



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:30 AM WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2026
WALLING BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR
3666 UNIVERSITY AVENUE ENTRANCE

Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Andrew Walcker, Brian Percy, Cesar Gomez, Chad Collopy, Cherie Powell, Chuck Beaty, Jennifer Gamble, Joe Ramos, John Adkins, Joe Guzzetta, Jungmiwha Bullock, Justin Hudson, Kristina Vanaman, Madelyn Morgan, Mario Cortez, Melissa Lopez, Ron Loveridge, Sorelle Williams, Stan Morrison, Mark Long

Excused: Collette Lee, Jesse De La Cruz, Justin Tracy, Nanci Larsen, Randy Hord, Rachael Dzikonski

Absent: Mercedes Serrano, Broc Yoshida, Philip Makhoul, Shalini Lockard, Shelby Loomis, Desiree Massei, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes, Philip Falcone

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

Staff: Janice Penner

1) Call to Order

Andrew Walcker called the meeting to order.

2) Self-Introductions and Public Comments

Self-introductions and public comments were conducted.

3) Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2026

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2026.

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

Motion Approved.

4) Items for Discussion

4a) Approval of New Board Member, Mark Long - Motion

Janice Penner said subsequent to the start of the 2026-2028 Board term nominating process, Ron Loveridge recommended that the RDP Board of Directors have a UCR representative and offered to assist. He approached Mark Long, Dean of the School of Public Policy, who agreed to consider joining and has been attending meetings. The motion would officially appoint him as a Board member.

Motion: To Approve the New Board Member, Mark Long

Moved: Chuck Beaty **Seconded:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion Approved.

4b) 2026 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony - Update

Janice Penner said a number of verbal compliments as well as an email from Joe Guzzetta and a lovely letter from Kathy Allavie, the Roy Hord Award recipient, were received. The event generated \$7,145 in surplus of which \$1,500 was from the Opportunity Drawing. Changes made to the 2026 event will be continued for 2027. The pipe and drape behind the stage was more inviting and softened the stage, the cocktail tables between the tables and the bars worked well, and prepaying for parking was well received.

The 2027 event has been booked at the Riverside Convention Center for Thursday, February 18th. Photos will be posted on Facebook over the next few weeks, and photos of award recipients will be available for downloading for those who don't use Facebook.

5) Financial Reports

5a) Approval of Financial Reports at February 28, 2026 –Motion

Janice Penner said the February 28, 2026 results showed a surplus of \$223,912 year to date compared to a budgeted surplus year to date of \$31,872, resulting in a positive variance of \$192,040 for the year to date. BID Levy income was \$172,885 higher than budget due to the outstanding BID levy amount received in respect of 2026 being reflected in the February 28, 2026 financial statement as income. Overall expenses were \$17,016 lower than budget.

As of February 28, 2026, RDP had \$886,593 in two checking and one money market account with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include two CDs with Pacific Premier Bank (now called Columbia Bank) and one CD with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$349,467. The accounts receivable was \$2,218 while the accounts payable equaled \$8,094. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of February 28, 2026 was \$35,846.

Motion: To accept the Financial Report at February 28, 2026 as presented.

Moved: Brian Percy **Seconded:** Chuck Beaty

Motion Approved.

For the benefit of new Board member, there was a brief explanation of RDP's annual zero base budgeting process. The realistic expectations of yearly expenses and incomes typically allow RDP to end each year with a small surplus.

6) RPD Security Updates

Chad Collopy said there was a large police presence at University and Victoria due to an significant vehicle collision. Westbound traffic will be closed for a while as they deal with it.

There was a murder by the car wash on 14th Street in early February. They arrested all suspects involved within a few weeks and they are currently in custody.

As downtown is the center of the city, 95% of all demonstrations are held in the downtown. Many of the current demonstrations reflect on the conflict with Iran. They are peaceful in nature so far, with less than 50 people at the two most recent demonstrations.

