



Minutes

Present: Amy Hoyt, Brian Percy, Bryan Crawford, Chuck Beaty, Collette Lee, Kyle Warsinski, Jennifer Gamble, Jesse De La Cruz, Joe Ramos, Joe Guzzetta, Mercedes Serano, Broc Yoshida, Nanci Larsen, Amber Schmeltz, Randy Hord, Ron Loveridge, Shalini Lockard, Sorelle Williams, Stan Morrison

Excused: Claire Oliveros, Justin Tracy, Shelby Worthington-Loomis

Absent: Andrew Walcker, Cherie Crutcher, Jean Eiselein, Lou Monville, Lynn Anderson, Philip Makhoul, Bob Nagle, Samuel Precie, Clarissa Cervantes, Melanie Bruins, Philip Falcone

Ex-Officio ABP / City Council: 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 Comment

Self-introductions and public comments were conducted.

3) Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2024.

Motion: To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting of October 9, 2024

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion carried.

4) Chair's Report

Shalini Lockard said one of the RDP's goals is to connect the Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) to the rest of the downtown, and she feels they have a good start to that. RCH recently hosted RDP's monthly luncheon in the Education Center with CEO Peter Hemstead talking about the expansion to the hospital and some of their programs. Janice Penner added that RCH would like to host the luncheon again although RDP will suggest RCH's G Tower as a location as people had difficulty finding parking.

5) Items for Discussion

5a) 2025 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony – Award Recipients – Motion

Janice Penner said the 2025 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 20, 2025 at the Riverside Convention Center. It was moved to February to avoid conflict with the Riverside Arts Council's Mayor's Ball and the Chamber's Inaugural Ball in March.

Janice Penner said Past Recipients and recommended 2025 recipients were shown on the provided document. The Executive Committee did discuss the recommendations and made a motion to approve the recommended recipients as listed.

Arts & Culture – UCR Arts; the Culver Center and California Museum of Photography

Business Activity – Riverside Arts Council's expanded Artswalk

Downtown Event – Miracles and Dreams Foundation backpack giveaway

Downtown Improvement – The Mark residential project

Safety and Security – Riverside Police Department National Night Out
Chairs Award – Rose Mayes

Motion: To Approve the Recommended Award Recipients as listed.

Motion made by: Brian Pearcy **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion carried.

5b) New Board Policies on Expenditure Approvals/Sponsorships – Motion

Shalini Lockard said the Executive Committee did discuss and made a motion to approve the recommended policies as outlined. Janice Penner said they discussed the Expenditure Approval policy with the CPA and put their informal policy into written form.

Proposed Board Policy Regarding Expenditure Approvals: The Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) prepares an annual budget for its July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. That budget identifies amounts to be spent within specific categories and in certain instances, identifies specific expenditures. All expenditures over \$15,000 that have not been previously identified and approval in RDP's annual budget are to be reviewed by the Executive and approved by the Board of Directors. If there is an amount in the budget for the category of expenditure, then the Executive Committee can approve expenditures up to \$15,000.

Proposed Board Policy Regarding Sponsorships: The Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) provides funding towards sponsorships of events and public art. The events and public art sponsored must reflect RDP's mission and values, and be consistent with the messaging for downtown as Riverside's arts and cultural district.

Motion: To Approve the Recommended Policies as Provided.

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Randy Hord

Motion carried.

6) Financial Reports

6a) Financial Report at October 31, 2024 - Motion

Janice Penner said the financial report for the month of October showed a year to date deficit of approximately \$31,805 compared to a budget deficit of \$43,392, resulting in a positive variance of \$11,587. BID Levy income was \$5,721 higher than budgeted which accounted for a portion of the variance. Timing of expenses accounted for the remainder.

As of October 31, 2024, RDP had \$274,226 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 \$287,082.

The accounts receivable was \$480. The accounts payable equaled \$3,976. The liability for accrued staff benefits (vacation and other time) to October 31, 2024 was \$54,045.

