



8:30 AM

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14, 2026  
WALLING BUILDING 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
USE RDP OFFICE ENTRANCE**

## Minutes

**Present:** Andrew Walcker, Chad Collopy, Cherie Powell, Collette Lee, Cesar Gomez, Jennifer Gamble, Joe Ramos, Joe Guzzetta, Justin Tracy, Mercedes Serrano, Amber Schmeltz, Bob Nagle, Ron Loveridge, Shalini Lockard, Stan Morrison, Mark Long, Steven Espinosa, Ryan Railsback

**Excused:** Amy Hoyt, Brian Percy, Chuck Beaty, John Adkins, Sorelle Williams

**Absent:** Jean Eiselein, Jesse De La Cruz, Lou Monville, Broc Yoshida, Nanci Larsen, Philip Makhoul, Randy Hord, Shelby Loomis, Desiree Massei, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Melanie Bruins, Philip Falcone, Sarai Arellano, 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 December 10, 2025

**Motion:** To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of December 10, 2025.

**Moved:** Joe Guzzetta **Seconded:** Justin Tracy

Cherie Powell abstained. **Motion Approved.**

### 4) Items for Discussion

#### 4a) Board Election

Shalini Lockard said the ballot was mailed out to all eligible members and attached for reference. The Executive will review the results of the election at their February 4, 2026 meeting and make a recommendation to the Board who will ratify the results and formally approve the slate at the February 11, 2026 meeting. The new Board term starts March 1, 2026 and the new Board officially welcomed at the February 19, 2026 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony at the Riverside Convention Center.

#### 4b) 2026 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony - Update

Shalini Lockard said the menu has been chosen and staff is finalizing details with the Convention Center. 'Save the Date' notices have been sent out as well as requests for sponsorships and opportunity drawing donations. All of the awards have sponsors, and staff will be soliciting smaller sponsorships and ticket reservations throughout January and early February.

Kathy Allavie has been selected as the Roy Hord 'Volunteer of the Year' Award recipient. She was nominated by Collette Lee who notified her personally. A confirming letter was sent by email and regular post. An updated press release will be sent out shortly.

Certificates for the award recipients have been requested from the Mayor's Office, the County Supervisor's Office, and the State Assembly member's Office.

## **5) Financial Reports**

### **5a) Approval of Financial Reports at December 31, 2025 – Motion**

Janice Penner said the December 31, 2025 results showed a deficit of \$24,578 year to date compared to a budgeted surplus year to date of \$22,747, resulting in a negative variance of \$47,325 for the year to date. BID Levy income was \$57,300 lower than budgeted while overall expenses were \$10,583 lower than budget, offsetting the lower BID Levy income.

As of December 31, 2025, RDP had \$822,153 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 \$349,467.

The accounts receivable was \$272 while the accounts payable equaled \$2,842. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of December 31, 2025 was \$40,446.

**Motion:** To Accept the Financial Report at December 31, 2025 as Previously Presented.

**Moved:** Justin Tracy **Seconded:** Joe Guzzetta

**Motion Approved.**

### **5b) Update on Receiving Outstanding BID Levy Payments**

Janice Penner said the City had been negotiating on outstanding BID Levy payments and recently came to a resolution. RDP received a check for the outstanding payments on December 29, 2025. The amount received was \$529,896.95 representing outstanding payments for 2021 through 2025 plus the payment for 2026. That amount is reflected on the balance sheet as unrestricted funds but not yet reflected in the financial statements. The amount received in respect of 2025 will be reflected in the January 31, 2026 financial statements as income and the amount received in respect of 2026 will be reflected in the February 28, 2026 financial statements as income.

The amounts received in respect of 2021 through 2024 will continue to be shown on the balance sheet as unrestricted funds until they are drawn for operating expenses/future projects. The Executive will discuss how RDP should use the money with collective input on how to reinvest in the community.