The Farmers Market on Saturdays has moved to a new location on Main Street down by the Courthouse. There will be another demonstration regarding anti-trafficking of minors this coming weekend near where the Farmers Market ends. The No Kings National Protest will be on March 28th both within the City of Riverside and in surrounding areas. It will start at 11 am and go to about 2 pm. They will be staying in the downtown area as the organizers do not plan to hold a march at this time.

Truck-a-Palooza is happening on March 14th from 11 am to 3 pm. It was well attended last year and they are expecting even more attendees this year. There will be a number of vehicles for individuals and families to look at including fire trucks, police cars, delivery trucks, etc.

The police continue to receive numerous calls regarding transients in downtown. Right now they are receiving multiple calls about transients in White Park, mostly once the park is closed for the day. The Public Safety Engagement Team (PSET) goes out to the homeless encampments to try

and get them off the streets. When they first make contact with an individual, they ask if there are any services they can provide and if there are any criminal violations. If the individual has an encampment on public property, they can't immediately take the encampment and property down. The team first must give a warning and tag the property, giving the individual 24 hours' notice to move it. If after 24 hours the individual has not removed the encampment and property, then they can go in and remove it. The transients are aware of this process, so they simply move from point a to point b and then the process starts all over with another 24-hour notice.

Brian Percy said if a car is cited for a parking violation, the person cannot just move their car to another spot in the same area or they would still be in violation, and asked if that concept also applied to the homeless. Chad Collopy said he wasn't sure, but they are looking into it. They do tell the transients they cannot just move down 10 feet from the initial contact and be okay as that warning is part of their training.

7) County of Riverside Updates

Cesar Gomez said the Cars and Coffee show will take place at the County Administrators parking lot along Lime Street on Sunday, March 15th from 8 am to noon. The next one will be on April 12th from 8 am to noon. Cesar Gomez also commented that he has been working with Environmental Health on the issue of the illegal vendors who show up for events in the downtown area. Environmental Health will be at the RDP Land Use meeting this month to discuss the issue.

8) Mayor's Office Update

Zoe Ridgway said she has also been working with City staff regarding the illegal vendors and will be in attendance at the RDP Land Use meeting.

The Mayor's Ball for the Arts is a fundraiser for the Riverside Arts Council to support their free programming. It will take place on March 21st at the Box from 5 pm to 9 pm. The theme this year is Rock of the Ages. Artists from literary arts to theater performances to public art will be honored. Janice Penner added that RAC is selling group tickets this year at 10 tickets for \$800 rather than the regular \$1,000. There will be some amazing experiences up for auction as well as wonderful art pieces.

As a cost-saving measure many of the libraries will be closed on Sundays. Three will remain open; the Arlington, Main, and Orange Terrace Libraries insuring there will be an open library within 4 miles of a closed library.

Accelerator for America, which is a think tank that supports cities across the nation with infrastructure and economic development, has asked the City to partner with them in hosting their advisory council on April 11th to 13th. There will be 50 plus mayors and their staff and city leadership in downtown Riverside during those 3 days. The City will mostly be hosting them at downtown venues, encouraging them to eat and shop locally during their visit.

9) City Council Updates

Sarai Arellano said the Farmers Market has been moved to in front of the Historic Courthouse. Their permit came up for renewal and it was reevaluated at that time. The City focused on expanding the footprint, easing congestion between Fifth and Sixth, and providing opportunities for the Convention Center and other businesses to hold events within that area. Next year the permit will be reevaluated to see if the move worked as intended or if the Farmers Market should

be moved back to their original location. The City will be planting several Jacaranda Trees near the courthouse to beautify the area.

Sixth Street between Lime and Market Streets will be repaved. There are also plans to install additional bollards along Main Street at every entrance including by the courthouse to help increase safety and reduce cost for special events.

On April 21st, the ceremonial street renaming of Lime Street will be taking place in honor of Tim Strake at Fire Station 1.

The 311 call center will have new hours. They will no longer be in person on Saturdays and instead be in person on Mondays.

