



Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Brian Percy, Bryan Crawford, Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, FeRita Carter, Damien Fussel, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Justin Tracy, Nanci Larsen, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock, Stan Morrison, Joe Ramos, Mike Futrell

Excused: Jean Eiselein, Lou Monville, Sergio San Martin

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Rachael Dzikonski, AJ Licon, Oz Puerta, Sarai Arellano,

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes, Melanie Bruns, Clarissa Cervantes, Phillip Falcone

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 May 10, 2023.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 10, 2023

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

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the external security patrol will end June 30th. She also commented that the 4th of July was quickly approaching, which meant a lot of guns and fireworks in the area so people should make sure all doors are locked for safety purposes.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Approval of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 Budget – Motion

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the 2023 – 2024 budget was attached for review and approval. The document included explanatory notes where appropriate and salary increases for the staff are included. The Executive Committee reviewed the budget at their June 6 meeting and recommended that it be approved by the Board.

Motion: To Approve the Budget for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Motion Made By: Nanci Larsen **Motion Seconded By:** Brian Percy

Motion carried.

5b) Approval of Bylaws Amended June 2023 – Motion

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said a revised bylaws document effective June 2023 was attached along with a summary of the substantive changes.

The Executive Committee reviewed the bylaw changes at their June 6 meeting and recommended that the revised document be approved by the Board. Once approved, the complete bylaws document will be signed by the Board Secretary.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Executive Committee oversaw the changes to the RDP bylaws and would serve as the interim nominating committee for the election process for the 2024 to 2026 Board term. The 2024 to 2026 election cycle begins in November 2023.

Motion: To Approve the Revised Bylaws.

Motion Made By: Brian Percy **Motion Seconded By:** Philip Makhoul

Motion carried.

6) Financial Reports -

6a) Financial Reports at May 31, 2023 – Motion

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of May shows a year-to-date surplus of approximately \$24,769 compared to a budget deficit of \$8,149. The \$32,918 positive variance was due largely to BID levy income being \$40,830 greater than budget. While certain expenses were less than budget, they are offset by extension of the external security patrol.

As of May 31, 2023, RDP had \$217,769 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 \$274,601.

The accounts receivable was \$8,551 consisting of \$6,221 for the external garage patrol, \$270 for the annual meeting, \$2,000 for the Economic Impact Study, and \$60 for other. The accounts payable equaled \$3,643.

Motion: To Accept Financial Reports at May 31, 2023.

Motion Made By: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried.

7) RDP Security Update

Bryan Crawford said it was determined that the fire that destroyed the old utilities plaza building was the result of an arsonist. The culprits were identified and found using cameras. Once located one individual gave up their co-conspirator in the fire, and both individuals gave confessions and were arrested for arson and conspiracy.

Parking garage security will be 24/7 in the downtown garages beginning in July, and the selected company is Allied Universal. Mike Futrell said the security was approved by Council the previous night, with funds from the general fund to make it happen much more quickly.

Shalini Lockard asked if there will be a guard posted in each garage, or if it will just be roaming security. Bryan Crawford said it will be a roaming security guard. Janice Penner mentioned that eventually Erik Lue wants to have a security guard posted in each garage.

The traffic control plan for July 4 has been completed and a vendor has been secured to do the shut downs of the various roads. There is a meeting with the fire department tomorrow to go over the final plan on securing Mount Rubidoux so the fireworks can happen safely.

FOL meetings have started, and the footprint of FOL will expand this year with the ice skating rink, fireworks, and White Park.

There was an assault on Mount Rubidoux at around 4:30 am. The woman jogger was able to get away from her attacker. The individual suspected in the assault has been arrested but the victim was unable to positively identify him. There was touch DNA recovered from the victim on the day of the assault so police are hoping to get a match. Collette Lee asked if the suspect was a homeless individual. Bryan Crawford said yes he was.

There will be a shift change on July 21st and the downtown entertainment patrol team will be moved back to patrol for 6 months until staffing goes back up. There will be a meeting to see how the gap can be filled. Cindy Roth commented with FOL bringing in over 4,000 people a day, security is a top priority and there needs to be more discussions regarding security issues. Bryan Crawford said there will be in the coming months. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said security needs to be geared up as there may not be as big of a turn out for FOL as people believe their safety cannot be guaranteed. There are a lot of homeless causing issues in downtown, and with the lack of security, it could become a major issue.

