



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
8:30 AM WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2026
3666 UNIVERSITY AVENUE ENTRANCE

Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Cesar Gomez, Chad Collopy, Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, Jennifer Gamble, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Ramos, John Adkins, Joe Guzzetta, Jungmiwha Bullock, Justin Tracy, Kristina Vanaman, Mark Long, Nanci Larsen, Rachael Dzikonski, Shalini Lockard, Sorelle Williams,)

Guest: Art Alcaarez, representative from Latino Network

Excused: Andrew Walcker, Randy Hord

Absent: Brian Percy, Cherie Powell, Justin Hudson, Madelyn Morgan, Mario Cortez, Melissa Lopez, Broe Yoshida, Philip Makhoul, Ron Loveridge, Shelby Loomis, Stan Morrison, Oz Puerta, Clarissa Cervantes, Zoe Ridgway

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: Sarai Verduzco, Melanie Bruins, Desiree Massei, Philip Falcone

Staff: Janice Penner, Shirley Schmeltz

1) Call to Order

Acting as Chair, 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 May 13, 2026

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of May 13, 2026.

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

Motion Approved.

4) Items for Discussion

4a) Latino Network Chavez Monument Update

Art Alcaarez introduced himself and said he has been a member of the Latino Network since it was formed in 1993. The group started to work on a project to honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez In 2009, working for 3 and a half years to raise money for a monument. They had a huge celebration with a downtown march, mariachis, and so on for the unveiling, and every year thereafter they had a special breakfast event. This year though the revelations about Chavez and his actions were revealed in the middle of preparations and it was devastating. Once the news broke, many cities were quick to remove or cover up any monuments related to Cesar Chavez, but the Latino Network wanted to be more deliberate in their actions. They decided to pivot and made their breakfast event focus on the farm workers, education, community, and youth. They have since been out at several Artswalk events with a table to solicit input from the community on what to do with the monument. The various suggestions range from complete removal of the statue, to leaving the statue alone for its historical significance, and finally altering the statue so it is a tribute to the farm workers and not Cesar Chavez himself. They have had a meeting with the original group who commissioned the statue as well as the original sculptor on what their options are. The

sculptor has said the figure of Cesar Chavez can be removed and orange crates installed to signify farm workers and Riverside's history with orange groves. A second option would be to modify the appearance of the Cesar Chavez figure, turning it into a farm worker with appropriate farming attire and equipment. These two options will be brought before the community for their input but so far the idea of modifying the statue into a farm worker seems to be more popular than the orange crates. There is a significant cost to change this monument; quotes anywhere from \$8,000 to \$20,000 or more. They will be launching a fundraising campaign to help cover the costs.

Chuck Beatty said the statue is on City property so the City should have input regarding any changes. Art Alcarez said they have met with the Mayor and the City Council members, and are keeping the City involved in the process and the decisions they make. Collette Lee asked if they have reached out to the original donors to the monument to get their opinion. Art Alcarez replied they are communicating with all donors for their input as well as the community as a whole.

4b) Approval of 2026-2027 Budget – Motion

Janice Penner said the 2026-2027 budget was attached for review and approval. The document includes explanatory notes where appropriate. Salary increases for staff are included as is the addition of a senior administrative position. The minutes from the Executive meeting were included with their discussion of the budget.

Janice Penner said the payout of staff benefits to reduce the liability currently held on the balance sheet is included in the allocated wage line item under salaries and benefits on page 2 and is offset by the draw from the balance sheet item.

Janice Penner said the Executive reviewed the budget at their June 2nd meeting and recommended that the budget be approved by the Board.

Motion: To Accept the 2026-2027 Budget as Presented.

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

5) Financial Reports

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

Nanci Larsen said the May 31, 2026 results showed a surplus of \$266,833 year to date compared to a budgeted surplus year to date of \$45,157 resulting in a positive variance of \$221,676 for the year to date. BID Levy income year to date was \$209,855 higher than budget due to the outstanding BID levy payments received and taken into income for 2025 and 2026. Overall expenses were \$8,978 lower than budget.

As of May 31, 2026, RDP had \$681,812 in two checking and two money market accounts with Citizens Business Bank, ICON Business Bank, and Provident Bank. RDP reserves include two CDs with Columbia Bank, two CDs with Provident Bank, and one CD with US Bank for total reserves of \$591,780.

