



## Minutes

**Present:** Amy Hoyt, Chuck Beaty, FeRita Carter, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Nanci Larsen, Rachael Dzikonski, Randy Hord, Sergio San Martin, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Sarai Arellano, Damien Fussel, Jorge Barrera

**Excused:** Brian Percy, Collette Lee, Philip Makhoul, Bob Nagle, Teryn Henderson

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, Bryan Crawford, Cherie Crutcher, Jean Eiselein, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Paul Gill, AJ Licon, 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 8, 2023.

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2023

**Motion made by:** Joe Guzzetta **Motion Seconded by:** FeRita Carter

**Motion carried.**

### 4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented that business was slow for the hospitality businesses lately due to the weather. She missed the RDP luncheon due being stuck in her office because of the situation in Temecula Valley. The Temecula Valley Council put in a rule that venues with less than 5 acres of land could only hold 5 events per year. This caused many weddings to be shut down with no warning so she was overwhelmed with calls and visits from brides trying to book alternative venues for their weddings.

### 5) Items for Discussion

#### 5a) Change in Board Meeting Start Time

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said staff sent out a survey to Board members regarding changing the start time. Of the 27 voting members, 18 responded. Of those, 5 opted to keep the start time at 7:30 am, 10 opted to change it to 8:30 am, and 8 opted for a lunch meeting. When adding in second and third choices, 7:30 am had 6 overall votes, 8:30 am had 16, and lunch had 9.

Based on that input and that of staff, the Executive Committee decided to change the start time to 8:30 am effective with the April 12 meeting. The location of the Board meeting changed in March to the third floor of the Walling Building.

### **5b) Downtown Parking – RDP Position and Next Steps**

Janice Penner said letters were sent to the City regarding concern over the decreasing parking inventory. City staff will be taking the latest version of parking rates and operational changes to the City's Land Use, Sustainability, and Resiliency Committee on March 13. RDP encouraged the signatories to the letters to attend that meeting to raise the concerns about parking inventory. RDP included highlights of the latest version of parking rates and operational changes in the March BID Bulletin.

Janice Penner said that RDP would not state support for the proposed revised Downtown Parking Program at the City's March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, but would comment on specific changes based on input from committee meetings.

### **5c) Extension of External Security Patrol to June 2023**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the external security patrol was funded until March 31, 2023. Extending it to June 30, 2023 would cost \$21,840 for one guard in a vehicle from 5 pm to 1:30 am daily at a cost of \$30 per hour. The recommendation from staff and the Executive Committee is to cover the cost of an additional three months to June 30, 2023. Doing so would provide sufficient notice to businesses about ending the evening external security patrol. RDP will have spent over \$400,000 on external security since the start of the pandemic to protect downtown businesses and augment strained police resources. However, RDP can no longer spend its reserves to do so in the future as funds are needed for its strategic plan implementation.

Janice Penner said the new safety and security grant administered by the police department is now available. The grant offers up to \$10,000 for businesses to get better security systems, lighting, etc. The deadline to apply is the end of March. Anyone applying for this grant has to have a site visit and police approval before the funds are released. Prior expenditures are not reimbursed.

**Motion:** To Approve the additional 3 Months of funding for the External Security Patrol.

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

**Motion carried.**

## **6) Financial Reports**

### **6a) Financial Reports at February 28, 2023**

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of February showed a year-to-day deficit of approximately \$6,739 compared to a budget deficit of \$38,766. The \$32,027 positive variance was due largely to BID levy income being \$30,482 greater than budget, plus expenses being less than budget, notably Festival of Lights (\$4,600) and Public and Retail Promotion (\$9,241).

As of February 28, 2023, RDP had \$139,517 in two checking and one money market account 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 \$247,364.

The Accounts Receivable was \$55,239 consisting of \$43,228 for BID levy income, \$6,220 for external garage patrol, \$5,540 for the annual meeting, and \$250 for other. The Accounts Payable equaled \$4,060.

**Motion:** To Accept the Financial Reports at February 28, 2023

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

**Motion carried.**

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

Damien Fussel said the County lots on Lemon Street and Twelfth Street have some open parking available for \$65 a month, but as those lots are not open on weekends, they may not be useable as alternative downtown parking. The County is currently looking into ways to have the structures operate on the weekends. The current hours of operation for those two structures are 6 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday.

## **8) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards said downtown parking rates will be discussed at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Land Use, Sustainability, and resilience Committee meeting. Industrial uses in the City will also be discussed with 13 different policy points regarding warehouses in the City being highlighted and during the meeting.

On March 15, the Finance Committee will look at a proposed price increase for the Fairmount Park Golf Course.

On March 14, the City Council will have a meeting to look at the redistricting maps to ensure all the new district lines fall in the correct places.