#### **i) Approval to Open Two New Accounts at Altura Credit Union and US Bank**

Janice Penner said the check was deposited at RDP's operating bank, Citizen's Business Bank. In order to comply with RDP's financial policy of no more than \$250,000 per financial institution, RDP will open accounts at Altura Credit Union and at US Bank, but in order to do so, a motion by the Board is required.

**Motion:** To approve the transfer of \$240,000 to a new account at Altura Credit Union with Brian Percy, Janice Penner, Justin Tracy, and Nanci Larsen as authorized signers on the account.

**Moved:** Collette Lee **Seconded:** Bob Nagle

**Motion Approved.**

**Motion:** To approve the transfer of \$240,000 to a new account at US Bank with Brian Percy, Janice Penner, Justin Tracy, and Nanci Larsen as authorized signers on the account.

**Moved:** Collette Lee **Seconded:** Bob Nagle

**Motion Approved.**

Collette Lee asked if RDP's preparing the upcoming strategic plan would also include how to use those funds to support downtown businesses. Janice Penner said yes; there could be projects in fiscal 2026 - 2027 that could use the money. The money is unrestricted so RDP could give as little or as much money as deemed necessary for a project.

Ron Loveridge asked what the strategic plan process is, and if there are outside individuals involved. Janice Penner said the Executive Committee decided to hire a recommended outside consultant for the last strategic planning session. The consultant led them through a process including focus groups, surveys and so on, and then a strategic planning meeting between the Executive members. The Executive Committee will review the process used last time and determine if an outside consultant is beneficial again. If the Executive decides to use a consultant again, they would approach the one from before as he is familiar with RDP and Riverside in general.

Collette Lee asked if the old strategic plan could be sent to the Board for review. Janice Penner said she would.

## **6) RPD Security Updates**

Chad Collopy said Ryan Railsback will be leaving the police force and Steve Espinosa will be taking his place. Ryan Railsback said he is retiring next month after 29 years and will be going to the Orange County District Attorney's Office as their Public Information Officer. Steve Espinosa has worked in the Personnel Unit for 3 years and has been a sexual abuse Child Detective for over a year now.

Chad Collopy said they had over 261,000 calls for service in 2025. This is about average but 5,000 more than the year before. There were over 740 DUI arrests in 2025 City wide and 7 fatality traffic collisions with over 3,500 non fatal traffic collisions. There are roughly 700 calls for service per day.

They are working with various departments and County services to try and deal with the transient issues in the downtown.

They are reevaluating the numbers for FOL with regards to staffing and their responses during the event. They know about the vendor issues and will be seeing what can be done better for next year.

Stan Morrison said Chief Larry Gonzales said there were 14 homicides in Riverside with 14 apprehensions and 14 convictions, and wanted to know if that was a high number for the County overall. Ryan Railsback said the number has actually gone down over the last few years. The key thing to note is that the way crimes are classified as a homicide doesn't necessarily mean all 14 cases involved someone being murdered. The Homicide Department has been really on top of things and has been able to solve their cases. A discussion took place regarding in custody deaths where the individuals took drug overdoses before the police became involved. When in custody deaths happen, the police have to release videos of the incident.

## **7) County of Riverside Updates**

Cesar Gomez said the Columbia Bank sign went up over the holidays where the Pacific Premier Bank sign used to be.

They are having a Cars & Coffee car show at the County Administrators parking lot on Sunday, January 11 from 8 am to 12 pm.

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

Zoe Ridgway said the next Senior Forum will be on February 12 at Hunt Park at 10 am. They will be in Ward 1 at the Dale Center in late May 2026.

The Mayor has entered her second year as the Chair of the Big City Mayors group. This year The goal is to position the group to be proactive instead of reactive. Their three main priorities are to sponsor legislation which allows them to build more housing of all types with a focus on townhomes and condos; second, to restore the housing funding from the state, and third to work with the governor's office to create more jobs in Riverside.

The State of the City is on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> with the reception taking place at 4:30 pm at the Convention Center. The theme this year is Riverside Leveling Up.

