



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:30 AM WEDNESDAY MAY 14, 2025
WALLING BUILDING 3RD FLOOR
USE RDP OFFICE ENTRANCE**

Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Chad Collopy, Collette Lee, Jennifer Gamble, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, John Adkins, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Amber Schmeltz, Randy Hord, Ron Loveridge, Shalini Lockard, Elias Teshome

Excused: Brian Percy, Chuck Beaty, Philip Makhoul, Bob Nagle, Justin Tracy, Zoe Ridgway

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Emilio Ramirez, Jean Eiselein, Joe Ramos, Broc Yoshida, Mercedes Serrano, Samuel Precie, Sorelle Williams, Shelby Loomis, Stan Morrison, Kyle Warsinski, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes, Melanie Bruins

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Sarai Arellano, Philip Falcone

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.

John Adkins said that there was an issue during the Show and Go Car Show with the route blocking the RCC students' and facilities' ability to park at the Coil School parking garage. This year RCC staff was threatened with violence when they tried to ask the Show and Go personnel to move the barricade. Both Chad Collopy and Philip Falcone said RCC should reach out to Margery Haupt with the City's Special Events Department regarding this matter. John Adkins said the easiest solution would be to not extend the route west of Market Street. Chad Collopy said to CC him on the email to Margery Haupt.

3) Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2025.

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of April 9, 2025

Due to there not being a quorum at the meeting, an email will be sent to all Board members to vote on the approval of the minutes.

4) Chair's Report

Shalini Lockard said RDP is trying to do as much community outreach as possible right now.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) Update on Annual Budget Preparation

Janice Penner said staff was preparing the draft budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and would be putting the April 30, 2025 financial results in once they were finalized. Once the draft budget was completed, staff would send it to the Executive Committee with notes as appropriate. Once the Executive Committee has reviewed the draft budget, it will go to the Board for approval at the June 11 meeting for approval and adoption effective July 1, 2025.

Janice Penner noted that budgets are best estimates, and if it is determined later that it needs adjustment, RDP has adequate reserves to do so.

5b) Hospitality Meeting on May 21 at 2 pm at Riverside Game Lab

Janice Penner said the Hospitality meeting will include updates from not only RPD's various departments but also Council member Philip Falcone, the City's Planning Department, and Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Janice Penner said it will also include discussing a revival of Riverside Restaurant Week. She gave a brief overview with the launch in downtown in 2013 and expansion to include restaurants outside downtown. By 2016, dwindling participation led to the event being discontinued. The suggestion to revive the event from Public Works senior management will be discussed at the Hospitality meeting to see if hospitality establishments are interested. If so, next steps will need to be considered and decided upon with all parties. One reason Restaurant Week was discontinued was that staff wasn't thoroughly trained on event offers and menus, a critical issue that would need to be addressed.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Update at April 30, 2025 – Motion

Nanci Larsen said the financial report for the month of April showed a year to date surplus of approximately \$77,036 compared to a budget deficit of \$6,985 which resulted in a positive variance of \$84,021. BID Levy income was \$50,170 higher than budgeted which accounted for a large portion of the variance. Surplus from the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, certain budgeted expenses from the Strategic Plan, Economic Study, and contract staff not occurring, plus timing of certain expenses accounted for most of the remainder.

As of April 30, 2025, RDP had \$374,982 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 \$120 while the Accounts Payable equaled \$3,335. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of April 30, 2025 was \$50,436.

Motion: To Approve the April 30, 2025 Financial Report.

Due to there not being a quorum at the meeting, an email will be sent to all Board members to vote on the approval of the financials.

7) RPD Security Updates

Chad Collopy said staffing for the police is getting better. There are nearly 120 officers on the street patrol level and are working on getting more on traffic.

The City funded new tasers for all the officers and detectives so they have been going through training on the new tasers.

There was a stabbing on Fourth Street yesterday during graveyard hours at the sober living home. The suspect is in custody.

There are a lot of hotdog vendors and other food vendors popping up in the area and throughout the city, dumping their trash and grease behind businesses. They are working with Code Enforcement to try and address the issue, and have County Public Health address it on their end as well.

There are two big events coming up. West Coast Thunder will be on Memorial Day Weekend. The event coordinators are exceeding their expectations on how many will be in attendance. Anime Riverside will be the next weekend. Main Street will be closed between Fifth and Sixth, and making use of the Marriott and surrounding areas for the event.

Chad Collopy said the Farmers Market will still take place on that Saturday morning. Janice Penner said RDP was not supportive of the Farmers Market remaining in that location during large events. Philip Falcone said the Farmers Market has a one year permit which is renewed every January. He said he felt there should be discussion about relocating the Farmers Market when it comes time for the permit to be renewed. Discussion regarding the complaints from the businesses and the potential of moving the Farmers Market to the Justice Center took place.

8) County of Riverside Updates

This topic was deferred.

9) Mayor's Office Update

Zoe Ridgway was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update via email.

The Mayor has been appointed by the Governor to sit on the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The Mayor has been a longtime advocate for environmental sustainability and is honored to be able to continue the work of safeguarding clean air in our communities. The Mayor will be ensuring Riverside has a voice as she works to bring green tech jobs to our region to achieve her goal of becoming the global green tech hub.