On March 21, City Council will hear a financial report on the Cheech.

On March 28, City Council will hear an update on the 30<sup>th</sup> Festival of Lights.

The Outdoor Dining Café Program has been approved to continue.

Approximately \$1.4 million was approved to be used to fix/improve the trail at Mount Rubidoux. This will help with erosion on the trail from the large rainfalls, make it safer for hikers, as well as make it safe for emergency vehicles to make it up the mountain. This would allow fireworks to take place on Mt. Rubidoux once again.

After a year of discussions at the Finance Committee level, City Council voted in the majority to allow the retail sale of cannabis in Riverside. There are only 14 places licensed for cannabis throughout the whole City and the earliest any retail cannabis centers may open is July of 2023.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if any churches asked for a buffer zone around the cannabis locations like the schools did. Erin Edwards said no churches made such a request. Janice Penner asked if the cannabis locations would be cash only and how security would be handled. Erin Edwards said the cash only policy was due to regulation by the federal government, and the security programs set up for these types of businesses are well thought out. Chuck Beaty asked about illegal vendors on the streets. Erin Edwards said the hope was that legalizing the sale of cannabis would reduce illegal sales, and the City would receive additional sales tax revenue.

Stan Morrison said there would be repercussions as he never knew an addict who didn't first start on weed and then worked their way up to more powerful drugs. A discussion broke out regarding the ramifications of allowing legal cannabis sales in Riverside. Sergio San Martin said he wanted to echo Stan Morrison's concerns about legalizing cannabis sales, adding the issue is a huge concern within the RUSD school system, affecting students as young as elementary. Other concerns voiced include the problems within the homeless community due to drugs and mental illness within that community.

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

Jorge Barrera, the new Economic Development Manager, said the Coffee with the Mayor event was great. He also complimented Arts Walk, adding it was great to see the vendors and activities at various art buildings like UCR, and the business generated for the restaurants and retail shops on Main Street. Janice Penner said most of the businesses on Main Street love the event and would like to see it more frequently. Rachael Dzikonski said the Arts Walk in general has received positive feedback for the nearly 13 years it has been held.

RPD is offering a grant of up to \$10,000 for businesses to increase their security through additional lighting and cameras for example.

Janice Penner asked if there was any update on Riverside Alive. Erin Edwards said it was an ongoing closed session item at this time, so there was not much to share.

Janice Penner asked about the decision not to continue with the expansion of the Metrolink station at 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Erin Edwards said her understanding was that the decision was made on the economics of moving existing buildings and constructions costs.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if there were dates for when the restaurants Fuego Hibachi and Estrella will open. Erin Edwards said she hadn't heard anything at this time.

## **10) RPD Security Update**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis reported on behalf of Bryan Crawford that there were a number of robberies downtown. There were six robberies in the last six weeks where the suspects were after safes, registers, jukeboxes, etc. but ignored the liquor.

## **11) Items for Information**

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

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said all awards have been sponsored and the awards ordered. Sponsorship recognition items have also been ordered. Current ticket sales are 175 with a target goal of 190. Staff will be making one final push for last minute sales. Certificates of congratulations for the award recipients have been requested from the State, County, and City. Donations for the Opportunity Drawing are ahead of last year with several outstanding donations received, notable from Riverside City College.

The 2022 Annual Report, PowerPoint presentations, script, and presenters' notes should be finalized by March 8.

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

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the first meeting to discuss necessary data and other materials was held on February 22. RDP fronted the deposit check of \$10,000 so work could start. Additional funding is being pursued. Janice Penner said \$19,000 is pledged with another \$1,000 to go. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said she would pledge the remaining \$1000.

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

#### **i) Follow-up to Alley Paving**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP arranged a meeting on February 23 between City staff and property/business owners to discuss the project which started on March 6 from Mission Inn Avenue. RDP is facilitating communications. Janice Penner said all the alleyways will be

worked on at once. Due to various complexities with each alleyway, some will be easier than others. The alleyway from Ninth Tenth is a simple grind and re-pour while the alleyway from University to Ninth has a lot of asphalt to dig up. From University to Mission Inn is a major job as there are various leveling issues throughout with a lot of gutters and grease traps to consider.

**ii) Other**

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said staff spoke at City Council on February 21 in support of the Sidewalk Café Program.

Doors Open Riverside is scheduled for September 9 and 10 to coincide with the State event and leverage marketing events. The invitation to participate has gone out to downtown locations.

Planning continues on the 2023 Riverside Art and Music Festival scheduled for October 7.

**12) New Business**

Chuck Beaty mentioned the fire which happened at Riverside Community Players. They have been in that location since 1925. He said donations are being sought to help fund repairs.

**13) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date April 12, 2023 at 8:30 am**