



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

Minutes

Present: Andrew Walcker, Brian Percy, Chad Collopy, Chuck Beaty, John Adkins, Jesse De La Cruz, Jennifer Gamble, Joe Ramos, Joe Guzzetta, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Loomis, Stan Morrison, Sorelle Williams

Excused: Amy Hoyt, Collette Lee, Cesar Gomez, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Nanci Larsen, Rachael Dzikonski, Randy Hord, Bob Nagle, Zoe Ridgway, Desiree Massei

Absent: Cherie Powell, Jean Eiselein, Broc Yoshida, Mercedes Serrano, Philip Makhoul, Ron Loveridge, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes, Philip Falcone

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

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 July 9, 2025 & September 10, 2025.

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of July 9, 2025 & September 10, 2025.

Moved: Joe Guzzetta **Seconded:** Stan Morrison

Motion carried.

4) Items for Discussion

4a) Appointment on Nominating Committee - Motion

Shalini Lockard said the Executive Committee had selected the Nominating Committee. Shalini Lockard will serve as Chair and Andrew Walcker as Vice Chair. Jesse De La Cruz and Amy Hoyt will serve as Board representatives with Joe Ramos as the Board representative alternative. Johnny Freese will serve as the Community representative. All have agreed to serve. The Nominating Committee will meet and provide their Board member recommendations prior to the November 4 Executive Committee meeting.

Motion: To Approve the Appointment of the Nominating Committee as listed.

Moved: Chuck Beaty **Seconded:** Shelby Loomis

Motion carried.

4b) Update from IDA Conference from Chair and Vice Chair

Shalini Lockard said Ron Loveridge, Andrew Walcker, Mike Futrell, Philip Falcone, and Desiree Massei attended the IDA conference. Each person attended various meetings.

Shalini Lockard provided highlights from meetings she attended. One was on governance, and on the differences of the Executive Director versus the Board Chair. When a board member is

asked to step down, it should be the Board Chair who does so as their peer, not the Executive Director. Boards should have set terms, with Board chairs serving for no more than 2 years. BIDs are often crippled by their by-laws, particularly property based ones. A quorum is required to contact the organization's business, and many property owners reside elsewhere. Their boards often have high absenteeism and zero participation.

The second session was on security. Two police officers conducted the meeting; one from the Dallas BID, and the other from Oklahoma. The Dallas BID has their own police department with their own dispatcher, and is staffed by off duty police officers. They have a camera system set up throughout downtown with someone watching each area. Security in Oklahoma is handled completely by the police department with a team assigned to the BID, similar to downtown Riverside but on a much larger scale.

There was a session on place making on a shoestring budget, where they talked about doing events with a small budget. They mentioned an ice sculpture event, where balls with different prizes inside were hidden in each sculpture. Mike Futrell liked that idea as he would like to do a Christmas in summertime type of event.

Andrew Walcker said there is a spirit of cooperation between the City and RDP. A key takeaway from the conference was that RDP was doing many things well. RDP also has a good relationship with both the City and the police department where other BIDs seem to have a more adversarial relationship with their city.

Janice Penner said she has been to a number of the IDA conferences in the past, and much of what RDP does today has been shaped by what they've learned from previous IDA conferences. Shalini Lockard said she and Andrew Walcker are in the process of fine tuning a list of recommendations based on what they observed at the conference before it goes to the Executive. Janice Penner said it is important to remember that there are many great ideas at the IDA conferences but BIDs with multi-million dollar budgets can accomplish a lot more compared to RDP who has less than \$600,000 as a budget.

Janice Penner said The City of Riverside along with the Riverside Arts Council with RDP applied to the State for designation as a Cultural District. Out of 72 applications, Riverside is one of 19 finalists. There will be a site visit on October 23rd with a community meeting and a tour of various cultural landmarks. Of the finalists, only 10 will receive the designation.

5) Financial Reports

6a) Draft Financial Updates at September 30, 2025 – For Information, No Motion Required

Janice Penner said RDP is in the middle of doing its annual financial review so all financials are considered draft until the review is completed.

The September 30, 2025 draft results showed a deficit of \$18,782 year to date compared to a budgeted deficit year to date of \$29,007 resulting in a positive variance of \$10,225 for the year to date. BID levy income was \$5,651 higher than budgeted while overall expenses were \$4,736 lower than budget, contributing to the positive budget variance.

As of September 30, 2025 RDP had \$312,166 in two checking and one money market accounts with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include two CDs with Pacific Premier Bank and two CDs with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$346,946.

The Accounts Receivable was \$402. The Accounts Payable equaled \$9,519. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of September 30, 2025 was \$45,509.

6) RPD Security Updates

Chad Collopy said yesterday was National Night Out throughout the City, with four locations in the North End area including the Mission Inn Foundation and Reid Park. There was a great turnout overall.

Police have been very busy with a wide range of issues including bar fights. There have been a number of fights at University and Orange where everyone spills out at closing time. Also, the ridesharing vehicles are congregating at University and Orange and creating traffic jams. Fights are breaking out and people are almost getting hit by cars driving recklessly. They are working to try and make the area a 'no go' zone to free up that corridor.

There was a shooting at City Hall on Sunday morning which appears to be related to the bar crowd. Detectives are working the case and the investigation is ongoing.

The Festival of Lights' FOL's should be the same as last year.

