



Minutes

Present: Brian Percy, Bryan Crawford, Chuck Beaty, FeRita Carter, Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Randy Hord, Shalini Lockard, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Sarai Arellano, Damian Fussel, Jorge Barreras, Dawson Smith, Joe Ramos, Cynthia Zuniga

Excused: Amy Hoyt, Collette Lee, Philip Makhoul, Rachael Dzikonski, Sergio San Martin, Shelby Worthington-Loomis,

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, AJ Licon, Bob Nagle, Clarissa Cervantes, Oz Puerta, Philip Falcone

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council/City Staff: Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes, Melanie Bruns

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 April 12, 2023.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of April 12, 2023

Motion made by: Chuck Beatty **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

There was no Chair's report given.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) By-Law Amendments

Janice Penner reiterated that the Executive Committee was overseeing the changes to the RDP By-laws, and would serve as the nominating committee for the 2024 to 2026 board term election. The anticipated time line is to have adopted the amended By-laws by or before the July 12, 2023 board meeting, the work of the nominating committee completed no later than the October 11 board meeting for the start of the 2024 to 2026 election cycle in November 2023.

Janice Penner said that once the amendments were approved, they would be incorporated in a document including housekeeping changes. She referred to the attachment that showed the current provisions and the recommended amendments. Board members were asked to contact her with questions or suggestions.

5b) Annual Budget Discussion

Janice Penner said staff was preparing the annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 with the intent for the Board to review and adopt it at the June 14, 2023 meeting.

Multi-Housing District Patrol was given notice that the external security patrol would be canceled effective June 30, 2023. Executive members will meet with the City Manager to inform him of the change and learn if the City has any plans in response.

Staff has reached out to Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful and to Beautify Riverside about partnering on a 'Clean-up' pilot project and two public art projects respectively. These partnerships would leverage funds and work towards two strategic plan goals.

5c) Appointment of New Board Member – Motion

Shalini Lockard stated there was a vacancy on the Board, and the Executive Committee appointed Joe Ramos, Executive Director of the Miracles and Dreams Foundation, to serve as a Board member effective with the May meeting. The appointment needs to be ratified by the Board on.

Motion: To accept Joe Ramos as a new member of the Board.

Motion Made By: Chuck Beatty **Motion Seconded By:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried.

6) Financial Reports -

6a) Financial Reports at April 30, 2023

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of April showed a year-to-date surplus of approximately \$19,952 compared to a budget deficit of \$16,166. The \$36,118 positive variance was due largely to BID levy income being \$40,778 greater than budget. While certain expenses were less than budget, they were offset by the extension of the external security patrol.

As of April 30, 2023, RDP had \$211,646 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 \$274,579.

The Accounts Receivable was \$9,458 consisting of \$6,998 for the external garage patrol, \$270 for the annual meeting, \$2,000 for the Economic Impact Study, and \$190 for other. The Accounts Payable equaled \$3,705.

Motion: To Accept the Financial Reports at April 30, 2023

Motion Made By: Brian Percy **Motion Seconded by:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried.

7) County of Riverside Update

As Erin Edwards spoke before, Damian Fussel said he had little to add. He gave some information on the recent homeless count. Shalini Lockard asked if the homeless numbers included those who refuse services. Damian Fussel said the numbers include everyone including veterans and youth. The volunteers physically go out and count the people they encounter at multiple locations over multiple visits to make sure as many people as possible are included in the numbers.

8) Mayor's Office Update

Sarai Arellano said the next Coffee meeting with the Mayor will be held on May 25 for Ward 7 specifically, though everyone is welcome. It will be at the La Sierra Senior Center. On June 14 it will be in Ward 5 at the Youth Innovation Center. The intention is to have a final wrap up in downtown but it will be dependent on their budget and how much is left by the end.

9) City Council Update

Erin Edwards said the Finance Committee will be meeting that day at 3 pm to discuss the City's budget for the upcoming new fiscal year. Also included will be the potential expansion of the management and operations agreement with Raincross Hospitality for the Riverside Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the Riverside's Sports Commission. With regard to the budget, discussions will include allocating more money to Parks and Recreation, hiring more employees for the Library, allocating more money for events City wide, and more money going towards maintenance.

There will be a City Council meeting to discuss the Community Engagement plan, and how to make sure moving forward that there is a policy to help the City be consistent in how they engage the community across all issues.

City Council approved the Community Development Block Grant monies which included more money going towards the Hullen Campus. The point in time numbers this year show that there is an increase of people experiencing homelessness that are unsheltered, and a decrease in the those who are sheltered. This is due in part to the COVID funding for Project Latch Key winding down. There are 607 currently unsheltered compared to last year's 518.

Chuck Beaty commented on City Council approving the hanging of a non-governmental flag at City Hall, and what process was used since up to that point, only U.S., state, and city flags were showcased. Erin Edwards said Council did discuss how the City would go about the raising of other flags outside of the three governmental flags, and the Human Relations Commission was asked to consider the issue. The commission came back with a list of different flags for the Council to consider, including woman's history month, Juneteenth, etc. The flags approved will be rotated based on the month the specific flags are allowed to be hung.

