



## **Minutes**

**Present:** Amy Hoyt, Andrew Walcker, Chad Collopy, Chuck Beaty, Joe Ramos, John Adkins, Jungmiwha Bullock, Justin Tracy, Madelyn Morgan, Mario Cortez, Mark Long, Nanci Larsen, Randy Hord, Ron Loveridge, Shalini Lockard, Sorelle Williams, Stan Morrison, Alex Ramos, Ana Brown

**Excused:** Brian Percy, Collette Lee, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Guzzetta, Zoe Ridgway

**Absent:** Cesar Gomez, Cherie Powell, Jennifer Gamble, Justin Hudson, Kristina Vanaman, Melissa Lopez, Mercedes Serrano, Broc Yoshida, Philip Makhoul, Rachael Dzikonski, Shelby Loomis, Desiree Massei, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes, Philip Falcone, Melanie Bruins

**Ex-Officio ABP / City Council:** Sarai Arellano

**Staff:** Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

### **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 March 11, 2026**

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

**Moved:** Chuck Beaty   **Seconded:** Stan Morrison

**Motion Approved.**

### **4) Items for Discussion**

#### **4a) Annual Budget Discussion**

Janice Penner said staff would be preparing a proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The budget would be zero based operating budget and include allocations for new hires, job descriptions, and salary ranges. It would also include an allocation of reserve funds towards investment in the downtown business community. The Executive would have an initial draft to review at their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with the intent to finalize the budget at the June Meetings.

### **5) Financial Reports**

#### **5a) Approval of Financial Reports at March 31, 2026 –Motion**

Nanci Larsen said the March 31, 2026 results showed a surplus of \$242,853 year to date compared to the budgeted surplus of \$37,283 which resulted in a positive variance of \$205,570 for the year to date. BID Levy income year to date was \$194,845 higher than budget due to the outstanding BID levy payments received. Overall expenses were \$8,062 lower than budget.

As of March 31, 2026, RDP had \$840,339 in two checking and one money market account with Citizens Business Bank and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include two CDs with Columbia Bank and one CD with Provident Bank for total reserves of \$351,780.

The Accounts Receivable was \$62,979 while the Accounts Payable was \$4,288. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of March 31, 2026 was \$37,360.

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

**Moved:** Justin Tracy **Seconded:** John Adkins

**Motion Approved.**

Janice Penner confirmed RDP transferred \$240,000 into a money market account at Icon Bank.

## **6) RPD Security Updates**

Chad Collopy said the No Kings Protest took place on March 28<sup>th</sup> in the University/Market area. There was about 2,500 in attendance with a small group who did a short march around downtown. He said the local socialist group is holding a protest that night focusing on the war in Iran. That protest seems to happen weekly around University/Market, but it does move when there is an event happening at the Cheech or other venue.

RPD has been working with Nathan Mustafa on the area of University and Market where people loiter, sleep on benches and sidewalks, and on the retaining wall by Mezcal. The managers of the Mission Square building are having trouble leasing the vacant River Ranch location due to the unsavory activities in the area. The bus benches are a main issues, but those bus stops are main arteries for RTA so they are trying to see if something else can be done to deter loitering. Making the landscape/streetscape less hospitable is an option so people don't want to hang around.

A new drone first responder program started last week. Drones are housed in City buildings so when a call for service comes in, a police officer will pilot the drone to fly over to the location of the call. The drones can go out to the river bottom and Chicago Ave before the battery is drained.

Stan Morrison commented that he noticed a woman sleeping on the sidewalk when he came into downtown and asked if the police wake those individuals up. Chad Collopy replied that both the Ambassadors and PANS officers will make contact. Sleeping in public areas is technically not a crime. Janice Penner said the Ambassadors will attempt to wake the individuals and move them along without physical contact. If the individuals become belligerent or dangerous, the Ambassadors will call the police for assistance. Stan Morrison spoke about fentanyl overdoses and cartels moving the drugs throughout the various cities. A discussion broke out regarding potential cartel activity in Riverside and Narcan contributing to the lower death toll from fentanyl.

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

Andrew Walcker said the County is midway through their budget planning for next year, and there is a workshop today with Supervisor Jose Medina for people to weigh in on the upcoming budget.

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

Sarai Arellano said the Mayor's office is partnering with Accelerator for America to host their advisory council from April 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> when over 50 mayors, their staff, and city leadership will be in downtown Riverside. The City will mostly host them at downtown venues, and encourage them to eat and shop locally during their visit. Both the Mayor and City Council offices will conduct downtown tours to showcase Riverside efforts towards beautification and homeless housing.

## **9) City Council Updates**

Sarai Arellano said Councilman Falcone met with Jose Medina to explore different partnership ideas and opportunities between the City and County; for instance with the vacant lots at the southern end of the downtown.

Other highlights included City owned parking lots 3, 18, and 19 being repaved from the ground up, the Riverside Arts Market taking place Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, and the ceremonial renaming of Lime Street to recognize Tim Strack taking place on April 21 at Station 1 at 1 pm.