The Chief has assigned a temporary 'quality of life' team within the police to address various issues with the transients/homeless population. There are 2 officers in each ward for this assignment. The team has only been active for 2 weeks, but have made 10 arrests in just the downtown area. This program/assignment will continue based on the Chief's assessment and evaluation of the program.

Stan Morrison commented in that in 2022 110,000 Americans were killed by chemicals from China brought over through the Mexican cartels. There are over 100 cities in the US where cartels are deeply imbedded. Officers are doing a good job in Riverside.

7) County of Riverside Updates

Janice Penner read the update provided through email.

Columbia Bank acquired Pacific Premier Bank so the sign on Tenth Street will be removed and the Columbia sign up soon. The Sherriff's office has secured a 10 year lease at the old Bank of America building.

8) Mayor's Office Update

There was no update provided as Zoe Ridgway was unable to attend.

9) City Council Updates

Sarai Arellano said the City Hall 50 Years celebration was very well attended, and was the largest gathering of former elected officials since the original opening of City Hall. They are promoting City Hall tours for the school systems, and working with the Mission Inn Foundation docents who will be leading those tours. They are hoping to do 50 tours by the end of the year. Chuck Beaty praised Philip Falcone and Sarai Arellano for their dedication to making the 50th Celebration something special. He said the City Hall Anniversary Book is fascinating and has already generated high revenue sales. Jennifer Gamble said the Mission Inn Foundation is raising money to fund school buses to make sure all the schools can come to the City Hall.

October 18th at 10 am will be a community meeting at the North side Spring Brook Clubhouse about the AB Brown sports complex, what the future plans are, and any challenges that will need to be overcome.

November 3rd at 5:30 pm will be the Fairmount Park Community Meeting to discuss the master plan for Fairmount Park.

Melanie Bruns said Ward 2 is working on a new Color Run event at Hunter Hobby Park, since the feedback last year indicated it was hard for people with strollers, wheelchairs or other issues to enjoy the event. The event will be on October 25th and it will be a 3 lap, 2 mile, course. Every participant will receive a white shirt they can decorate in addition to having the color thrown on them. As this run is Day of the Dead themed, the shirts will have running in memory of, on the back and participants can list who they are honoring while running the course. There will also be a community altar. They are working with Cosme Cordova of Division 9 Gallery for the medals and shirts. There will be live music, food trucks, and a few vendors. Children 15 and under will be free to participate with a \$15 charge for anyone 15 and over. They are anticipating 1,000 participants this year.

The Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group is doing their annual Thanksgiving feeding for the community. They feed about 350 individuals each year. If anyone is willing to donate their time, or some food to the cause, please let her know so she can get them in contact with the group.

10) City Community Development Department Update

As Desiree Massei was unable to attend, Janice Penner provided her email update. There are two green tech and general business focused events in October with the Economic Development team with both free to attend and open to the public. The first event is the CARB Tour on October 21st with the second being the Founder's Hike on October 24th.

11) Committee Updates

Jennifer Gamble said a fire extinguisher scam was discussed at the security meeting. Janice Penner said they were advised of a scam taking place mostly in San Bernardino, A company claiming to inspect a company's fire extinguishers would go into a business and replace the legitimate tags with their own, then try and charge the business upwards of \$800 for doing so. Chad Collopy said he hasn't heard any more about the topic but he will follow up.

12) Items for Information

12a) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items

Janice Penner said the date of the 2026 BID Levy Renewal Public Hearing will be formally set at the City Council's October 21st meeting. The date has been pushed back to December 2nd at the request of staff, and confirmed the later date is within their time frame by the Business Tax Department. A brief summary of the Annual Report was included for information in the October 2025 BID Bulletin, and will be posted on the RDP website following the October 21st Council meeting to set the date of the Public Hearing.

The Riverside Art and Music Festival took place on Saturday, September 27th at White Park. Just over 6,000 people attended the festival which is an increase of about 1,800 over the 2024 festival.

The new RDP Events Committee is working on the revived Downtown Restaurant Week and will be setting a date for it shortly. A survey has been sent out to restaurants for their opinion.

RDP provided a sponsorship for the first Riverside Book Festival produced by Inlandia Institute that will be hosted at the Main Library on October 11th.

Doors Open Riverside takes place on October 25th from 1 pm to 5 pm with 15 locations participating. The Riverside Community Arts Association and The Trujilo Adobe are two new participants.

The October 28th luncheon will be at the Hyatt Place Riverside Downtown with Gram's BBQ providing the food and Sabrina Gonzalez for the Civil Rights Institute speaking. The November 25th luncheon will be at Club Riv with Chief Larry Gonzalez as the featured speaker, and will be hosted by Club Riv with a reduced cost. The January 27, 2026 luncheon will be at Palenque Kitchen with Susan Freeman giving a marketing presentation for businesses.

13) New Business

Chuck Beaty mentioned the population of Riverside was about 150,000 back in 1975 and today it is 325,000. The RUSD is in the County building on Fourteenth Street but it is not safe and not up to earthquake safety standards. The building will be sold and RUSD will be moving to the North side. The employees in the Grant School will be located to the new North side location. Chuck Beaty said he hopes the school system will keep the property because there will be only one other school location in the immediate area, Bryant School, which is tiny and could not handle the large influx of children on its own.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date November 12, 2025 at 8:30 am.