



Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Collette Lee, FeRita Carter, Damian Fussel, Jean Eiselein, Joe Guzzetta, Joe Ramos, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis, Jennifer Gamble, Ron Loveridge, Alex

Excused: Brian Percy, Chuck Beaty, Jesse De La Cruz, Rachael Dzikonski

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Bryan Crawford, Cherie Crutcher, Stan Morrison, Sherry Shimshock, AJ Licon

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Melanie Bruns, Sarai Arellano

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 November 8, 2023.

Motion: To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of November 8, 2023

Motion made by: FeRita Carter **Motion Seconded by:** Amy Hoyt

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said she had heard good reports about the Festiva of Lights event. She added that she had sold both the Worthington's bar and the building.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Proposed Board Slate for 2024-2026 Board Term Ballot – Motion

Shelby Worthington-Loomis referred to the proposed Board Slate for the next Board term that was attached. She said once the slate was approved by the Board, the ballot would be prepared and sent to the paid RDP membership for the required election. The ballot was expected to be sent late December – early January for the new Board term starting March 1, 2024.

It was noted that there was no representative for Community and Economic Development shown at this time. Staff had contacted its Director, Jennifer Lilley, who said she would appoint a staff member when she was able. She advised that she would provide any requested information in the interim.

Motion: To accept the proposed board slate for 2024-2026 board term ballot

Motion made by: Justin Tracy **Motion Seconded by:** FeRita Carter

Motion carried.

Janice Penner said FeRita Carter would be leaving the Board and Clare Oliveras, the new president of RCC, taking her place. Jennifer Gamble along with Ron Loveridge would officially join the Board. The new Riverside Unified School District representative will be Samuel Precie.

Ron Loveridge asked why Jennifer Lilley wasn't the representative for Community and Economic Development. Janice Penner said Jennifer Lilley said she wasn't able to spare the time and would appoint a senior staff person. Collette Lee said it was important for continuity. Janice Penner said she would re-ask.

5b) Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony – March 20, 2024

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said staff has negotiated a price per person and will be finalizing the menu with the Executive in January.

5i) Award Recipients - Motion

Janice Penner said past recipients and recommended 2024 recipients were shown on the attached document. She briefly reviewed the reasons for the recommendations. The Executive reviewed the recommendations and agreed with them.

Janice Penner said solicitations for the Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' Award would start in December and include mention in emails, Facebook, and the January BID Bulletin.

Motion: To approve the recommendations for 2024 awards recipients

Motion made by: Justin Tracy **Motion Seconded by:** FeRita Carter

Motion carried.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Update at November 30, 2023

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of November showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$21,282 compared to a budget deficit of \$61,629, resulting in a positive variance of \$40,347. BID Levy income was \$19,508 higher than budgeted which accounted for a portion of the variance. The remaining variance was primarily due to timing and some expense savings.

As of November 30, 2023, RDP had \$209,546 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 \$277,262.

The accounts receivable was \$90. The accounts payable equaled \$4,960.

Motion: To Accept the Financial Reports at November 30, 2023 as presented.

Moved: Justin Tracy **Seconded:** FeRita Carter

Motion Approved.

7) RDP Security Updates

As Bryan Crawford was not in attendance, this item was not discussed.

7a) Item from Executive Committee

The item dealt with a complaint from the Dollhouse business owner and the building owner about drug dealing near the bus stop on University near Lemon. An update was deferred to New Business.

8) County of Riverside Updates

Damian Fussel said the County was considering separating the Coroner's Office from that of the County Sheriff. Most California counties do not separate them but apparently most counties in

the rest of the United States do, so they are examining making a change. Shalini Lockard asked what would be the benefit of separating the two. Damian Fussel said that now when someone dies in the jail, it is considered a conflict of interest.

Janice Penner asked about the status of the County owned buildings for sale. Damian Fussel said most of the buildings in the downtown area are still for sale. They are actively looking for buyers but some of the buildings are not in the best condition and need work.

9) Mayor's Office Update

Sarai Arellano said there will be a Coffee with the Mayor at Zacatecas restaurant on Thursday, December 14th from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. The City Manager and the Director of Economic and Community Development will also be in attendance to discuss businesses and business issues.

January 25 will be the Mayor's State of the City address.

Beautify Riverside is on a hiatus until next year mid-year. Philip Falcone's last day at the Mayor's office was December 1.

10) City Council Updates

Melanie Bruns said Council approved an additional \$10 million for the renovation and expansion of the Museum of Riverside. The groundbreaking will begin in 2025 and the building set to be open in 2026.

Council also approved \$876,000 for the Riverside Civil Rights Walk Project.

The Ward 2 office is accepting toys for a toy drive held by the Peacemaker's Ministry, and they still need about 100 toys. They are also looking for donations.

Janice Penner asked what the total construction cost for the museum was now with the additional funding. Ron Loveridge said he believed it was \$40 million at this time. Collette Lee asked if it was typical to have that much of a cost overrun. Melanie Bruns said the museum has been closed since 2017, and COVID put the schedule back. There was also the increase in cost for building materials, and the need to make the building more accessible for people with special needs. A discussion took place regarding construction costs in 2017 versus 2023.

Janice Penner asked about the instillation of the new parking system in garages 1 and 2, and if it was approved by Council. Melanie Bruns said she thought it was approved but she missed that part of the Council meeting.

11) City Community Development Department Updates

The item was not discussed.

12) Items for Information

12a) Ward 1 Candidate Forum – Partner with DANA and Chamber

Shelby Worthington-Loomis said the Chamber had agreed to join DANA and RDP in the forum. The date will be Tuesday, January 30th at the Civil Rights Institute (date changed to

accommodate the Mayor's State of the City.) DANA, the Chamber, and RDP will be meeting to determine the questions to be posed to the final candidates.

12b) RDP Activities and Items Update

Shelby Worthington-Loomis stated staff was involved in a number of issues regarding businesses during the Festival of Lights, particularly restricted access due to barricades. This involved discussions with the City and fortunately, most issues were either resolved or adjustments were made. There was an article in the Press Enterprise on December 6, 2023.

Janice Penner asked Shirley Schmeltz to provide the update on the Dollhouse issue. Shirley Schmeltz said Russ Williams called to advise that the police had worked out an agreement with the Dollhouse which would hopefully take care of the issues they are having with drug dealers. Philip Makhoul said he spoke with Russ Williams as well and supposedly the bus stop near Lemon will be moved in January which should further resolve the issues. Janice Penner said the Dollhouse had been dealing with a lot of issues with homeless and drug dealing. The owners took video of a drug deal going down right in front of their store which was sent to the police. A discussion broke out regarding the issues that happen at the bus stop currently. Janice Penner said hopefully all the bus stops will improve because layovers will happen at the Mobility Hub once it is officially open. People will not be lingering at the stops waiting for a transfer.

13) New Business

Justin Tracy brought up old business that he will continue to bring up until something is done. The alleyway behind Provident Bank is still a disaster and the parking lot across the street from the Courthouse is still a rocky mess.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date January 10, 2024 at 8:30 am.