



## Minutes

**Present:** Chuck Beaty, FeRita Carter, Bryan Crawford, Jean Eiselein, Damian Fussel, Joe Guzzetta, Amy Hoyt, Nanci Larsen, Shalini Lockard, Philip Makhoul, Lou Monville, Stan Morrison, Joe Ramos, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Sherry Shimshock

**Excused:** Brian Percy, Rachael Dzikonski, Randy Hord

**Absent:** Cherie Crutcher, Jesse De La Cruz, Collette Lee, , AJ Licon, Bob Nagle, Justin Tracy, Andrew Walcker, Clarissa Cervantes, Philip Falcone, Oz Puerta

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council / Mayor's Office:** Erin Edwards, Paloma Montes, Melanie Bruns, Bill Kester, Sarai Arellano

**Guests:** Jennifer Gamble, Cindy Roth

**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 July 12, 2023.

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of July 12, 2023

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

**Motion carried.**

### 4) Chair's Report

No Chair's Report was given.

### 5) Items for Discussion

#### 5a) Nominating and Election Process for RDP 2024-2026 Board Term

Janice Penner said the Executive will serve as the nominating committee for the transition. The October 3 Executive meeting will have a portion devoted to setting up the nominating and election process for the Board term starting March 1, 2024. During their first meeting, the current Board membership will be reviewed and prospective members will also be identified. The intent is to have a slate of Officers and Board members put forward for election early January with confirmation by the existing Board in February.

#### 5b) Economic Impact Study – Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said RDP received the first draft in late July. Andrew Walcker, Lou Monville, and Janice Penner reviewed the first draft and sent their combined comments back to Beacon Economics in early August. RDP received the second draft on August 29. The Executive will meet for a special meeting to review and edit the second draft. The Executive Committee will ensure the report includes explanations of the data and conclusions before being distributed to the stakeholders.

#### 5c) Business Town Hall – Scheduling of Next Meeting

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated the first Business Town Hall meeting took place on July 26. Staff will work with several resources to refine the format and agenda before the next meeting.

The next meeting will be in the evening and staff will look at options for the location. Janice Penner said staff will talk to Andrew Walcker as he has experience with community meetings.

## **6) Financial Reports –**

The draft financial report for the month of June was adjusted. It now shows a year-to-date surplus of approximately \$18,754 compared to a budget deficit of \$4,111 which results in a positive variance of \$22,866.

### **6a) Draft Financial Updates at July 31, 2023 and August 31, 2023**

Both financial statements are draft until the CPA completes the review so no motions were required.

Nanci Larsen said the draft financial report for the month of August showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$12,899 compared to a budget deficit of \$15,653, resulting in a positive variance of \$2,754.

As of August 31, 2023, RDP had \$215,341 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 \$275,306. The accounts receivable was \$150. The accounts payable equaled \$4,856.

### **6b) Update on Annual Financial Review by CPA**

Janice Penner said the annual financial review was in process with completion expected in October. The additional expense of \$43,440 for the extension of the external security patrol was offset by BID revenue being greater than budget by \$39,234 as well as expenses being less than budget. Once the annual financial review is complete, there will be a motion to adopt June, July, August, and September financial statements as final.

## **7) RDP Security Updates**

Bryan Crawford said FOL planning is on-going. There will be no entertainment in White Park on the date of the switch-on ceremony.

Hiring within the police department has increased with 19 people sent to the academy within the last month.

PSET has received two lawsuits in the last few months from advocacy groups. One was regarding an emergency, cease and desist type of situation which the City Attorney's office filed a rebuttal on, and the presiding judge agreed with the police department. On September 27 there is a court date scheduled for the police to be heard in regards to the other lawsuit. Depending on the outcomes, it will determine how the PSET moves forward.

Burglaries in the downtown garages are way down since the 24/7 roaming patrol started. The problem isn't gone but it is less than it's been. Erik Lue has been given video evidence of crimes, both reported and not, that took place in the garages for the police to follow up on.