There will be a lot of construction on Mission Inn Avenue, especially near the gateway to Riverside as the Mission Inn bridge is reconstructed. There will always be one lane open on either side of the bridge as work is being done but it will cause traffic delays. There will also be work done between the dog park and Redwood with median work and repaving.

The Civil Rights walk is set to break ground the beginning of summer. The Fox theater will be having some construction in June.

Janice Penner asked when the City expects Whittier Place to be open for special events at White Park. Sarai Arellano said the Special Works team hopes to have it ready by FOL of this year. Andrew Walcker asked if there had been any feedback with regards to the new location of the Farmers Market. Sarai Arellano said it is a mixed bag which is normal. Janice Penner spoke about the back story behind why the Farmers Market was moved, including the manager of the Farmers Market refusal to work with the Convention Center when there were events going on that wanted to use the space between Fifth and Sixth.

Melanie Bruins said Ward 2 will be looking into a new location to hold their Arts and Music Festival this year. With the construction on the new Eastside School they are uncertain if the previous location would still be viable.

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 said the Land Use committee is focusing this year on what he calls 'bandit vendors.' These are illegal vendors who drop in on various community events in the City that are not licensed, not regulated, not supervised, and impact the brick and mortar businesses. The meeting this month will be with the various City and County groups which are involved in dealing with illegal vendors to start a conversation on how they can handle illegal vendors moving forward. This meeting is designed to be informative, not accusatory in nature.

Security: Jennifer Gamble said Security has been discussing illegal vendors as well.

12) Items for Information

12a) Strategic Plan for 2027 to 2031 – Update

Janice Penner said she contacted Matt Lehrman, the consultant for the current strategic plan, to discuss his availability for the upcoming plan. She said he is available and will submit a proposal by the end of March. Planning will start in May to allow the new Executive Committee members

time to become familiar with their role. The planning process will be more comprehensive for this plan as they need to determine how best to spend the BID levy money RDP received for past due payments to improve the foundation of the organization and invest in the downtown business community. The strategic plan will also include the transition and hiring of a new Executive Director by the end of 2027. The hiring process will likely take about a year and then there will be a year of training.

12b) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items

Janice Penner said Downtown Riverside Restaurant Week will take place from March 28th to April 5th. A logo has been created, and staff is working on social media posts and a radio/online campaign with Geographics and KOLA 99.9. An email invite and a print invite went out on March 1, and participation forms are coming in. RDP added a drink category for bars and coffee shops.

Planning for the Fall Fashion Show has started and will be in full swing after Restaurant Week is over. The Riverside Community Health Foundation and the Pink Ribbon Place will be partnering, and the Culver Center is being considered for the location as it will avoid wind issues.

Ads were placed for the Black History Month Parade and Expo, the Riverside Dickens Festival, the Riverside Tamale Festival, and the Riverside Pride Festival. RDP provided a \$500 sponsorship for the Miracles and Dreams Foundation Easter Egg Hunt at North Park and will be at the event on March 28 with temporary Easter Tattoos.

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 with 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, and November 24th at Club Riv.

13) New Business

Joe Ramos said the Miracles and Dreams Foundation will be doing their Easter Egg Hunt at North Park on March 28th. The egg hunt portion is sold out and there are no more sign-up spots available. Joe Ramos presented Janice Penner with flowers for her 25th anniversary with RDP.

Joe Guzzetta mentioned the decision by City Council not to accept the \$20 million for homeless housing and wanted to know if those were the types of issues RDP should weigh in on. Janice Penner said normally RDP restricts themselves to issues within the downtown area because that is the area the BID covers. However RDP will take a closer look in certain instances where the majority of the Executive thinks the issue is worth consideration. That was not the case for this situation initially.

Ron Loveridge said the downtown now has 11 coffee shops and encouraged people to check out the newest one, Café Oro Dos Aztecas on Main Street between Fifth and Sixth.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date April 8, 2026 at 8:30 am.