

**Dimond Improvement Association  
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 2/8/18**

**Board members present at start of meeting:** Zandile Christian, Fran Donohue, Katherine Kott, Ryan Romaneski, Jennifer Joey Smith, Daniel Swafford, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake.

**Arriving later:** Julie Johnson, Marion Mills. **Absent:** Ahmad Anderson, Robert Raburn.

**Guests:** Iowayna Peña.

**Abbreviations used in minutes:** (CHP) California Highway Patrol; (DB&PA) Dimond Business & Professional Association; (FOSC) Friends of Sausal Creek; (OPD) Oakland Police Department.

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Joey convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**1. Approval of agenda.**

ACTION: Approve agenda as prepared. (Motion: Katherine; Second: Ryan; in favor, unanimous)

**2. Improving Board meetings.** Victoria suggested that we apply the ground rules used at the retreat to our board meetings, and a couple more were added. She also proposed that our officers brush up on Robert's Rules of Order and other meeting resources. Katherine suggested the book *Great Meetings!: Great Results*. It was noted that an original objective of the WIP reports was to streamline the board meetings by capturing information-only updates in written form.

**3. December minutes.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from December 14 board meeting. (Motion: Marion; Second: Daniel; in favor, 5; opposed, 0; abstain, 3 [Daniel, Joey, Zandile])

**4. Volunteer of the Year selection.** Katherine led the board in further discussion and voting, as follow-up to the initial brainstorming at the retreat. David Coleman was selected and Mohammed Alawdi was selected as "Emerging Volunteer of the Year," a new category. An ad hoc committee of Julie, Katherine, Marion, and JoAnn will plan and coordinate the recognition for the April general meeting.

**5. General meetings for 2018.** Ryan led the board in further discussion and selection of topics for the remaining 2018 meetings, with these results: public art, board election, volunteer of the year (April); Dimond past, present and future, 65<sup>th</sup> DIA anniversary (June); TBD (August); state and local elections (October). The ad hoc committee for the April meeting (other than volunteer recognition) is Ryan, Julie, JoAnn, and Victoria.

**6. Council District 4 report.** Iowayna reported the following from Annie Campbell-Washington's office:

- District 4 Local Heroes Ceremony is coming up in the Laurel on February 24. She encouraged us to nominate community members who should be honored.
- OPD seems to be doing some reorganizing in its Neighborhood Services and Neighborhood Council programs.

- The office is working on the combination of issues with CVS, including litter, graffiti, and alcohol sales to panhandlers and homeless.
- The office is also working with Joe DeVries, the city's liaison with Caltrans about homeless issues.
- No news regarding progress at Bombero (Champion Firehouse).

Iowayna will call Marion to talk more about follow-up to the homeless and panhandling issues discussed at the meeting with Annie in November.

**7. Keep Dimond Clean fundraiser planning.** There was extensive discussion on possible approaches to the KDC fundraiser this year, including business sponsorships, large donor and grant prospects, community volunteer expertise, and the skills of incoming board members. Further discussion and direction-setting to come.

**8. Beautification Committee allocation request.** Victoria presented the request for funds from the committee's 2017-18 budget. There was discussion as to whether the request needed to come to the board or if it could be assumed acceptable within the committee's budgeted \$4,000.

*ACTION:* Approve an allocation of \$910 from the Beautification Committee's current year budget for projected expenses through March 31, including tree-planting, mulching, landscape maintenance, and supply & tool costs. (Motion: Joey; Second: Katherine; in favor, unanimous)

**9. Nominating Committee update.** JoAnn reported that the committee has three potential candidates at this point, all with good skills and sincere interest in the community. Another pitch for candidates will be made in the upcoming DIA newsletter (Katherine) and the Sequoia School newsletter (Joey).

**10. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.**

*Beautification.* Victoria reported in written status that three new trees will likely be planted February 24; the Woodbine Corner rockbed expansion has been completed; and Bienati Overlook now has native plantings provided by FOSC. Committee members met with Peralta Services Corporation to scope costs for possible contracted watering service and an estimate is expected from a landscaper to do one-time major maintenance at Champion Transit Plaza.

*Economic Development.* Joey reported on two potential new development interests in the Dimond and board members shared their initial thoughts.

*Homeless & Panhandling.* Marion reported that the committee met this week and added to its proposed goals that they would also continue to report panhandling and homeless issues to OPD, CHP, and Caltrans. She also encouraged board members to do the same.

*Oaktoberfest.* Daniel reported that the 2018 Oaktoberfest planning committee will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 6:00pm, at Hive, starting in February. The board is supportive of a two-day event again this year. Daniel talked about it at DB&PA's recent meeting.

*February 7 General Meeting.* Joey reported on the meeting, which featured the city’s CORE program manager presenting the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” emergency preparedness slide show. Joey suggested that socializing time be built into future general meetings.

**11. Retreat follow-up.** Victoria reported on next steps, including the preparation of a draft budget by the Finance and Executive committees, and the request that all committees meet or connect in February to review input they received at the retreat and refine their proposed goals. Daniel suggested that projects and programs be delineated in a spreadsheet and requested budget, if any, be noted for each. Ryan suggested that the proposed goals as a whole be organized into themes rather than exclusively by committee. Victoria and Joey will send out further guidance. Victoria also reported that a brand strategist who lives in the district is interested in getting involved and would volunteer her time to lead the board in a workshop.

**Adjournment.** Joey adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**Next board meeting:** March 8, 2018

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake  
Approved March 8, 2018*