



Minutes

Present:Amy Hoyt, Brian Pearcy, Chad Collopy, Chuck Beaty, John Adkins, Collette Lee, Cesar Gomez, Jennifer Gamble, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Ramos, Randy Hord, Amber Schmeltz, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Loomis, Stan Morrison, Sorelle Williams, Mark Long, Mindy Griffin

Excused:Andrew Walcker, Joe Guzzetta, Justin Tracy, Lou Monville, Bob Nagle,

Absent:Cherie Powell, Jean Eiselein, Mercedes Serrano, Broc Yoshida, Nanci Larsen, Philip Makhoul, Ron Loveridge, Desiree Massei, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes, Melanie Bruins,

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

Staff: Janice Penner

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 mentioned RCC is putting on Shrek the Musical this weekend. Jennifer Gamble introduced Mindy Griffin as the new Executive Director of the Mission Inn Foundation and Museum, and reminded everyone that the Mission Inn Foundation's Ball this weekend features tours of the catacombs.

Amber Schmeltz said the Riverside Arts Council's Mayor's Ball takes place on March 21st at the Box. The theme this year is Rock of Ages and early bird tickets are on sale until February 21st at RAC's website.

Joe Ramos said the Miracles and Dreams Foundation Easter Egg Hunt will be at North Park on March 28.

3) Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2026

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2026.

Moved: Chuck Beatty **Seconded:** Collette Lee

Jesse De La Cruz and Mark Long abstained. **Motion Approved.**

4) Items for Discussion

4a) Approval of Board of Directors Election for 2026-2028 Term – Motion

Janice Penner said RDP received 24 completed ballots that represented 41% of the current membership. The completed ballots overwhelmingly approved the proposed slate for the March 1, 2026 to February 29, 2028 term. Since the ballots were sent out, two individuals were removed from the 2026-2028 slate, Jean Eislein and Johnny Freese, due to changes in circumstances. She referred to the attached document as the revised slate.

The Executive reviewed the results and the revised slate at their February 3rd meeting and recommended that the Board adopt the revised slate. Staff will send welcome emails to the new members and thank you emails to the retiring members. New Executive Committee members will be sent the Executive minutes for January and February 2026 in preparations for their March 3 meeting.

Motion: To Approve the Board of Directors as Stated for the 2026-2028 Term

Moved: Collette Lee **Seconded:** Chuck Beatty

Motion Approved.

4a) 2026 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony - Update

Janice Penner said RDP will continue to solicit smaller sponsorships and ticket reservations throughout February until the event. Opportunity donations are coming in, and ticket sales are going well with both table and individual ticket sales. RDP will cover parking at the rate of \$10 per car for an estimated cost of \$750 as attendees last year responded negatively to paying for parking.

Staff has arranged for pipe and drape behind the stage, an enhanced sound system, cocktail tables between the bar and table seating, and for the centerpieces and other floral needs.

Staff is working on the 2025 Annual Report, meeting script, the PowerPoint presentation, and other meeting collateral and items.

5) Financial Reports

5a) Approval of Financial Reports at January 31, 2026 –Motion

Janice Penner said the January 31, 2026 results showed a surplus of \$133,472 year to date compared to a budgeted surplus year to date of \$64,691, resulting in a positive variance of \$68,781 for the year to date. BID Levy income was \$62,333 higher than budget due to the outstanding BID levy amount received in respect of 2025 being reflected in the January 31, 2026 financial statement as income. Overall expenses were \$10,577 lower than budget.

As of January 31, 2026, RDP had \$865,522 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 \$28,568 while the accounts payable equaled \$6,539. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of January 31, 2026 was \$38,146.

Motion: To Accept the Financial Report at January 31, 2026 as Presented.

Moved: John Adkins **Seconded:** Jesse De La Cruz

Motion Approved.

5b) Approval to Open New Account at Icon Business Bank

Janice Penner said staff received information from Icon Business Bank which is located in the Citrus Tower. They offer high yield savings accounts more suited to RDP's needs. Staff suggested Icon Business Bank as an alternative to US Bank and the Executive agreed. Staff was instructed to add the item to the February 11th Board agenda.

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

Moved: Chuck Beatty **Seconded:** John Adkins

Motion Approved.

6) RPD Security Updates

Chad Collopy said the Orange Street station will be moved out by April and resources moved to the Magnolia station

There have been protests going on for the last few weeks. The police have been monitoring the protests and doing threat assessments to see if there is anything they need to be cautious of. There have been no major issues so far with the protests. The biggest thing has been the protesters marching in the street during peak hours.

The West Coast Car show is coming up and they will be doing their street closures using the new steel barriers.

There are a number of issues and frustrations with the homeless which the police are aware of. The Sheriff's office did a sweep of the river bottom along with various organizations that provide services, causing the homeless to come into downtown. The police are reaching out to them about being good neighbors and some of the concerns, educating them at the same time.

There was a homicide at Fourteenth and Main. It is under investigation and so police cannot comment much on the investigation but it appears to be a random act.

Janice Penner stated the Black History Parade and Expo is this weekend.

7) County of Riverside Updates

Cesar Gomez said he did not have much to report. The Farmer's Market at the County Administrator's office is taking place today.

8) Mayor's Office Update

Zoe Ridgway said the biggest focus for the Mayor's office for the last couple of months the State of the City event. It was a lot of work with the biggest struggle having too many things to put into the speech. They were proud with what they were able to share regarding the City.

RAC's Mayor's Ball for the Arts is taking place on March 21st and Board members were asked to support the arts community.

