



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:30 AM WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2025
WALLING BUILDING 3RD FLOOR
USE RDP OFFICE ENTRANCE

Minutes

Present: Aaron Dill, Amy Hoyt, Andrew Walcker, Brian Percy, Chad Collopy, Chuck Beaty, Jean Eiselein, Jennifer Gamble, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, John Adkins, Justin Tracy, Nanci Larsen, Amber Schmeltz, Bob Nagle, Ron Loveridge, Shalini Lockard, Sorelle Williams Stan Morrison

Excused: Collette Lee, Joe Ramos, Lou Monville, Randy Hord, Samuel Precie

Absent: Cherie Crutcher, Broc Yoshida, Mercedes Serrano, Philip Makhoul, Shelby Loomis, Kyle Warsinski, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Sarai Arellano, Melanie Bruins, Philip Falcone, Zoe Ridgway

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Shalini Lockard called the meeting to order.

2) Self-Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions and public comments were conducted.

3) Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2025.

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of March 12, 2025

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Justin Tracy

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shalini Lockard said she attended the Mayor's Ball for the Arts over the weekend with Janice Penner. The event was wonderful and held at the Culver Center which was beautifully decorated. Janice Penner added that the decorations were done by Peggy Roa, Josh Roa Saint Pierre and Greg Cuellar. She added that the event was very evocative of the Mayor's Ball from the past with the themed decorations and a number of people in costume. Ron Loveridge said it was wonderful that the event is back. Janice Penner said that the arts groups receiving awards were thrilled.

Shalini Lockard said both she and Janice Penner also attended the Chamber's Annual Inaugural Celebration.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Annual Budget Discussion

Janice Penner said staff will be preparing a proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Areas to be expanded will continue to be business education and advocacy on behalf

of the downtown business community. RDP will also review its advertising and sponsorships and consider expanding as appropriate. In June the budget will be brought to the Board for final approval after the Executive approves it.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Update at March 31, 2025 – Motion

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of March showed a year to date surplus of approximately \$67,121 compared to a budget deficit of \$6,232 resulting in a positive variance of \$73,353. BID Levy income was \$42,517 higher than budget which accounted for a large portion of the variance. Timing of expenses accounted for the remainder.

As of March 31, 2025, RDP had \$365,072 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 \$292,262.

The accounts receivable was \$2,020 of which \$1,900 is attributed to the Annual Meeting. The accounts payable equaled \$2,897. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of March 31, 2025 was \$52,736.

Motion: To Approve the March 31, 2025 Financial Report.

Motion made by: Justin Tracy **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion Carried.

7) RPD Security Updates

Chad Collopy said there were a lot of calls regarding transients. He said the County had done a sweep on their side of the river bottom, and it pushed those homeless onto our side.

There was a demonstration on April 5th of about 2,000 people on Main Street between University and Mission Inn as part of the nationwide Hands Off Movement.

RPD is working with City Hall on the festivals coming to the downtown area as there is almost a festival every week. The Tamale Festival at White Park, the IE Pride Fest, Show and Go, as well as West Coast Thunder are all coming to downtown in the coming weeks. West Coast Thunder will have motorcycles going from Van Buren all the way to downtown, so RPD is currently working on logistics on how to get them all through safely and effectively.

There was a rash of window vandalism around the 91 freeway between 14th and University with windows being shot out by a BB gun. An arrest was made of an adult male who admitted to most of the vandalism. He was going through some hard times and used a sling shot and randomly shot out windows in the area. Stan Morrison asked if he will appear in court and/or what the consequences are for that person. Chad Collopy said it will all depend on what the District Attorney's office decides as it could be anything from restitution for the damages, community service, or time served.

The crime analysis unit is working with the City's IT for the City's cameras. They are trying to improve on, and increase the number of, cameras in the downtown and surrounding areas.

8) County of Riverside Updates

Aaron Dill said there is an open budget hearing on April 16 which will be taking place at the County Administration Building on Lemon and everyone is encouraged to attend.

9) Mayor's Office Update

Zoe Ridgway thanked all those who attended the Mayor's Ball and supported the Riverside Arts Council.

There are two community meetings happening soon. The first is next weekend regarding the new Adventure Park coming to the north side. That meeting is going to be on April 19 from 10 am to noon at Springbrook Club House. The second community meeting will be on May 14 at 5 pm at the Main Library to discuss the Civil Rights walk. Construction for this project will begin in January 2026.

10) City Council Updates

Philip Falcone said today marks one year into his term as the Ward 1 Council member representative. He provided a QR code which links to their annual report on what they have accomplished in the last year.

Yesterday the City Council looked at the budget production. Revenues are significantly down, due in large part to the lack of car sales which are one of the largest sources of sales tax in the City. They have decided to tighten the belt and many of the items on the budget were cut back. Most were items that would most likely not be able to be spent and paid out before the end of the fiscal year. One of the items was vehicle replacement money for the fire department.

