



8:30 AM

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2023  
WALLING BUILDING 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Brian Percy, Bryan Crawford, Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, Damian Fussel, FeRita Carter, Jean Eiselein, Joe Guzzetta, Joe Ramos, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Robert Nagle, Stan Morrison

**Excused:** Amy Hoyt, Rachael Dzikonski, Randy Hord, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

**Absent:** Andrew Walcker, AJ Licon, Cherie Crutcher, Jesse De La Cruz, Philip Makhoul, Sherry Shimshock

**Guests:** Anna Brown, Jennifer Gamble, Kelly Cook, Kris Martinez, Megan Stowe, Victoria Chediak

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Erin Edwards, Melanie Bruns, Paloma Montes, Philip Falcone, Sarai Arellano

**Staff:** Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

**1) Call to Order**

Acting as Chair, Brian Percy called the meeting to order.

**2) Self Introductions and Public Comment**

Self introductions and public comments were conducted.

Victoria Chediak introduced herself as the owner of Things They Love which has been on Main Street since 2022. She said she had a number of concerns about RDP such as how marketing dollars were spent and why the RDP Instagram was dormant, how the Board of Directors was structured and its lack of diversity and openness, and how the mural at Main and 5<sup>th</sup> was approved. She said that small businesses are losing customers due to parking issues and perceived safety, and she and other owners felt they were not receiving sufficient attention and support from RDP.

Janice Penner agreed that the Instagram page has been dormant, and said lack of staff time is not an acceptable excuse. She has reached out to Mary Kate Little who does the social media for the Convention and Visitor's Bureau to resurrect the Instagram page and put a real effort to recognize all the businesses in the BID, not just those on Main Street.

Kelly Cook introduced herself as the owner of Riverside Rustic. She said the homeless are constantly moved from the Mission Inn block to their block, which is a major deterrent to their customers. She has called 911 and 311 and been told they have a right to sit on the benches. She added that the lighting on the block needs to be improved. She also noted that most who park on their block are not patronizing the businesses but going elsewhere.

Brian Percy said the RDP Land Use committee monitors the issue of parking and has been very vocal on parking concerns. He added that the RDP Security Committee monitors safety issues, and that both committees meet monthly in person.

Victoria Chediak asked if the meetings were also on Zoom as business owners couldn't be expected to drop everything and attend a meeting. Brian Peacy commented that everyone at the Board and committee had commitments but made the effort to attend.

### **3) Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2023.**

**Motion:** To accept the Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2023

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

**Motion carried.**

### **4) Chair's Report**

No Chair's Report was given.

### **5) Items for Discussion**

#### **5a) Mission Inn Foundation and Museum**

Janice Penner said the Executive discussed the issue at its meeting and felt that as it was a private business matter between three parties, RDP should not take a position. It is hoped that the matter is able to be resolved between the parties.

#### **5b) Security Resource Pilot Program – RDP Involvement**

Janice Penner said the pilot program was approved by City Council and patrols started Friday, October 27. RDP will set up a meeting with Chris Wagner, the RPD lead, and Bryan Crawford RPD North Area Commander, to discuss expectations for RDP's involvement.

Megan Stowe said the City right now is looking at a three phase approach. In November, all of the new guards will be going out and introducing themselves to the various business owners and getting to know the environment. In December, the interactions will start and meet-ups will be taking place, identifying various security sectors. In January, the training opportunities will start. Janice Penner asked if anyone will be coming to RDP's Security meetings as a City liaison between the City staff and RDP. Bryan Crawford said they are having their first meeting later in the morning and that question will be addressed at that time. It may be someone from Allied who attends in December rather than a liaison.

Kelly Cook asked what was the role of the patrol personnel and what they are supposed to be doing. Megan Stowe said the security guards in the pilot program are there to be a visual presence and to identify possible situations with which they can help, for example people who are loitering. They will assist with mitigating some of the issues in downtown so the police won't have to be called. Kelly Cook commented on security patrol guards chatting with one another and not seeming to do anything. Megan Stowe said she was unsure if that was the pilot program personnel as there is a lot of various security in downtown, but they will do better to make sure there is a visual identifying mark to show them as part of the pilot program. Janice Penner said they have white shirts with an Allied Universal patch and badge.