The accounts receivable was \$408 while the accounts payable equaled \$3,818. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) as of May 31, 2026 was \$32,760.

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

Moved: Justin Tracy **Seconded:** Jesse De La Cruz

Motion Approved.

6) RPD Security Updates

Chad Collopy said over the weekend there was a series of tagging incidents along the University corridor. Officers have a picture of the individual and are looking into the matter.

Two weeks ago two transients broke into the RMA and stole a lot of electronic equipment. One individual was identified and arrested 12 hours after the incident, but the case is still open. There was also a break-in at the Box taking fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, and other miscellaneous items. The individuals involved were arrested later on the same evening.

There was a patron at Lake Alice and Killer Queens who was causing problems, throwing chairs and tables, causing calls to come in saying shots were fired and generally creating a disturbance. This particular individual is a local patron known for causing issues and was arrested.

There were no major issues for any of the major events, Westcoast Thunder, Pride Festival, Anime Riverside, which took place downtown. Westcoast Thunder finished early but there were around 2,200 registered motorcyclists who took part in the event and there was a good crowd.

Anime Riverside went well although Chad Collopy said he is hearing mixed reviews on the attendance. Chad Collopy mentioned Erik Lue and his team had the valet parking service going during the Anime Convention and they did very well.

The police will continue with their drone program. They will spread throughout the City, going to areas known for issues with illegal fireworks and holding those individuals accountable. They will be out on the 4th and other days leading up to it.

There has been a big social media push by their LA partners regarding the World Cup starting in LA. They have been pushing the use of the Metrolink to commute to LA and staying off of the 91 and 60 freeways to hopefully alleviate some of the congestion problems.

Collette Lee commented that at a City Council meeting someone using social media interviewed bar patrons who said Riverside was chlamydia city. Philip Falcone said that individual made unhinged comments and appeared to have frequented the bars before attending the meeting. The post in question was found by this individual; they did not make it.

7) County of Riverside Updates

Cesar Gomez said the County Board of Supervisors met on Monday and Tuesday to work on the budget. The budget will be finalized and approved at the June 23rd meeting. Some of the focuses will be on health, public safety, human services, public works, etc.

8) Mayor's Office Update

Zoe Ridgway was not at the meeting so no update was provided.

9) City Council Updates

Philip Falcone said there will be two drone shows this year to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The first will be at La Sierra Park on June 17th and the second will be at Fairmount Park on July 1st as part of the Concert in the Park series. The concert will start at 6 pm while the drone show will be closer to 8:30/9 pm that evening.

There are markings on the ground on Main Street between Sixth and Fifth and Fifth between Main and Orange to show where the cafe lighting is going to be installed. The official start date for the construction to place the lighting has not yet been determined but it is in the works.

Philip Falcone commented that the graffiti issue Chad Collopy referred to happened in broad daylight. People walked right by as the individual was placing their tags and no one did anything about it. He mentioned he was driving in the downtown area and watched as an individual was gluing flyers to one of the electrical boxes and rolled down his window to yell at the individual. He urged people to call it in if they see something so it can be dealt with. If the incident is happening in real time call 911, if there is no one around but the graffiti is there call 311.

There was an article in the LA Times as well as the Press Enterprise regarding several former Code Enforcement employees who were illegally seizing items from street vendors. There was an investigation done by the City of Riverside which found that there were illegal and incorrect activities taking place by those Code Enforcement officers. The two officers in question as well as their supervisors and their superiors no longer work at the City. The investigation was rather damning, but all those individuals are gone. It is public record and anyone can view it, but the personal information of the people involved is redacted to protect them. The Mayor has called for a review of the entire Economic Department within the City as well as Code Enforcement to have an outside eye see what can be done better. They have had a revolving door of Economic Department Directors for the last 15 years and the Mayor wants to understand why that is. The Code Enforcement investigation showed the incidents have been going on since 2023. The investigation was completed in August 2025 and the results presented to City Council around that time.

Collette Lee asked if this was brought up to City Council when the issues first started. Philip Falcone said no. Collette Lee asked if it was the City Manager who knew this was going on. Philip Falcone stated there was a whistle blower who worked on the Code Enforcement staff who reported it to their superior who in turn reported it up the chain but there was a time of inaction with regard to the information. Janice Penner stated that the topic of illegal vendors has been discussed at length at many of their Land Use and Security meetings. She found it surprising that this was not brought up at any of the prior meetings. Philip Falcone said at the time, he could not talk about it because it was a closed session and only once the report was made public was he free to discuss this matter. A discussion broke out regarding RDP's stance with regards to the food vendors on behalf of the businesses. They aren't specifically against the vendors but want them to have to be properly licensed and go through all the steps a normal brick and mortar business would be required to follow.