Erin Edwards said May 13 is the Great American Clean-up. Repaving on Mount Rubidoux is underway in preparation for the July 4 holiday.

Brian Percy said in the areas that the City is doing sewer repair/replacement, the roads are in terrible state with all the uneven patches on the roads. Erin Edwards agreed that the roads are rather terrible while that repair work is being done, but at this point she is unsure what the plans are to fix the roads. Brian Percy said private contractors are held to a higher standard than the City in making sure the roads are smooth after repairs are completed. Erin Edwards said the City is looking into allocating more money to the road repair fund for next year, as well as mandating that where a road is to be repaved or leveled, all underground repairs are done first so that the road is kept smooth rather than torn up right after being fixed. A discussion broke out regarding various areas in Riverside in which the road repairs are deplorable. Justin Tracy mentioned Market Street in front of his business, Stan Morrison mentioned an ongoing pothole issue on Washington and Victoria, and Chuck Beaty spoke about the stretch of road between 14th and 10th Street.

Melanie Bruns said she is the new Legislative Field Rep for Ward 2 and will be representing Councilwoman Cervantes moving forward. She just finished up her first week at City Hall so did not have much of an update at this time.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Jorge Barrera said the company, HVS which is a hospitality consulting firm, reached out to City staff regarding specific demographic information on downtown to determine if it is worth investing

in downtown. Staff took them on a tour of downtown, highlighting various projects in downtown such as the library, the loft apartments, events in downtown, the Mission Inn, the Cheech, etc., showing them what it is like from a tourist perspective.

The City is participating in the 3 day convention in Las Vegas hosted by the ICSC. The exhibitors consist of developers, hotel representatives, retail and commercial brokers, etc. There will be a team of four from the City attending the event with three months to prepare. Due to the lack of time to prepare, a very strategic plan was created on who the City representatives will be meeting with. The hope is to highlight the opportunities in downtown, including the commercial space available in the Mark, and building relationships. Janice Penner said one of the challenges is that shopping has changed in recent years, particularly with COVID. Downtown has always been looked at as unique where big box or chain stores would never be brought in. She asked what the City is looking for specifically due to the change in how people view shopping and dining. Jorge Barrera said they will be looking at what types of retailers are currently missing or in short supply in the area.

Sherry Shimshock said with regards to the ARPA business grant, a consultant has been chosen to be recommended to City Council in June. With the ARPA final rules now in place, this grant can be structured to encourage resiliency.

11) RDP Security Update

Brian Crawford said there has been a lot of theft in the garages. Three people were identified as the primary source of those thefts and were arrested. The female suspect was a repeat offender, and when her apartment was searched under a warrant, it was nearly completely full of stolen property. The female suspect had eight outstanding cases against her and three more added at the time of her arrest, but she was already released again to the home court program and videoed doing more thefts.

Hullen Clean-up was done last week after Outreach requested the police leave the area alone for 30 days to allow them time to try and get those people assistance. Twenty-one people were arrested, 20 plus dogs taken to animal control, and over 6 tons of trash removed.

Cinco de Mayo landed on the same day as the Show and Go event so downtown was a mess. Fifteen officers were working all night which were not enough.

Events coming up that the police are preparing include the Anime Convention, The Cheech's first anniversary, and the Fourth of July fireworks on Mount Rubidoux. Discussion on Festival of Lights has started as well.

12) Items for Information

12a) Update on RDP Activities, Items, and News

Shalini Lockard stated Janice Penner spoke at the April 18 City Council meeting on the Downtown Public Parking Program, and spoke to concerns about inventory.

The next luncheon will be May 23 at Avila's Historic 1929 with Mark Annas of Ready Riverside confirmed as the speaker. Mike Futrell will be the speaker on June 27 at the Hyatt Place with Cheba Hut catering. Palenque by Mezcal has been confirmed as the July 25 location and staff is working on a speaker, hopefully the new RCC President. The September luncheon will be held at Estrella Taqueria.

Planning for Doors Open Riverside on September 9th is proceeding with the group considering adding a monuments and mural tour on the following Sunday to encourage hotel visits.

Planning for the Riverside Art and Music Festival on October 7 is also proceeding. The event has been extended to 7 hours and two 'stages' plus food trucks.

Staff is pursuing a possible event for August 2024 featuring the "Elephant Parade" exhibit. The group exploring the event includes the Riverside Arts Council, the Riverside Convention Center and Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Mayor's offices', and Division 9 Gallery. More partners may be included as exploration and the feasibility progresses.

13) New Business

Justin Tracy brought up the ongoing issue of leaf blowers going off at 5 am in his neighborhood. He also mentioned that a flight path for the trauma helicopters for Community Hospital is needed. They constantly come in from the wrong direction and are unable to land , so go over the houses to divert and try again.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date June 14, 2023 at 8:30 am