The Outreach team has also been expanded. The PSET deals more with encampment and Outreach deals more with trying to get the homeless to accept services. Megan Stowe said all the Outreach team members are in a blue shirt, Honda blue to be specific.

Kris Martinez said there will be an additional security team walking the streets while the Festival is taking place. CSC is the security company working for the 6 weeks of the Festival, and Allied

Universal may not be working as much because there is no need to duplicate resources. Megan Stowe said a large portion of interactions have the security patrol on their phones, and all their work phones are orange in color so if you see them on an orange phone, they are working. Kelly Cook said she will watch for the security group she saw not doing their jobs as they wouldn't help get the homeless to leave the entrance of her shop.

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

Janice Penner apologized for the delay in contacting current Board members to confirm if they wish to continue for the March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2026 term. She said the Executive Committee will review the slate in December, and the ballot will go out in late December or early January for approval by the paid RDP membership.

Victoria Chediak asked where information about RDP membership and Board membership was located. Janice Penner said the information was available on RDP's website. Victoria Chediak said all RDP information should be transparent for businesses in the BID.

## **6) Financial Reports**

### **6a) Financial Update at October 31, 2023**

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of October showed a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$19,600 compared to a budget deficit of \$54,508, resulting in a positive variance of \$34,908. BID Levy income was \$18,159 higher than budget and the remaining variance was primarily due to timing and some savings in expenses.

As of October 31, 2023, RDP had \$207,438 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 \$30. The accounts payable equaled \$1,234.

**Motion:** To Accept the Financial Reports at October 31, 2023 as presented.

**Moved:** Justin Tracy **Seconded:** Collette Lee

**Motion Approved.**

### **6b) Tax Returns**

Janice Penner said the tax returns would be sent separately by email to the Board for review prior to filing. Board members with questions on the returns were asked to contact Janice Penner no later than that Friday so the returns could be filed by November 15.

## **7) RDP Security Updates**

Bryan Crawford said this week would be dedicated to finishing up the FOL switch-on security plan.

There were a few significant cases in downtown and throughout the County which took place since the last meeting. There was a fatal hit and run over the weekend which took place at the intersection of Main and University. An individual was hit and killed while crossing the street and the driver ran a red light. The driver was found later the same day in San Jacinto and arrested for vehicular manslaughter.

There was an accidental death at 9<sup>th</sup> and Main where a person fell from the balcony of the apartment complex. There was a homicide outside of Pixels where a spectator to a fight decided

to pick up a beer bottle and was sucker punched as a result. The individual fell and hit his head, dying as a result.

There was a homicide by CBU in retaliation for a homicide that happened in 2005. The individual responsible is also the individual who was doing the armed robberies at Bakers and Del Tacos which he mentioned about 6 months prior. He was arrested again so hopefully will stay in jail for awhile this time around.

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

Damian Fussel said physical improvements to the County Administrative Center were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Philip Falcone said effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, he will no longer be in the Mayor's Office and Sarai Arellano will be the main contact.

Thanks to Nanci Larsen, Jennifer Gamble, RDP, and others, the Seth Thomas Clock restoration will begin this weekend. The Old Riverside Foundation has been very involved with this as well.

The Mayor's State of the City Address will be on January 25 at the Riverside Convention Center. More information on the event will be released in December.

Sarai Arellano said the Coffee with the Mayor is being wrapped up for the year. The Ward 2 meet up will be on December 14. Next year the Coffee with the Mayor Special Edition will be meet ups designed for business related groups. In January the meet up will be at the Downtowne Bookstore for specifically women owned businesses, and what the City could be doing to help them.

Kelly Cook asked how one goes about finding the information for the Coffee with the Mayor. Sarai Arellano said the information can be found on the Mayor's newsletter on the Mayor's social media. The information is distributed to organizations like RDP and the information is dispersed to the public.

## **10) City Council Updates**

Erin Edwards said yesterday the Council accepted a 1.2 million dollar grant for fire prevention work at the Boy Scout Camp in the River Bottom area.

This Friday, Veteran's Day will be celebrated with the Veteran's Parade starting at 10 am.

FOL is starting a week earlier this year, and an ice rink will be in the Cheech parking lot.

