



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**8:30 AM WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2025**  
**WALLING BUILDING 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**USE RDP OFFICE ENTRANCE**

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Andrew Walcker, Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, Jean Eiselein, Jennifer Gamble, Jesse De La Cruz, John Adkins, Sam Tracy, Broc Yoshida, Mercedes Serrano, Nanci Larsen, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Ron Loveridge, Shalini Lockard, Sorelle Williams, Stan Morrison

**Excused:** Brian Percy, Chad Collopy, Rachael Dzikonski

**Absent:** Amy Hoyt, Cherie Crutcher, Joe Guzzetta, Joe Ramos, Lou Monville, Philip Makhoul, Shelby Loomis, Kyle Warsinski, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Melanie Bruins, Sarai Arellano, 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 June 11, 2025.**

**Motion:** To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of June 11, 2025.

**Moved:** Chuck Beaty **Seconded:** John Adkins

**Collette Lee and Nanci Larsen abstained. Motion approved.**

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

Shalini Lockard said the Mission Inn Foundation hosted the Inside Downtown quarterly meeting for the Chamber. She said it was standing room only.

Shalini Lockard said RDP will be dark in August with no Board, committee, or luncheon meetings. Meetings will resume in September.

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

#### **5a) BID Renewal Timeline**

Janice Penner said no changes are being considered to either the amount of the BID Levy or to the boundaries of the BID. The City's Finance Department confirmed that RDP could submit the annual renewal report after the September 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The BID Renewal Report will go to the Executive at their September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for review. It will then go to the Board acting as the Advisory Board for approval at its September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. She said a quorum would be required.

The tentative schedule has the Council setting the date of the Public Hearing at its October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, and holding the Public Hearing on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The BID Renewal Report for 2026 will follow the same format as the BID Renewal Report for 2025, including all supplemental information requested by the City Council. Ron Loveridge asked Philip Falcone if there was

anything special RDP should do with regards to the presentation. Philip Falcone said RDP should be clear on what RDP exists and on its mission, what is a BID and what RDP does day to day, and what are RDP's goals.

Shalini Lockard said the PowerPoint presentation RDP provides to the Council is very thorough. There was a question from left field last year as to why RDP did not have a dollar cap on the amount of BID levy. Philip Falcone stated that there are a few council members who would like BIDs to be shrunk down so the notion of capping the amount of BID levy is circulating. He said it is important for RDP to demonstrate their value.

### **5b) Election Process – Update**

Shalini Lockard said the new Board term is from March 1, 2026 to February 29, 2028. The election process will start with the appointment of the Nominating Committee, chaired by Shalini Lockard with Andrew Walcker serving as Vice-Chair. The Executive Committee will recommend members to be appointed to the Nominating Committee by the Board at their October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Nominating Committee will prepare the slate of nominated Board members for election.

## **6) Financial Reports**

### **6a) Financial Update at June 30, 2025 – For Information**

Janice Penner said the June 30, 2025 financial report, along with those of July and August, are considered draft until the CPA has completed the annual financial review.

The draft financial report for the month of June showed a year-to-date surplus of \$85,906 compared to a zero budget, resulting in a positive variance of \$85,906. BID Levy income for the year was \$37,545 higher than budgeted, contributing to the positive variance. Other contributing factors include \$15,631 in savings from staff costs and related expenses, BID related expenses being lower than budget by about \$22,806, and higher interest income and annual meeting income being higher than budget by \$9,924.

As of June 30, 2025, RDP had \$384,169 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 \$294,514.

The accounts receivable was \$180 while the accounts payable equaled \$7,074. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of June 30, 2025 was \$49,218.

### **6b) Ratification of Executive Approvals – Motions**

#### **i) Approval of \$50,000 to New CD at Provident Bank**

Janice Penner said staff requested the Executive to approve moving \$50,000 into a new CD at Provident Bank at 3.5% for 11 months. The Executive approved the move.

**Motion:** To Ratify the Executive Approval of the New CD for purposes of the Board Minutes

**Moved:** Chuck Beaty **Seconded:** John Adkins

#### **ii) Increase in One Signature Limit to \$2,750**

Janice Penner said staff requested that the one signature limit be increased to \$2,750 from the current \$2,000 as the \$2,000 limit is restrictive with the increase in rent and the increase in other costs. The Executive approved the increase in the limit.

**Motion:** To Ratify the Executive Approval of the Increase in Signature Limit for purposes of the Board Minutes

**Moved:** Chuck Beaty **Seconded:** John Adkins

## **7) RPD Security Updates**

This topic was not discussed as Chad Collopy was unable to attend the meeting.

Janice Penner said the main update was the Fourth of July fireworks at Mount Rubidoux. The police and fire department were very prepared for this event and had drones monitoring illegal fireworks. Chuck Beaty asked about the drones used for July 4. Philip Falcone said the drones had a live drone feed so people could see what the drones were seeing. None of the drones were shot down. They have plans to expand the program next year as it was very successful.

The police have also been monitoring car burglaries in the garages having identified a suspect.

Philip Falcone said the Police department is just shy of being fully staffed and hope to be fully staffed by the end of the calendar year for the first time in 25 years. City Council moved forward with a fairly aggressive timeline of having the old police headquarters demolished by July of 2026 with a new headquarters in the same location within 18 to 24 months once construction starts.

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

This topic was not discussed as no one from the County was in attendance.

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

Zoe Ridgway said the groundbreaking for the construction of the Museum of Riverside took place at the end of June.

The Mayor's Office is launching its next community initiative, starting August 7 on the Westside. It will be the Mayor's Senior Forum. They will be visiting the Senior Centers in the City as well as the various Community Centers to connect with the senior community and provide some resources. The Mayor has also made a very conscious effort for homeless housing funding to stay in the state budget.