Mike Futrell mentioned he was given a full briefing on the issues brought up at the entertainment district meeting last week. He said there were plans in the works and he will be presenting a PowerPoint at the RDP luncheon which will highlight a 360 view on downtown including security, safety, and how to drive more business into the downtown area. Stan Morrison asked how the numbers matched up between the City of Riverside and other cities Mike Futrell managed in the past with regards to security. Mike Futrell said the City of Riverside is definitely fewer in numbers compared to other cities, but that has to do in part with the amount of officers that retired this year. In January, there were 70 vacancies in police personnel. The number is now down below 60 and there are also another 60 potential officers in background checks. There is current struggle with response times and patrol due to short staffing, but the City is hopeful that the police department will be fully functionally staffed by the end of the year. The Park Area Neighborhood Specialist (PANS) program is also being expanded.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis commented that in the 20 some years she has been in downtown Riverside, the police force has always been down officers. It fluctuates between 58-70 officers down but it has never been at full staffing. She asked the City can't take some of earmarked money for new hires and put it towards getting outside security to fill gaps with the police department. Mike Futrell said the if no officers are hired, the money goes into surplus and used for other things. For example, the City recently used 10 million from surplus for street repaving as well as the 2 million for the garage security. Council has approved bonuses and incentives to recruit new police officers and it is starting to pay dividends. He is a big believer is paying the police well.

Mike Futrell said the Council chooses to direct funds and their focus is to improve the quality of life, the parks, the condition of the streets, security, and helping the homeless. Clarissa Cervantes said the City is competing with nearby surrounding cities like Murrietta and Hemet who offer competitive wages and good benefits, and is putting forward extra effort to attract officers to Riverside to fill the shortage. She hears the concerns about security in downtown and how people want to feel safe in the community, and she feels like the City is moving in the right direction by getting the officers to apply by offering those competitive wages.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis replied that is fantastic to hear but in the interim why can't the City put money towards getting external security patrols for the next 12 months to help. Janice Penner mentioned the City had hired external security for the Entertainment District and wondered if that could be reintroduced for the summer months. Mike Futrell said the short answer is yes, but the longer answer is that they are meeting to figure out what that would look like. Shalini Lockard

noted that if there are two police officers patrolling and they make an arrest, then they are off the street dealing with booking, whereas security would still be on site.

Brian Percy mentioned the disconnect within the City regarding street repairs, and how the City seems to hold contract workers to a higher standard than City workers. Street work by the City can come from either Public Utilities for water lines or Public Works for sewer lines. Most top quality repairs come from Public Utilities whereas Public Works repairs are often substandard. An engineer at Public Utilities said that when they do road repairs they also make plans to have a quality paving team to come in right behind them, which does not seem to be the case for Public Works. Mike Futrell said there should be an expectation of the same quality of service regardless of who is doing the repairs, and he will reach out to Public Works. Mike Futrell mentioned that Brockton Avenue was more complex as it involved a private contractor who stopped doing the work and lawyers got involved.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis mentioned the recent repaving of the alleyways was not done very well. The alleyway from University to Mission is very choppy with high grit. The trucks are still getting stuck due to the steep incline. Mike Futrell said it would be beneficial to do a walking tour with RPU, Public Works, Philip Falcone, and Brian Percy to create a punch list. Phillip Falcone said in regards to the one alleyway, there is a vault on top of a basement so the incline can't be lowered any farther than it currently is. Janice Penner commented that while the asphalt is choppy and looks poorly done, they did address a lot of problems underneath.

Justin Tracy stated the alleyway behind Provident Bank wasn't done and is a mess, and the gravel parking lot directly across from the Courthouse is a complete waste of space. Mike Futrell said the gravel parking lot belongs to the County. Cindy Roth mentioned the Provident Bank building went up for bid as surplus but was unsure if it was purchased or not. Phillip Falcone said it was purchased.

8) County of Riverside Updates

Damien Fussel said the DA's office has requested a cyber security team to be put in their budget. The budget will go up for approval on June 27. Cyber threats include malware, hacks, etc.

