

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors Meeting, January 14, 2021**

Board Members Present: Jay Ashford, Zandile Christian, Fran Donohue, Tomasz Finc, Chris Harper, Julie Johnson, Marjorie Jones, Marion Mills, Ryan Romaneski, Daniel Swafford, Victoria Wake, Kevin Whittinghill

Board Members Absent: Ben Stein-Lobovits, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson

Guest: Amauri Collins-McMurray, Council District 4 Office

Abbreviations used: BID (Business Improvement District); DB&PA (Dimond Business and Professional Association); DPW (Oakland Department of Public Works); FODP (Friends of Dimond Park); OPD (Oakland Police Department)

The meeting was convened via Zoom at approximately 7:05 p.m.

1. **Agenda approval.**

ACTION: Approve the meeting agenda as presented. (Motion: Marion; second: Jay; in favor, unanimous)

2. **Minutes approval.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from December board meeting. (Motion: Chris; second: Marion; in favor, unanimous)

3. **Chair's report.** Ryan has submitted the BID feasibility study paperwork to release the grant and should hear back from the Department of Economic and Workforce Development soon. Daniel has submitted an application on DIA's behalf for a \$15,000 competitive COVID relief grant, in light of the significant revenue reduction from cancelling a traditional Oaktobefest last year. Ben has requested a couple months leave of absence from the board due to medical treatment.

4. **District 4 report.** Amauri gave the following updates:

Dimond Park. Finishing the tennis court resurfacing has been somewhat delayed due to weather. Discussions continue on the issue of fence height reported on previously. FODP has been asked to identify its top three to five priorities for additional park work; these will be presented to DPW. Marion sits on the FODP board and will see that the priorities are submitted. She also noted problems with garbage pick-up in the park, which is supposed to happen on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

City Budget. There is a citywide hiring freeze due to the \$62 million budget shortfall, although the promised park maintenance positions are being filled. An issue on the table is the clearing of homeless camps. OPD has been pulled from the duty, despite DPW's request that police accompany its staff when on these assignments.

Councilmember Thao. The councilmember's current three committee assignments are Public Works, Finance, and Rules, and she serves as the chairperson on Rules.

5. **For the good of the order.** Victoria announced that the League of Women Voters of Oakland will hold a "post-election" Zoom presentation and discussion on January 27. She will send information to the board and also publicize the event on the news group and Nextdoor. She also reported that John Zaro, David Coleman, and she would be meeting with Sabrina Jones, the manager of the City's SeeClickFix/311 system to talk about the processing of requests and complaints from the public. Chris shared that seeing the setting crescent moon the previous night he had warm thoughts of Rejoyce Stovall-Moss, a DIA board member, singer, and community activist who passed away some years ago.

6. **Merchant survey.** Marjorie let the board know that DB&PA will be conducting a survey of Dimond merchants to gather information and perspectives on the well-being and needs of the commercial area. She invited board members to send her ideas on questions to include in the survey, which will be issued via email and then followed up with in-person visits. DB&PA is hoping the survey will increase awareness of and participation in the merchants group. Currently there are four people on the board, which ideally could be increased to seven or eight.

7. **Retreat preparation.** Ryan reviewed the agenda for the January 16 board retreat, to be held via Zoom. The objectives for the day will be to "build relationships and trust across the board through opportunities to learn from, and with, each other—and have fun!—and to improve communication and collaboration by partnering with one another to drive collective priorities forward." Topics will include committee goals, 2021 general meetings, fiscal year 2021-22 budget, and board recruitment.

8. **Work in Progress (WIP) reports** (*from written reports*).

Communications. At its December 30 meeting, the committee (plus new Membership Committee additions) decided to move forward with the purchase of four additional A-frames to both replace an existing broken sign and to have extras.

Public Safety. At its January 6 meeting, the committee conferred with John Zaro of the Neighborhood Council 22X and together decided to co-write a letter to Councilmember Thao. The letter will ask her to help the groups establish a better working relationship with the OPD Community Resource Officer assigned to the Dimond.

Adjournment. Ryan adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Next board meeting: February 11, 2021

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake
Approved Feb. 11, 2021*