On April 25 there will be three different events taking place; the Great Riverside Clean-up will be taking place in the morning, the Insect Fair at 10 am at the Main Library, and the Riverside Concert Band celebration for their 150<sup>th</sup> birthday starting at 3 pm at Fairmount Park.

The Mission Bridge groundbreaking will be on April 29 at 11 am.

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

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

### **11) Committee Updates**

**Land Use:** Janice Penner said the Land Use committee and others met with County Environmental Health, City Code Enforcement, and City Attorney personnel to discuss unlicensed street vendors and the options to deal with them. She said that they advised that their departments only have citations to enforce against unlicensed vendors and cannot seize materials or equipment. She added that they learned that many of the unlicensed vendors are actually being trafficked and are only vending to pay off a debt of some sort. Mario Cortez shared the various scenarios he witnessed regarding these vendors.

Ron Loveridge asked if Jose Medina's office was represented at the meeting. Janice Penner said the next meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> would focus on two points; how to mitigate the mess left behind, and how to move the trafficking issue to the state level. A discussion broke out regarding the recent state laws and regulations that favor street vendors. Jungmiwha Bullock asked what end result RDP is trying to accomplish regarding unlicensed vendors. Mario Cortez said it is a quality-of-life issue to a degree as unlicensed vendors often block sidewalks forcing people to walk on the street, dump oil on sidewalks or in landscaping, and leave trash behind. Jungmiwha Bullock said she has not noticed these issues and wanted to know where problem vendors set up, or where vans were dropping groups of them off.

Janice Penner added that the City has worked on licensing street vendors including food vendors, and has an excellent pamphlet on how they can be licensed. Their issue is with the food vendors, those who are unlicensed and do not comply with the health and safety standards or permitting procedures. She said by the Downtowne Bookstore unlicensed vendors are usually only an issue during FOL, but they are a major issue in the downtown entertainment district after 11 pm. Sarai Arellano added that vendors pay a significant sum to be set-up for the duration of FOL, and for FOL and other permitted events, other vendors are not allowed to be in the event space. However unlicensed vendors do set up next to them and sell similar food or items.

Janice Penner noted that Code Enforcement does give licensing information to vendors when they go out. There is a language barrier in some instances and in other cases the vendors simply ignore the directions. Ideally the goal is that all vendors selling food be properly licensed and certified with County Health Environmental Health.

**Security:** Janice Penner said Security was mostly an update on the March Executive and Land Use meetings. They heard from Chad Collopy on a number of issues regarding the homeless, specifically the new church at Fairmount park hosting gatherings for the homeless and not cleaning up afterwards. Erik Lue also provided an update on the Valet Program at the meeting. The Valet Program is now operating on Fridays and Saturdays only from 6 pm – 2 am. The Valet

Program is being monitored very closely, and adjustments are being made as deemed necessary. The program started with 5 station locations and now three stations are currently in operation.

## **12) Items for Information**

### **12a) Strategic Plan for 2027 to 2031 – Update**

Janice Penner said the Executive Committee did an initial review of the proposal submitted by Matt Lehrman, along with comments from Joe Guzzetta. The proposal includes five phases so that it can be scaled in scope as the Executive decides what should be included. It was agreed that Executive members would review the proposal in depth for discussion and decision making at their May meeting.

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

Janice Penner said Downtown Restaurant Week took place from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> with 21 participants including several bars and coffee shops. Media coverage included KOLA radio and streaming ads, an article in the Raincross Gazette, an Inland Empire magazine e-blast, and a City of Riverside email. They will be compiling data from social media and the restaurants to see how Restaurant Week went for them as well as giving the businesses an opportunity to share their thoughts. RDP spent \$7,500 for Restaurant Week including the Kola ads and various media flyers, most of which can be carried over for next year. They will avoid Easter next year.

Planning for the Fall Fashion Show has started and is in full swing now that Downtown Restaurant Week has ended. The Riverside Community Health Foundation and the Pink Ribbon Place will be partnering, and the Culver Center is being considered for the location to avoid wind issues and provide more ambiance. Planning for the September 26, 2026 Riverside Art & Music Festival has started as has initial planning for Doors Open Riverside on October 24, 2026.

Ads were placed for 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 was at the event on March 28 with temporary Easter tattoos and stickers for the kids.

The April 28 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 23 luncheon will be at Taco Station. Future luncheons are tentatively booked as follows: July 28 luncheon at the Lobby, September 22 at Riverside Community Hospital (confirmed), October 27 at Hyatt Place, and November 24 at Club Riv.

## **13) New Business**

Mario Cortez mentioned the World Cup will be on June 1.

Janice Penner said the California Preservation Conference will be in downtown on May 6.

Jungmiwha Bullock said on April 25 there will be an event at the Downtowne Bookstore to coincide with International Bookstore Week.

## **14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date May 13, 2026 at 8:30 am.**