With the marijuana ordinance, there will not be any marijuana dispensaries allowed in the downtown area. According to the general plan of downtown, downtown goes to the 60 freeway to the north, the train tracks to the east, RCC to the south, and the Santa Ana river bottom to the west. The City will also be looking at how to tighten the ordinances on smoke shops.

There is Senate Bill 634 being proposed by a senator from Pasadena which if approved would strip local governments from being able to do any substantive enforcement with homelessness and encampments. The Chamber and the Mayor have both pledged their involvement to fight this bill. They will be monitoring the situation; the bill will go before the local government section of the senate soon.

Ron Loveridge asked about the status of the Museum of Riverside contract. Philip Falcone said the museum contract was approved yesterday at City Council. The next step is the groundbreaking which will take place in July.

Shalini Lockard asked if any of the budget items that were cut would affect downtown. Philip Falcone said there was some cut to the tree trimming budget and parks deferred maintenance but nothing specific to downtown. There were no cuts to the police department. Brian Pearcy asked if the budget for the roadway repairs and maintenance was cut. Philip Falcone said no.

Melanie Bruns said the Farm House Collective grand opening was on the 29th. It was well attended and a lot of fun.

The Ward 2 Arts and Music Festival at Lincoln Park received first place at the Mayor's Ball for the Arts for the best art based event in 2024. The event will be back at Lincoln Park on June 7.

11) City Community Development Department Update

Kyle Warsinski was unable to attend the meeting, Shalini Lockard asked Philip Falcone to provide a brief update.

Philip Falcone said the marijuana ordinance is the biggest one that they have been working on. There is one new senior project manager that will be starting soon and tasked with arts and tourism. Melanie Bruns added that there will be a Aerospace community expo on May 31 from 9 am to noon. There will be a simulator as well as free flights for children.

12) Items for Information

12a) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items

Shalini Lockard said the April 22, 2025 luncheon is scheduled at the Riverside Game Lab with Bricks and Birch providing the food and Matthew Taylor presenting on the City's General Plan update. The May 27, 2025 luncheon is scheduled for Taco Station with Council member Clarissa Cervantes presenting on Ward 2.

The June 24, 2025 luncheon is scheduled for the Riverside Community Players, and the July 22, 2025 luncheon is scheduled for the Lobby. There is no luncheon in August and the October 28, 2025 luncheon is scheduled for the Hyatt Place Riverside with Grams BBQ providing the food. Staff is working with Riverside Community Hospital on scheduling a luncheon for either September 23, 2025 or November 25, 2025. Whatever date RCH doesn't do, Retro on Main will. Staff is still confirming speakers for those luncheons after the May 27 luncheon. RDP is looking at Spring 2026 for the rooftop at RCCD catered by the Culinary Academy as the open dates in 2025 did not coincide when the school was in session.

The RDP Land Use Committee had a presentation on the proposed new waste rates on March 20 by Public Works and Athens. Staff is working with Ward 1 and the Community and Economic Development to have a presentation on proposed changes to the City's sign codes at the April 17 RDP Land Use Committee meeting, and will invite the Board and Security Committee as well. RDP facilitated a demonstration of a proposed valet system to downtown hospitality establishments on behalf of the City's Parking Service Department on March 27.

RDP will have a presence along with the Mission Inn Foundation at the Miracle and Dreams Foundation Easter Egg Hunt at North Park on April 19 and at the IE Pride Festival at White Park on May 10.

RDP staff is working with Geographics on new graphic standards for RDP's logo and fonts for use in print and social media. The first example with the new destination ad will be placed in The Riversider with a six issue ad buy. Next will be a reprint of the Pocket and Dining Guide in the summer.

Philip Falcone mentioned that the day of the Tamale Festival is also the Insect Fair at the Main Library. Melanie Bruns said there is also an egg hunt at Broadwell Park this coming Saturday which is a free event for families.

13) New Business

Philip Falcone said that the Adventure Park meeting Zoe Ridgway mentioned is for the development of the former golf course just outside of downtown at Main and Columbia/North Orange area. Hopefully the development will have some Olympic opportunities in the future. Currently, the Italian team is touring UCR and the Irish Team will be doing so next week.

Ron Loveridge said the Stray Dog Coffee shop has opened on Market Street. One of the hallmarks of a strong and vibrant downtown in his opinion is coffee shops, and currently downtown Riverside has nine.

Stan Morrison said Chris Manning is being honored with the highest honor in the Boy Scouts in Orlando, Florida. If anyone wishes to send a note of congratulations, email Stan and he will forward the message to Chris.

John Adkins said there is a special event at RCC Coil School taking place on May 6 with a Grammy nominated artist, Andrea Casarrubios. Everyone on the Board is being offered 1 to 2 free tickets to attend the event. Stan Morrison said the Coil school is considered one of the top five auditoriums for acoustic construction. John Adkins said they have curtains that can change the echo.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date May 14, 2025 at 8:30 am.