## **8) County of Riverside Updates**

Damian Fussel said he and Brian Percy met with Ken Calvert's staff about a month ago regarding the Federal Plaza. The Federal Plaza is still moving forward but it is taking far longer than anyone originally thought it would. They are currently trying to get a coalition together of all the congressmen for this project. The Federal Plaza would include several federal buildings and would help the downtown area. The idea was originally to build a new courthouse but now it will

focus more on updating the current one as well as getting more judges working there. Ken Calvert said it is an 8 to 10 year plan at the moment.

Damian Fussel said the County's facilities management director, Rose Salgado, would talk about the County's parking facilities at the next RDP Land Use meeting.

### **9) Mayor's Office Update**

Sarai Arellano stated that Coffee with the Mayor just took place in Ward 6 so the final one will be in Ward 2. Details such as date and location are still being finalized but it will be in November.

A program called Art with the Mayor is in the works, where various art events in downtown will be highlighted by the Mayor. Sarai Arellano asked that anyone who knows of art events taking place to please forward the information to the Mayor's office.

### **10) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards stated Artswalk was extraordinary, with booths all the way down the mall to the convention center. There were a ton of people in downtown walking through the booths and taking part in the various events happening during Artswalk.

The grand reopening of the Downtowne Bookstore has recently taken place. The inside of the business has been completely redone, and the new owners are doing a great job of getting out into the public and co-hosting events.

The planning for FOL is in process with extended opportunities at The Cheech and White Park to make the downtown area come alive during the holiday season.

The City received funding from the AHSC Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities for the project on Mulberry which will be 200 units of affordable housing for families and for seniors. The units are being built on state land. The project received \$27 million in funding, and of that, \$12.5 million will be used for pedestrian, sidewalk and bike lane improvement within a mile radius of the Mulberry project. The City of Riverside was the only applicant to receive funds in the Inland Empire because they were the only applicant.

The retail sale of cannabis is an ongoing discussion. The sale of cannabis has been approved so what is left to determine is how a business would apply for a license, and what that would look like for the City. The City has approved up to 14 licenses City wide in total.

The libraries are now open 2 hours later during the days and are open on Sundays as well. October 3 is National Night Out in the various neighborhoods.

Erin Edwards commented on the new trash cans and benches and asked if they have been an improvement. Janice Penner said according to what she has heard, there has been an improvement with fewer people digging through the trash. She added there were still issues with the homeless taking over the chairs on Main Street.

City Council discussed the re-organization of the Office of Homeless Solutions. The City Manager decided to pull the Office of Homeless Solutions into his Office with Michelle Davis as head of this new department. The intent is to streamline services and avoid duplication.

The homelessness action plan continues to be worked on. It was passed a year ago and a first year report will be provided in December based on the City level. The City based their plan on

the County plan, the continuum of care. The County also will have a first year report so the City can see what is working at a regional level.

On September 19 the ARPA small business grant will be discussed, as well as the mobile home rent stabilization and RPU rate increase.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis asked if the Wednesday Night Market could be brought back to downtown Riverside. Erin Edwards asked when Riverside used to have this event and what it highlighted. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the last time it was held in downtown was at least ten years ago. Janice Penner said it originally focused on organic food and artisanal crafts like the Orange Blossom Festival when it first started, and the current Farmers Markets. It eventually turned into a for profit enterprise and started to include booths for insurance agencies and similar enterprises. Erin Edwards said she would be interested in more discussions and asked who would need to be involved to make it a reality. Shelby Worthington-Loomis said it would be a good idea to check the market in Redlands so to get an idea of what the market needs to be. *(Note: The Redlands Market Night ended in 2020 and was replaced by a Saturday morning market in March, 2023.)*

Janice Penner gave kudos to both the police department and the fire department who participate at the monthly Artswalk. The Fire department was on 5<sup>th</sup> at the September event and a lot of families were checking out the trucks.

Melanie Bruns said they recently received approval to hire a second part-time legislative representative for council members. Bill Kester started recently in that position.