Melanie Bruins said the election took place last week, and there will be a runoff election for the Ward 2 seat which will happen in November.

Philip Falcone said Council member Jim Perry resigned from the City Council last night. There will be a vacancy in the Ward 6 seat for the time being. No candidate won the election for Ward 6 so there will be a runoff election in November for Ward 6 as well.

10) City Community Development Department Update

Desiree Massei said the Riverside Rewards app is giving 5% back to dads and grads and 25% back for shopping local. Right now they are seeing eight dollars being reinvested into the community city wide for every 1 dollar spent. Ward 1 does see the majority of it.

The City went to ICFC in Vegas with Economic Development.

The current vacancy rate for the entire Ward 1 area is 6%.

The City attended the Space Tech Expo last week to talk about the various space companies and are participating in the Southern California Contracting Conference tomorrow with SPDC at the Convention Center.

Regarding the Anime Riverside Expo, there were roughly 14,000 visitors on Saturday, with approximately 5,000 of those from the Disneyland/Anaheim area. The median age was about 37.2 years old. Janice Penner commented there was a lot of cross over between the Pride Festival and the Anime Convention on Saturday as well. One of the Board members asked how they determined that people were coming from Anaheim. Desiree Massei replied they use a software called placer and it reads the IP addresses on people's phones.

11) Committee Updates

Land Use: Brian Percy was unable to attend, no update on Land Use was provided.

Security: Jennifer Gamble said the discussions between the City, Mezcal, RTA, and RDP on how best to secure and make the area by the bus stop safe is ongoing. Janice Penner said they do have a meeting scheduled with RTA on June 18th.

12) Items for Information

12b) RDP News, Activities, and Other Items

Janice Penner said RDP provided a \$500 sponsorship for the Pride Festival in White Park on May 30 and she was at the event handing out RDP QR code postcards and Pride stickers.

The Culver Center has been booked for the Fall Fashion Show on Thursday, October 15th. It will under \$1,000 for use of the space. The Riverside Community Health Foundation and the Pink Ribbon Place will be partnering, as will the Riverside Community Arts Association for the arts component. The show will consist of three components; local retailers' outfits, fashion as art using recycled materials, and outfits from the Pink Ribbon Place modeled by breast cancer survivors.

The June 23rd luncheon will be at Taco Station and feature Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes. Future luncheons are tentatively booked as follows: July 28th luncheon to be determined, September 22nd at Riverside Community Hospital, October 27th at Hyatt Place, and November 24th at Club Riv. Janice Penner said she will be asking the Fire Chief to present at the November luncheon.

13) New Business

Justin Tracy commented that there is no fire escape in the building. He added that something needs to be done with the dumpsters that are free standing and not able to be locked as people are leaving trash all around, and blue recycle bins that cannot be locked are magnets for the homeless. Lastly, he said it is high time they do a report of Worker's Compensation fraud, the increase of it in California, and what business owners can do to mitigate their risk. Desiree Massei said there is a group called Inland Legal Service in downtown who offer free workshops on various topics virtually and in person.

Chuck Beaty said he received a letter from State Patrol which said that the man who attacked him and other Council members and who was originally sentenced to 340 years in prison is up for parole on September 1st. This is not the first time the individual has been up for parole. They spoke to City Council about it yesterday and all seven of the Council members and the Mayor took a position against the parole, writing a letter for the parole board.

Jungmiwha Bullock said next month 8 to 16 students will be coming in from across the country for two weeks with all expenses paid. Her husband will be teaching oil painting, and she will be teaching the business of art. They will be in Riverside from July 25th to August 8th. On the August Artswalk they will open their gallery to the public for people to view the artwork the students created. She will be providing information to Janice Penner for the BID bulletin.

Cesar Gomez asked if there has been anything shared about the World Cup in terms of the businesses collaborative efforts to promote the event. Janice Penner said a lot of businesses have posted on their social media about what they are doing for the World Cup. Philip Falcone said the Farm House Collective is doing a large event for the World Cup.

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