Use meeting.

The Business Security Grant has reverted back to the concept of individual businesses getting a \$1,000 grant with a matching grant structure. Police are hoping to roll out this program soon but no exact start date has been released yet.

Erin Edwards asked the Board members to fill in the blank to this question: It is now 2023, downtown is.....

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said unsafe. When Erin Edwards asked if that was her vision for downtown moving forward, she replied no but when she thinks of downtown she feels it is unsafe and the vision would be to fix it. Collette Lee said her vision is to clean downtown Riverside up. Other members said their vision for downtown Riverside was vibrant, attractive, attended, safe, attended to, proud, impressive, welcoming, delicious, sparkling, artsy, thriving.

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

Sherry Shimshock said she has not yet had a one on one meeting with Jennifer Lily but has interacted with her and can say economic development is very important to her. Jennifer Lily is a very positive person and very engaging, willing to listen and talk to people about their issues and is a quick learner. Janice Penner asked for Erin Edwards opinion moving forward with the new City Manager and Community and Economic Development Manager. Erin Edwards said she was very impressed with Jennifer Lily's background and her understanding of community engagement and how community engagement and economic development go hand in hand. Erin Edwards believes the new City Manager will be the perfect fit for downtown.

## **10) RPD Security Update**

Bryan Crawford said the security at Festival of Lights was substandard. The company will not be hired back next year and the City and police are currently working on an RFP amendment so a contract can be canceled and another security company hired if this were to happen again.

The County Mobile Crisis Team should be coming online soon. The hiring process is going on now, and within the next few months there should be two teams dispatched throughout the City through County Behavioral Health.

Bryan Crawford said he hears the frustrations and concerns being voiced, and he himself is frustrated with the situation. The police are dealing with some tough laws regarding homeless and crime. One instance was a burglary suspect who was identified for a large number of burglaries. The individual plead guilty to 21 burglary cases and was sentenced to 6 ½ years in jail. He only

spent 8 days in jail before being released. The individual has since committed four more burglaries in the Brockton Arcade area. Bryan Crawford is working with the Mayor's Office and the bi-partisan committee on homelessness and crime hoping they will advocate for some new legislation to make the city a safer place.

Stan Morrison asked about why all the flights were grounded yesterday and if the police heard anything. Janice Penner said one of the flight systems went down with an as of right now undetermined cause. It could have potentially been a cyber attack. The information that enabled a flight to take off and see what other flights were currently in the air was disabled so no flights were allowed to take off until this issue was fixed. Paul Gill said it was the Notice to Airman System, which is now back up and running.

Stan Morrison then asked if it was okay for an owner of an establishment who caught a burglar in the act to defend themselves in order to detain the individual until the police arrive. Bryan Crawford said they enacted a private citizen arrest in that situation but every situation is different. People have the right to detain and enact a private citizen's arrest but they are not allowed to act as judge and jury.

Chuck Beaty spoke about an article in a magazine entitled homelessness, 'Is it time for tough love.' One thing in the article that struck him was regarding the 72 hour rule where individuals could be placed under a hold for 72 hours. The article stated that Governor Newsom signed a law allowing officials to commit mentally ill homeless for up to 2 years.

Erin Edwards said Care Court started in January, which is the way people can be committed for up to 2 years. However it is a very detailed process. Jeff Greene said that it is a process, and people will not simply be taken off the streets and put somewhere. Also, there is not enough psychiatric bed space so that will need to be constructed in order for people to go somewhere. Philip Falcone mentioned that even though Care Court was started in January, it wouldn't go into effect until October in Riverside. It was noted that the Governor vetoed Senator Roth's bill which would have allowed cities and counties to have a revolving fund revenue to be able to build facilities. Senator Roth is going to reintroduce this issue to try and get the funding approval.

A discussion ensued regarding various public safety issues including criminals being released because there is a shortage of judges to hear the cases, and the overall funding shortage for behavioral health. Chuck Beaty then went on to mention that the laws for parole have been changed so that anyone over the age of 50 who have served 20 years can now be eligible for parole regardless what they were convicted for and even if their sentence was originally a life sentence. He stated it is rather frightening to have these individuals potentially come back into the community.

## **11) Items for Information**

### **11a) Holiday Reception Rescheduled to January 25**

Janice Penner said due to conflicts, the RDP's holiday reception has been rescheduled to Wednesday, January 25 from 11 am to 2 pm at Loft 84. The reception will be a celebration of 2022 and a welcome to 2023. The first set of invitations went out on January 5.

### **11b) Update on other RDP Activities and Items**

#### **i) Festival of Lights**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the entertainment and vendor activities ended Friday, December 23. However, the City vendors continued until December 31 and the Mission Inn Hotel

and Spa lights continued until January 8. Although cooler weather and rain did have an impact, reports from downtown businesses were still positive.

The February luncheon meeting will be on February 28 at the Riverside Convention Center and the April 25 luncheon will be at Loft.84.

Collette Lee said the Riverside Arts Academy had their Military salute appreciation which had over 200 children performing for Military families. They provided a military family with tickets to Disneyland and the event was aired on ABC news.

## **12) New Business**

Joe Guzzetta asked about the status of the Economic Impact Study. Janice Penner said Lou Monville, who is the point person for this project, is still in the process of soliciting funds from various businesses and individuals throughout the downtown area.

Janice Penner asked Sherry Shimshock if the development at Eleventh Street and Market was still going through. Sherry Shimshock said as far as she knows it was still going forward but she would find out more information on it and present the information at a future board meeting.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis will be hosting a bridal extravaganza on January 22 starting at 11 am. There will be roughly 40 vendors in attendance.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said she is looking forward to discussing the alleyways in downtown and the issue of them needing to be repaired. Philip Falcone said all the alleyways behind businesses are scheduled to be repaved this fiscal year. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said there needs to be a sequence to how the alleys are being done, with those with more safety hazards being repaved first. For instance, the alleyway behind Mario's has a large dip which causes delivery trucks to get stuck. It is an ADA issue for people as well.

## **13) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date February 8, 2023**