Janice Penner asked if there was any update on the fentanyl issue and more stringent laws. Damien Fussel said Senator Roth and a few other people are working diligently on the issue but there is no specific update at this time.

9) Mayor's Office Update

Phillip Falcone said the Mayor's office is inundated with calls regarding road conditions so the Mayor is diligently working on addressing that issue.

There are some Beautify Riverside Projects currently taking place in downtown. The largest mural project is taking place at the back of the Loring Building, and Tiffany Brooks is the artist creating the mural.

The Mayor's office has a monthly walk through with Public Works to identify things that need to be done in downtown regarding cleanliness. Janice Penner mentioned there is a line item in RDP's new budget to help with the cleanliness of downtown, including 2 potential mural projects, working with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, as well as the asphalt art project to make crosswalks safer for pedestrians from Market to Mission Inn.

The unveiling of the Lock of Love took place on June 9. It was a privately funded project by the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Riverside Class of 2022. Janice Penner commented that she has a meeting with one of the leaders of the project to see about having downtown businesses sell locks.

Collette Lee stated that Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful picked up over 17,000 tons of trash from Shamel Park and it didn't even make a dent, so it is a serious issue. Phillip Falcone said the Mayor wants to do some type of anti-liter campaign eventually.

Justin Tracy said the mural next to Pip Printing, the Opera Company, is cracked and peeling, and will be gone soon if something can't be done to preserve it.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis mentioned the orange mural which was supposed to go on the back of the garages. She said if the City is investing money into the garages and plans to have them for at least three years, then they should look into putting the mural up. A discussion took place regarding putting murals on the top of garage structures and generating revenue by renting out the top levels for events.

10) City Council Updates

Erin Edwards stated the City of Riverside moved forward to become a pro-housing City and received a pro-housing designation. Eighteen cities, including Riverside, will receive incentive program dollars for housing. Riverside will be getting \$2.44 million to address the housing crisis.

On June 20, there will be a public hearing on the adopting of the fees and charges increases, including a small increase for the Fairmount Golf Course.

On June 27, there will be a discussion on the amended budget for the City of Riverside. Some changes include improvement to the Riverside Heritage House, and electric and water usage fee increases.

There is a plan in place to replace the patch work on Brockton Avenue once the underground work is complete, as many in the City agree that the patch work is terrible as it stands right now.

The Riverside Art Museum was awarded a 2023 national medal in Museum and Library Service for its community work around the Cheech.

The annual Juneteenth festival will be at Fairmount Park from 1 pm to 7 pm on Saturday June 17. On June 23, Mulberry Village will have its grand opening. Project Legacy will open June 30 and is comprised of 49 housing units.

Clarissa Cervantes provided an update on projects happening in Ward 2. Some of the projects included University Avenue being repaved up to UCR. Paving has also been completed for MLK.

There is a housing project going up on MLK as well, and it is about 80 percent complete at this point in time. It is for affordable housing for senior citizens and a percentage of the housing will be open for veterans.

Park Avenue has over 6 murals on display. The tree people have planted over 750 trees on the East Side and there are 1300 more to go.

11) City Community Development Department Updates

There was no update.

12) Items for Information

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

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the City asked to have the annual BID Levy renewal report prepared and submitted earlier than September. Since RDP does not meet in August, it will be on the July Executive and Board agendas.

The next luncheon is June 27 with Mike Futrell at the Hyatt Place with Cheba Hut catering. Palenque by Mezcal has been confirmed as the July 25 location with the speaker TBD. The new Estrella Taqueria Lounge will be the location for September 26.

Planning for both Doors Open Riverside on September 9 and the Riverside Art and Music Festival on October 7 is proceeding.

Staff will likely not pursue the August 2024 “Elephant Parade” exhibit. There is concern about the numbers being provided. Staff will set up a meeting with the group exploring the event to make a final decision. Efforts and monies would best be spent on smaller, sustainable, and more frequent events.

13) New Business

Janice Penner said the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) is scheduled to present an update on the Mobility Hub at the Land Use Committee meeting on June 15 at noon. Board members and Security Committee members are invited to attend.

Stan Morrison said on July 3, the Concert of Heroes by the Philharmonic is taking place at the National Cemetery free of charge. It is a fantastic show and he encouraged everyone to attend.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date July 12, 2023 at 8:30 am