Motion: To Approve the October 31, 2024 Financial Report

Motion made by: Chuck Beaty **Motion Seconded by:** Joe Guzzetta

Motion carried

7) RDP Security Updates

Bryan Crawford said it was a busy time for the police with the Festival of Lights (FOL) quickly approaching. There are several more meetings happening before the switch-on ceremony to make sure everything is ready. The police department is ready to go with 140 police working the day of the switch-on ceremony and a crew working every night of FOL thereafter.

There was a shooting inside of Downtown Experiment a few weeks ago. It started as a fight between two males over a girl when one guy pulled a gun and the other tried to wrestle for control of the gun. The gunman's friend tried to calm the situation down and was shot in the leg. The suspect was arrested.

Poppy's Lounge has been operating without a permit. They have been cited, and the City turned off their utilities last week to force them into compliance.

Bryan Crawford said the home burglaries have slowed down a little but are still an ongoing investigation. They have trackers on some cars, and are hitting all over Southern California and shipping the stolen goods to New York. The police executed a warrant in Ontario yesterday on what they believed to be a stash house for some of the stolen goods, but he is unaware of the outcome of that search.

Collette Lee said she knows two people who recently lost their partners and who received scam emails threatening them in order to get money. She wanted to know if that was a common occurrence. Bryan Crawford said he just got a scam message the other day threatening him with legal action because he owed \$50,000 for something. He said that the scammers are targeting everyone and urged people not to respond to those types of messages. Shalini Lockard said her dad received a message on his phone saying they emptied out his bank accounts. Kyle Warsinski said most of it originates overseas and they are trying to trick people into giving their information up.

8) County of Riverside Updates

No one from the County was able to attend.

Janice Penner mentioned Jeff Greene provides a monthly article for RDP's monthly BID Bulletin, and referred people to that. A County representative from their real estate department did attend the Land Use meeting last month and provided information on the County owned properties in downtown. Janice Penner referred to those minutes for more information. There was also a map provided showing where the properties were located and she is currently working on getting a digital copy to distribute to Board and committee members.

9) Mayor's Office Update

Zoe Ridgeway said they have a new Chief of Staff in the Mayor's Office; her name is Mikaila Cruse who previously worked in Senator Roth's Office.

The Mayor was recently elected as the Chair for the Big City Mayors which is a coalition of the biggest 13 cities in California representing about 11 million residents. Prior to Mayor Bailey, Riverside was not on the coalition so it is a big opportunity for Riverside.

The State of the City event will be January 30, 2025.

Collette Lee said she saw the Mayor on the news recently talking about things happening at the river bottom, and asked Zoe Ridgeway to expand on it. Zoe Ridgeway said they are trying to put the 'river' back in Riverside and seeing what actionable items can be done. One is renovating the Armory at Fairmount Park and RFPs will be going out soon. The renovation will be a catalyst for development along the river bottom.

Janice Penner mentioned Top Golf and Kyle Warsinski said that there was an unsolicited offer to negotiate with the City on a property in Fairmount Park but there nothing formal at this point.

10) City Council Updates

Sarai Arellano said the FOL switch-on ceremony is November 23, and they are working with the Special Events team on proper barricade placement.

They will be having their Thanksgiving Dinner Give Away at Lincoln Park on November 22.

11) City Community Development Department Updates

Kyle Warsinski said the Armory is currently vacant. The City received Federal funding to help renovate the building. The RFP for that will hopefully be published in the next few weeks. They are looking to solicit interested operators for the building but they are not looking for a specific type of business at this time. The business would need to have a recreational component because the Armory is on the park property so they are looking at different operators that may be art related or restaurant related with some type of recreational activity. One good example is a for profit business that runs a restaurant and has pickle ball courts for people to use at the same time. The Parks Department will also be fixing up the lake and reinstating the paddleboats to get Fairmount Park back to being the gem of the City as in prior years.

The consultant finished their study on feasibility and size of the Convention Center expansion. They received a copy of the report late last week and are looking to read through it and see what the recommendations are, and then decide on whether to move forward with the expansion based on City Council's recommendation.