There will be a townhall to hear updates and provide feedback on the downtown Civil Rights Walk on Wednesday, May 14 at 5 pm at the Main Library.

BCM supported three bills authored by Assembly member Haney who recently visited Riverside. The bills are a part of his downtown revitalization package. Very brief summaries of the bills follow and the Mayor's Office will keep RDP updated on their status.

- AB 255: would expand access to state funding for supportive-recovery residences that prioritize abstinence from drugs and alcohol.
- AB 507: would streamline approvals for adaptive reuse projects and let local governments offer tax incentives starting in 2026-2027.
- AB 1265: would extend the tax credit for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures through 2031.

Ron Loveridge asked if RDP would go public in support of these bills. Janice Penner said they can put them on the Land Use agenda but cautioned RDP has to consider taking any type of political stance.

10) City Council Updates

Philip Falcone said they will be discussing the noise ordinance at the Hospitality meeting. The City is putting with the police department on a letter to send out to all the businesses digitally as well as in person.

They have received a \$200,000 donation towards the restoration of Newman Park, which includes the Sports Hall of Fame. They will be working over the course of the next year to revitalize it and make it a place where people can go and utilize the space. Philip Falcone mentioned getting together with Janice Penner to discuss potential beautification efforts with the cross walks by Newman Park. RDP has mentioned wanting to make the area by and surrounding the hospital more accessible to and from the downtown core and this would help the area by the hospital.

There is a Civil Rights Walk committee meeting at the Main Library that night. Public Works has been working on the grant for this project for some time, and the meeting will discuss the footprint of what the Civil Rights Walk will look like upon completion. They received \$3.6 million in grant funds for this project. Janice Penner said the goal is to connect the Peace Walk on Main Street and some locations outside of the Main Street Mall into one walk. Philip Falcone said there are three different loops: the small one on Main Street, a medium loop that includes the Harada House, and an even larger loop which includes the site of Old China Town and the Federal Court Building.

Philip Falcone said he would like some support from RDP to not demolish a historic structure of merit in downtown. The RCOE building between 14th and 15th on Orange is being proposed for demolition. He said he would send information to Janice Penner regarding the property.

11) City Community Development Department Update

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

Philip Falcone said there is no update on the cannabis topic.

The Mayor, City Manager, and Economic Director are in D.C. right now, meeting with various entities to bring new prospective businesses to downtown.

The Ohmio System, the self-driving autonomous vehicle, is currently at the Riverside Airport and will come to downtown Riverside sometime over the summer.

Janice Penner added the Community Development Department has hired a new Deputy Director for Communications and he will be taking on more of a leading role with Visit Riverside. Philip Falcone said he will also be handling the Riverside TV station. He said he suggested that each council member bring something different outside of politics to put on the Riverside TV station to help draw more people to view it.

12) Items for Information

12a) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items

Shalini Lockard said the May 27, 2025 luncheon is scheduled at Taco Station with Council member Clarissa Cervantes presenting on Ward 2. The June 24 luncheon is scheduled at the Riverside Community Players with a presentation and tours of the theater. The July 22 luncheon is scheduled at the Lobby, speaker to be determined.

There is no luncheon in August. Riverside Community Hospital will be hosting the luncheon on September 23 with a speaker from the hospital. The October 28 luncheon is scheduled at the Hyatt Place Riverside with Gram's BBQ providing the food but no speaker has been confirmed

as of yet. Staff is working on scheduling the November 25 luncheon at Retro on Main. Staff will provide updates as they occur.

The RDP Land Use Committee had a presentation on proposed changes to the City's sign code at the April 17 Committee meeting. Staff participated in the evaluation of RFP's submitted by potential operators of the proposed Valet Program. Shalini Lockard asked when the Valet Program was supposed to start. Janice Penner said they were looking at starting in the summer and setting the price at \$20 for the service. Shalini Lockard asked if they took into consideration that during events, the valet service would be cheaper than the garages. Janice Penner said they would likely raise the price to match the garage price during events.

Janice Penner stated RDP participated with the Mission Inn Foundation at the Miracles and Dreams Foundation Easter Egg Hunt at North Park on April 19. RDP was also at the IE Pride Festival at White Park on May 10. RDP will be a sponsor for the Backpack Giveaway. Shalini Lockard mentioned an adult Easter Egg hunt in another city where gift cards to various restaurants and businesses in the area were inside the eggs. She wondered if that idea could be incorporated in downtown Riverside. Janice Penner said she would prefer the restaurants be involved in Restaurant Week first.

Janice Penner said RDP staff is working on a reprint of the Pocket and Dining Guide in the summer that will have a design refresh. RDP has partnered with the Riverside Convention and Visitors Bureau to take over the downtown map from the City to update and reprint it.

13) New Business

Ron Loveridge said there are 10 coffee shops in the downtown area and according to him, they are a measure of the vibrancy and activity of a downtown. He would like RDP to encourage a community bulletin board in each coffee shop that would show information such as upcoming events. Coffee Bean had to take down their community bulletin board on order from corporate. Ron Loveridge said he also thought having a coffee shop competition would be a great idea. Janice Penner said the idea could be included into Restaurant Week with the patrons of the coffee shops doing the voting. Ron Loveridge asked that the idea be referred to the Executive Committee.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date June 11, 2025 at 8:30 am.