Janice Penner asked about the art initiatives in Ward 2. Melanie Bruns said there are plans to create a mural on a building in Ward 2. There are also talks with the Eastside Arthouse to potentially beautify certain bus shelters in Ward 2.

## **11) City Community Development Department Updates**

Sherry Shimshock said Economic Development has hired several people including a new program manager. The allowable uses for the ARPA grant monies will be discussed as part of the program management.

Sherry Shimshock said Ohmio is an all-electronic, autonomous vehicle company from New Zealand. They are looking at Riverside as their international headquarters, and want to establish a pilot program in downtown Riverside. Council has recommended that the City open discussions with Ohmio.

Erin Edwards added that these vehicles do not run on a track and can be moved from location to location as needed. For example, they could be used to shuttle people to the hospital from the parking lot, and at night be used to shuttle people back to the parking structures from shops and restaurants. Janice Penner said perhaps they could be used to shuttle people from the County to the downtown core to increase patrons at the restaurants and shops during lunch.

## **12) Items for Information**

### **12a) Change in BID Renewal Dates**

Janice Penner said City staff asked to push the dates back due to internal discussions about the other two BIDs, both who renew prior to RDP. The Council meeting to set the Public Hearing now will be October 10, and the Public Hearing will be October 24 at 3 pm.

## **12b) RDP Activities and Items Update**

### **i) Doors Open Riverside/Riverside Art and Music Festival**

Janice Penner stated Doors Open Riverside was held on Saturday, September 9 from 2 pm to 7 pm with 23 participating locations. The event also promoted the Civil Rights Walk and downtown's public art including murals. The participating locations were happy with the attendance.

The Riverside Art and Music Festival will occur on Saturday, October 7 from 11 am to 7 pm at White Park. The event has expanded by three hours and now includes art installations and food vendors. RDP and the Riverside Arts Council are partnering with the Riverside Art Museum to co-promote both the festival and their Artober event that month.

### **ii) Monthly Luncheons**

Janice Penner stated the September 26 luncheon will feature Joe Ramos of the Miracle and Dreams Foundation and Jarod Hoogland of the Mission Inn Foundation discussing their foundations and upcoming events. The luncheon will be at Estrella Taqueria Lounge.

The October 24 luncheon will feature Nancy Melendez of the Spanish Town Foundation discussing the restoration of the Trujillo Adobe.

### **iii) Other**

Janice Penner said RDP worked with Bernie Edmonds to produce Riverside Love locks for the Love Monument on Main Street. The locks are sold through the Mission Inn Museum store and Riverside Rustic. RDP fronted the production and will recoup the cost as the locks are sold.

The first mural under RDP's partnership with beautify Riverside started production on September 4 on the wall of Meraki Plants and features a map of downtown Riverside with key landmarks. The second one will be on 14<sup>th</sup> Street so the murals 'bookend' downtown.

The Pocket and Dining Guide were update and reprinted. In addition, the downtown map and directory produced jointly by the City and RDP is in the final stages of production.

## **13) New Business**

Stan Morrison said 49,500 people committed suicide in 2022. On October 18, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Spanish Art Gallery, the Unforgettable lecture series will take place. The Unforgettables is an organization that assists families in their greatest moment of grief, loss of a child up to the age of 18. Last year 201 families were assisted with burial costs. This year the topic is hope in hopelessness. There is no charge to attend, and the event is invitation only. He invited the Board to attend and asked them to send him an email.

Amy Hoyt said the Riverside area rape crisis center is having their event on November 4 at the Victoria Club at 5 pm. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the rape crisis center, and they are looking for sponsors and ads.

Shelby Worthington-Loomis mentioned a documentary called Pain Killer which shows teenagers eye opening situations about what can happen with the use of Fentanyl. Stan Morrison gave kudos to the District Attorney who is pushing for murder charges for sellers of Fentanyl. They just had their first conviction.

## **15) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date October 11, 2023 at 8:30 am.**