The senior forum has four more events. The next is the next day in Ward 5 at Hunt Park with council member Mill. Council member Condor will be on April 2nd, Council member Cervantes on May 13th, and Councilmember Falcone on May 27th. The dates will be posted on their social media page.

Stan Morrison congratulated the Mayor's office on the State of the City being the best one ever in his opinion.

9) City Council Updates

Philip Falcone said yesterday's City council meeting worked on their strategic plan focus for 2026. One thing they want to focus on with Public Works is the entry points into the City. The Mission Bridge project construction starts next month, but the bridge will not be shut down as they will be working in sections at a time. The Third Street grade separation coming from the east side into downtown will break ground at the end of this year. The Market Street Bridge,

coming from Aqua Manza down Market, will be demolished and reconstructed. The two bridges are seismically past their usable life.

Flemings Steakhouse broke ground on Monday and is now officially under construction. They expect it to be completed before the end of the calendar year.

The Armory is being turned into a craft brewery and restaurant. The City has entered into an agreement with Thompson Brewery. The renovations/construction will begin on the project before the year is over.

They are doing a lot of planning for America's 250. In addition to their standard 4th of July celebrations, they will be having a special drone show at the Concert in the Park at Fairmount Park on July 1st. The City will be illuminating all the buildings along Mission Inn Avenue over the course of the summer. The Cheech, the RMA, the Fox (if it is not under construction), City Hall, the underpass at Mission Inn Avenue., Tilden-Coil, the Mark, etc. will be included.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Desiree Massei was unable to attend the meeting but provide an email update which Janice Penner read at the meeting.

Desiree Massei will be sending along items on the Riverside Rewards program promotions for February and March. She will be presenting at the March 24th luncheon providing information on the Community Development Department and everything they are currently working on.

The new coffee shop next to Gram's BBQ will be holding a soft opening this Friday. Shelby Loomis said the Notebook Café has opened on Ninth Street. Shalini Lockard mentioned the Coffee Trail as part of the Riverside Rewards program and was curious to know if the new café was on that trail. Janice Penner said she would ask.

11) Committee Updates

Land Use: Brian Percy said he was not in attendance at the last Land Use meeting but from his understanding the meeting focused on how to provide better assistance to the brick and mortar businesses during FOL. There have been a significant influx of illegal food and retail vendors to FOL. These vendors like to leave trash laying about, block walkways, and utilize unsafe food practices. Janice Penner said these vendors continue to be an issue past FOL as food vendors like to set up close to when bars close to catch the late-night crowd. Shelby Loomis said a lot of owners are renting out their parking lots to these food vendors.

Shalini Lockard asked if they had ever invited Code Enforcement to come to Land Use. Brian Percy said they are trying to create an opportunity between the City and County to discuss these issues and have code elements from the County at FOL. Most of the vendors set up after 5 pm, so after the County is closed and they would like to see an hour adjustment for FOL so County can come during FOL. Shelby Loomis said there was a task team created last time where they came out specifically between 11:30 pm and 1:30 am and between 12:30 am to 3:30 am which is how they were able to keep the food vendors away last time.

Janice Penner said one of the main issues is money with having Code Enforcement and the Health department come out after hours. The way things currently stand the police have no authority to confiscate food or anything from these vendors that is why they need County Health

and Code Enforcement. Shelby Loomis said she does not understand why the City has to make financial allowances for County based operations. The County is not the City and the County has a responsibility to do their job. If their job is outside of their 9-5 hours it should not be their problem. The County needs to find a way to do their job and they need to be accountable, it should not fall on the City to provide the funding for those resources.

Security: Jennifer Gamble said they had similar discussions about food vendors. They also had discussions about the Valet program and the placement of the stands. Janice Penner said right now the Valet program is in the assessment and data collection phase. What they have found so far is their initial concept of where to place the valet stands was flawed, so they are shifting the stand locations. Zoe Ridgway said Erik Lue was surprised on Friday and Saturday they are not seeing the business for the Valet program that they were expecting to see.

12) Items for Information

12a) Strategic Plan for 2027 to 2031 – Update

Janice Penner said staff will be contacting Matt Lehrman who was the consultant for the current strategic plan to discuss his availability for the upcoming plan. Planning will start in May to allow the new Executive Committee members time to become familiar with their role. It would also allow sufficient time for the new Executive Committee members to review the recommendations for the IDA Conference attendees and from both the Security and Land Use Committees.

12b) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items

Janice Penner said planning for Downtown Restaurant Week has started. The date, March 28 to April 5, has been selected. Staff is working with Geographics on a logo and social media posts. There will be minimal printed material as the concentration will be on driving traffic to the participating restaurants' websites, Facebook, and Instagram. The campaign will start in late February.

There is no luncheon in February due to the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony. The March 24th luncheon will be held at Loft.84 with a presentation from the City's Economic Development Department and a brief update on the Riverside Art Museum's Art Market. The April 28th luncheon will be held at the Riverside Game Lab and a presentation on the City's updated Green Business Program and on "Options for All;" a non-profit assisting with job placement. There is no luncheon in May due to the Memorial Day weekend. The June 23rd luncheon will be at Taco Station. Future luncheons are tentatively booked as follows: July 28th luncheon at the Lobby, September 22nd at Riverside Community Hospital (confirmed), October 27th at Hyatt Place Riverside, and November 24th at Club Riv.

Janice Penner is serving on the Steering Committees for the Cultural Preservation Conference in May 2026 and for the re-opening of the Museum of Riverside in 2027.

Planning for the Fall Fashion Show has started. The Riverside Community Health Foundation and the Pink Ribbon Place will be partnering, and the Culver Center is being considered for the location.

13) New Business

There was no new business.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date - March 11, 2026 at 8:30 am.