### **9) City Council Updates**

Philip Falcone said there have been tree trimming issues; there was a lapse in the tree trimming contract so the schedule for tree trimming is about 2 months behind. The lapse has since been corrected so they hope the tree trimming gets back on track.

A lot of parking lot and alleyway repaving is taking place in downtown. Parking lots 3, 18, and 19 will be repaved in February/March depending on the weather. Parking lots 1, 12, 33, and 38 will be receiving a slurry seal in April/May.

Last week City Council entered into an agreement with Thompson Brewery to bring a brewery into Fairmount Park at the Armory. This would be no different if a restaurant was coming into the space because the restaurant would serve drinks as well. The brewery will not be serving any hard alcohol.

They will be ceremonially renaming Lime Street after fire captain Tim Strack. Lime Street will still be considered Lime Street but the sign will bare both names, similar to Veteran's Memorial Highway. The ceremony will be taking place in April.

The fire department gets 47,000 calls for service a year, which is 5% more than last year and up 35% from 5 years ago.

The Riverside Police Department building demolition is set for June. The people currently in the building will be moved around until the new building is completed.

The Valet Program soft launch is tomorrow at 11:30 am.

The City's Arts and Culture District was named as an official Cultural District by the state. Riverside was one of 10 cities picked.

America 250, celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the county will be taking place on July 4. The City is working on programming to commemorate this historic moment. The City landmarks will be getting lighting which can be changed with various colors throughout the year to highlight and emphasis certain events/holidays throughout the year.

Melanie Bruins said City Council discussed yesterday accepting over \$20 million in State grant funding to turn the old Quality Inn hotel by UCR into a permanent supportive housing unit to serve seniors, veterans, and people with mobility issues. It was not approved with a vote of 4 to 3.

Collette Lee commented that she was in attendance at the meeting and there were many businesses concerned with having that type of housing unit near UCR. Philip Falcone said he was one of the council members who voted against the project due the requirement of being a veteran or senior being stripped from the application.

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

Desiree Massei was unable to attend the meeting so no update was provided.

### **11) Committee Updates**

*Land Use:* Brian Percy was not in attendance so no update was provided.

*Security:* Jennifer Gamble said they talked about FOL and how it impacted various businesses. This will be a topic which they will continue to discuss moving forward.

### **12) Items for Information**

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

Janice Penner said RDP participated in the Metrolink Holiday Express Train event on December 20, 2025 in partnership with the Miracles and Dreams Foundation, the Riverside Arts Council, and the Mission Inn Foundation. RDP had temporary Christmas tattoos that were both applied and handed out, and were a huge hit. Metrolink Holiday Express Train asked if RDP wanted to participate again next year and RDP has agreed.

The January 27, 2026 luncheon will be at Palenque with Susan Freeman giving a marketing presentation for businesses. The entrée will be chicken enchiladas with sides and churros for dessert.

Staff will be convening the Events Committee and recommending that Riverside Restaurant Week be held from March 29 to April 5 to take advantage of Arts Walk.

### **13) New Business**

Jennifer Gamble said the Mission Inn Foundation will be hosting an Artist and Authors Immortal Ball at the Inn. They will be showcasing the art community which exists inside the Inn. There will be a violinist performing in the catacombs as well as catacomb tours taking place. The event will be on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

The tours at the Mission Inn Foundation are occurring more often each day. They currently have 13 tours and they are working on two more which should be launching within the next month.

Ron Loveridge said FOL is the city's and downtown's signature event of the year. He expressed concern with moving it from the city to a non-profit and stated RDP needs to be an advocate for the best possible FOL. He wants a survey to go out to the membership and ask them what they feel are the strengths and weaknesses for FOL. Janice Penner said the survey will likely be part of the Executive's planning process. A discussion broke out regarding FOL and the necessary overhaul which needs to take place to make the event more vibrant.

### **14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date February 11, 2026 at 8:30 am.**