## **10) City Council Updates**

Philip Falcone said downtown alleyways are being repaved. New gutter, curb, sidewalk, and road repaving on Main Street between Tenth and Fifteenth will be started as soon as the alleyways are done. Sixth street between Market and Lime, Tenth Street between Market and Lime, Orange Street between Fifth and Tenth, and Locust from Fairmount Park to Mission Inn Avenue will likely be repaved sometime in Spring 2026.

Two privately funded mural projects are happening in downtown; one dedicated to Aaron Norris on the corner of Lemon and University, and the other the mural being painted on the Lime Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Since October, the City has been in a month to month lease agreement with the State of California, but is looking to make it permanent. Although the State owns Cal Tower, the City manages the ground level properties. However until the lease is made permanent, the City can't lease out the spaces to businesses. The State rejected the City's request for \$5 million to do façade improvements to the ground level. The City appealed the decision but the State rejected the appeal as well. Their next step will be to see what the Mayor can do.

The marijuana discussion will be coming back to City Council Tuesday as the previous vote to have it excluded from downtown failed.

Melanie Bruins said a new mural has been installed on University and Iowa. The City just announced the 6 artists for the artist in residency program. One artist will represent both Ward 1 and 2 and the program will be concluding in December 2026.

They are planning another Color Run in October of this year at Bordwell Park.

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

No one from the Community Development Department attended. Janice Penner asked if Philip Falcone had any updates.

Philip Falcone said he met with Desiree Massei who is the new dedicated Arts and Culture District person and will likely be the person assigned to attend RDP meetings. One of the main topics of their meeting was the vacancies in downtown and how to help businesses, particularly restaurants, who wanted smaller spaces than those available.

Janice Penner commented that she had been approached about bringing back the fashion show. She noted that there are fewer retailers downtown and it would be difficult to provide enough clothes to make a long enough show. She said Pink Ribbon Place was interested in participating again.

Shalini Lockard asked if Chow Alley was still in the works. Philip Falcone said it was no longer viable and the County had other plans for the property it owned.

## **12) Items for Information**

### **12a) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items**

Shalini Lockard said the July 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon will be at the Lobby with Charlotte McKenzie speaking about the Riverside Community Players. There is no luncheon in August. Riverside Community Hospital will be hosting the luncheon on September 23<sup>rd</sup> with a speaker from the hospital. The October 28<sup>th</sup> luncheon is scheduled at the Hyatt Place Riverside with Gram's BBQ providing the food, and Sabrina Gonzales from the Civil Rights Institute as the speaker. Staff is working on confirming the location for the November 25<sup>th</sup> luncheon.

Staff is working on its tasks for the Riverside Art & Music Festival scheduled for September 27, 2025 at White Park. The Riverside Arts Council handles the art and music components of the festival while RDP handles park rental and event permit, portable restrooms, security, and fire permit. The Voodoo Glow Skulls band is confirmed as the headliner.

The Pocket Guide has been updated and refreshed in terms of design. As previously advised, the number of copies printed was reduced significantly. A new postcard will provide QR codes to RDP's website, Facebook, and Instagram, all of which are updated regularly.

The downtown map and business listing is in the final stage of production. This is a joint effort of RDP and the Riverside Convention Center. The digital version will be updated regularly with some copies printed for handouts and enclosure in promotional packages.

RDP had a brief update at the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Inside Downtown at the Mission Inn Foundation.

RDP staff will be joining the Mission Inn Foundation at the Miracle and Dreams Backpack Giveaway on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Main Library.

### **13) New Business**

Sorelle Williams said downtown retailers Toni Moore, Mrs. Tiggy Winkles, Raincross District, Riverside Rustic, and Kelly's Boutique could participate in a revived fashion show. Janice Penner said she would talk with Sorelle Williams later about the fashion show. She pointed out that Kelly's Boutique opted out in the past as they didn't to sell clothes that had been worn.

Ron Loveridge asked who to call to deal with homeless who leave bodily fluids on the mall. He called 311, Council members, and the City Manager with no real response. Philip Falcone said 311 is supposed to have someone on hand before 3 pm to deal with hazardous waste. Melanie Bruins said they did go down to the mall after Ron Loveridge called them and reported it to 311 as well. Philip Falcone said 311 is the one stop shop to deal with issues throughout the City.

Ron Loveridge mentioned a student project his class did on the coffee shops in downtown. He provided the study by one of his students for the Board to review.

Mercedes Serrano said there is a new restaurant, Fred's Red Tacos, opening at the Riverside Food Lab next week.

Stan Morrison said he serves on the Executive Board of The Unforgettables Foundation. Tomorrow morning at Good Morning Riverside, Tim Evans, the founder of the organization, will be introducing Laurie O'Conner as the new Executive Director. The Unforgettables Foundation helps assist families with burial expenses, and last year helped 251 families with either cremation or burial for children up to age 18.

Sam Tracy asked what ordinances are in place for the police to be able to stop homeless when they are engaging in inappropriate behavior. Philip Falcone said he does not know the ordinances off hand but didn't see why there would be any type of impediment to stop them. Sam Tracy said there are some homeless people who frequently walk by his father's home and linger with items that seem designed to entice children to take a closer look. When he approached one such individual, that person became enraged and threatened to kill both him and his son. Philip Falcone asked that this be brought up at RDP's next security meeting. Janice Penner said she would send an email to Chad Collopy and Tom Chisum regarding the matter as well.

**14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date September 10, 2025 at 8:30 am. There is no meeting in August.**