The parking lot where the Utilities Plaza used to be will be ready in time for FOL. Janice Penner said she'd heard that the majority of the spaces are already taken. Erin Edwards said she would make a note of it and try to find out more information on that.

City Council approved the Annual Report for the Downtown Business Improvement District and the BID levy. The report received from RDP was the most comprehensive and Erin Edwards thanked RDP for that. Janice Penner said she attended the Arlington Business Partnership Public Hearing and heard the questions asked of them. She was then able to revise the report to reflect

those questions and give the requested information in advance. Collette Lee said she watched the Public Hearing online and complemented Janice Penner on representing RDP.

Erin Edwards said on November 30 there will be a special Economic Development Meeting on Blue Zones which are areas around the world where people live the longest. One of the areas is Loma Linda in San Bernardino. Riverside County has decided to see which areas in Riverside County could become Blue Zones. This first came before the Council in June of 2021 and was given a unanimous vote of approval. Now the step is to identify what would that mean to become a Blue Zone and how to identify the people, places, and policies that would help everyone live long happy lives. This will be a 5 year plan through the Blue Zone Organization that would put 11 full time people and committee together to become an official Blue Zone. Stan Morrison said to Google Blue Zones to see the five areas identified.

On January 8 the City is doing a Summit of Excellence designed to engage businesses in tourism and the arts sector and talk about how more economic development can be sparked in the City.

On January 9 the City will be doing a retreat to set priorities, hearing updates on the current Strategic Plan, and talking about what their work will be for the year.

Melanie Bruns of Ward 2 said the RAM is requesting historical landmark status.

The Museum of Riverside are requesting an additional \$10 million for the renovation of the space, and will be going to Council on December 12 to discuss approving those additional funds.

On November 17 The Lincoln Park Neighborhood group will be having their Annual Thanksgiving dinner where they provide up to 300 free meals to members of the community.

On December 1 the Ward 2 office is partnering with the Riverside Community Health Foundation for a Posadas event at Paterson Park.

On December 2 from 9 am to 12 pm there will be a Snow Day at Bordwell Park. 90 tons of snow will be delivered.

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

There was no update.

## **12) Items for Information**

### **12a) BID Levy Renewal Public Hearing – Briefing**

Janice Penner said City Council approved the renewal of the BID levy for calendar 2024 and thanked Chair Shelby Worthington-Loomis for making the presentation.

### **12b) Holiday Reception December 7**

The holiday reception will be held at Loft.84 on Thursday, December 7 from 11 am to 2 pm. The venue is donated by Shelby Worthington-Loomis.

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

Janice Penner said the November 28 luncheon will take place at Avila's Historic 1929 and will feature Erin Christmas of the Main Library discussing their expanded hours and programming.

There is no monthly luncheon in December due to the holidays, nor in January due to the joint Ward One candidate forum planned with DANA at the Civil Rights Institute.

Janice Penner said RDP is part of the Civil Rights Walk Committee.

RDP provided a sponsorship to Day of the Dead. RDP will be providing a sponsorship to Miracle on Main and the Chanukah Festival.

Staff is working on a partnership with KRCB and ABP for a spring clean-up.

### **13) New Business**

Justin Tracy spoke regarding the Day of the Dead event. He said it was a great event but when they start in the morning, the vendors can't get in so they honk their horns at 7 am for about an hour. When the event is over, it is a large mess left behind. Janice Penner said Cindy Roth representing the Mission Inn Hotel and Spa called about the trash from Day of the Dead that spilled over onto Main Street. Janice Penner said she will pass along the numerous trash issues and complaints to Cosme Cordova as well as Margie Haupt because Special Events grants the permit. Justin Tracy said they also need to pay for Sunday trash pick-up because the dumpster sits full overnight and people rummage through it and create an even bigger mess. Collette Lee also stated they need to have people periodically emptying out the trashcans they had throughout the event because they were overflowing.

Justin Tracy said the vacant parking lot across the street from the Courthouse still has nothing done with it, and the alleyway behind Provident Bank is dangerous with nothing done about it either. He has called 311 multiple times about the homeless camping out. PSET was supposedly coming to talk to them but nothing came of it.

### **14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date December 13, 2023 at 8:30 am.**