They completed their evaluation on the sports team and complex RFP. They are endeavoring to determine the feasibility of a professional or semi-professional sports team within the City of Riverside. They are not telling the consultant to focus on any one type of sports team; instead they will be looking at both indoor and outdoor sports and where the sport complex could potentially be located. This study should be getting started within the next month or so.

Janice Penner asked if there was any update on garages 1 and 2. Kyle Warsinski said Nathan Mustafa or Chris Christopoulos would have to provide an update. A discussion of the benefits of having a pickle ball or Top Golf establishment at Fairmount, and the two sports took place.

12) Items for Information

12a) County Owned Buildings in the Downtown Center

Janice Penner stated Vincent Yzaquirre, Assistant Director of the County of Riverside Real Estate Division, attended the RDP Land Use Committee meeting on October 17 to discuss county-owned buildings downtown. She referred the Board to the Land Use minutes for more information.

12b) Renewal of BID Levy Hearing on November 19, 2024

Janice Penner said the Public Hearing is scheduled for 3 pm on November 19. The Chair will be presenting to City Council. The Annual Renewal Report and PowerPoint Presentation are available on the RDP website.

12c) Monthly Luncheons

Janice Penner said the November 26 luncheon will be at the Hyatt Place Riverside with Police Chief Larry Gonzalez as the speaker. There will be no luncheon in December due to the Holiday Reception. The RDP Holiday Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 from 11 am to 2 pm at Loft.84. The Security meeting for the month of December will be rescheduled due to the Holiday Reception being on Wednesday this year.

The January 28, 2025 luncheon will be at Palenque by Mezcal with Alyssa Digangi of Stronghold Engineering speaking about the Farm House Collective on University and Sandrine Cassidy of Environmental Innovations speaking about the relaunch of the City's Green Business Program. There will be no luncheon in February due to the Annual Meeting.

The March 25, 2025 luncheon is tentatively scheduled at the new The State restaurant in the Walling Building and the April 22, 2025 luncheon scheduled at the Riverside Game Lab with Bricks and Birch providing the food. Speakers have not been secured for either luncheon.

12d) Other Activities and New Items

Janice Penner said RDP is working with the organizers of the Metrolink Holiday Express Train for its stop at the Riverside Downtown station on Saturday, December 7. Families can attend the welcome event at 9 am and then board the train at 10:30 am, or the welcome event at noon and board the train at 1:30 pm. The welcome event will be family-friendly activities and booths hosted by local organizations and music, along with the Miracle and Dreams Foundation Polar Bear.

The Riverside edition of Monopoly has been released and is now available for sale at the Mission Inn Foundation store and on Amazon. RDP has prominent placement on the board in return for providing connections to businesses who might be interested in placement.

The RDP Holiday Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 from 11 am to 2 pm at Loft.84.

13) New Business

Sorelle Williams said with FOL coming up there is a lot of hot chocolate and other sticky drinks spilled on the sidewalks. She said Main Street gets power washed during the event but wanted to know if it was possible for the side streets to be power washed periodically as well. Also, if more trashcans can be added on the side streets as well because FOL generates a lot of trash.

Janice Penner said RDP could provide temporary trashcans and liners in the interim to use on Sixth Street. RDP is already lending some temporary trashcans to DragonMarsh because of all the trash the food vendors are leaving in the alleyway by their business. Sarai Arellano said she believes there are more big belly trashcans on order but she will double check that as many had been installed for the APA Conference. She also said that a good majority of the proceeds from FOL would be used to refresh the mall after the event is over.

Brian Percy asked if they can get a report from the Councilman's office as to what is the plan for roadway rehab/repairs in the downtown area. Market Street and Main Street both need some serious repair. Sarai Arellano said she can provide that information at an upcoming meeting. People can also visit the City's website which has a paving map that shows what has been paved and what areas are in the plans to be repaved. Janice Penner said they would make it an agenda item in January.

14) Adjournment – Next Meeting Date December 11, 2024 at 8:30 am.