

Dimond Improvement Association

Board of Directors Meeting April 8, 2021

Board Members Present: Jay Ashford, Zandile Christian, Tomasz Finc, Julie Johnson, Marjorie Jones, Marion Mills, Ryan Romaneski, Daniel Swafford, Kevin Whittinghill, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson

**Board Members Absent:** Victoria Wake, Chris Harper. Ben Stein-Lobovits, on leave

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM

**1. Agenda approval.**

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

**2. Minutes approval.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from March DIA board meeting. (motion: Tomasz; second Julie 10 yeas, 1 abstention)

**3. Chair's report.** Ryan is looking forward to more in person activities in FY 2022. He will keep meetings accessible via zoom or in person. Fran has resigned from the board. Marion and Daniel will resign from the board at the end of April. The board will acknowledge their contributions at a future date. Victoria is on sabbatical until July 1. There will be new board member elections at the April 27 general meeting. Ryan asked for a volunteer for secretary at the DIA board meeting May 13. Please contact him, if interested.

**4. District 4 report.** Daniel announced that Amauri has left Sheng's office and is now working for Housing and Homeless in Oakland. JoAnn said the Crucible is working with the DIA on the Dimond Printer sign.

**5. For the good of the order.** Kevin announced that Bombera

Restaurant is on target for opening, end of April.

6. **Board Slate for FY 2022.** There are five candidates: Alex Park: researcher, writer, journalist; David Gross: lawyer, interested in creating open spaces; Lindsey Vontz: experience in marketing and event planning; Bret Peterson: interested in safety issues; Sara Goldwell: college administrator.

ACTION: Motion to advance candidates to general meeting election (Kevin; second: Daniel; 10 yeas, 1 abstention)

7. **Board member orientation.** Kevin developed an orientation guide on google drive for new board members. The purpose is to make the process of learning about DIA less stressful. The title is DIA Onboarding Presentation. Comments from the board include: this will give context to DIA; there should be a mentor for each new board member; discuss committee assignments, structure, meeting schedule, google drives and docs; there should be discussion about the Dimond neighborhood and community functions; have new board members visit committees for 30 minutes; a comprehensive orientation to DIA will help with retention. Tomasz can bring back appointments for tech support on google drive. Kevin will work with Jay to reach out to new board members.

8. **Budget.** FY 2022. Ryan stated that, deficit of \$20,759 will be covered by reserve funds.

ACTION: Approve FY 2022 DIA budget as presented (motion: Marjorie; Second: Jay; in favor, unanimous)

9. **April 27 DIA General Meeting on Zoom.** Will include:  
DIA board old and new member elections  
Public Safety Speaker and presentation: traffic issues, Neighborhood Watch organization, and Beat 22X organization.

10. **Volunteer of the year presentation.** There are two winners this year, to be announced at the April 27 General Meeting. Jay and Zandile will discuss additional honorable awards, later, in committee.

ACTION: accept the nominated volunteers of the year (Motion: Tomasz; second JoAnn) unanimous.

11. **Responding to Asian Violence.** Ryan cited areas of conflict and violence against Asian Americans. He asked board members for suggestions on how DIA would respond. Marion: a statement from DIA condemning the violence and asking OPD to increase surveillance. Marjorie suggested asking experts on what can be done at the DIA General meeting. JoAnn: let people know that their civic duty is to be actively involved when witnessing violence against the Asian community. Ryan: there's an agency called "Hollaback" that trains persons on anti-harassment techniques for by-standers to use. He will send them an email on how DIA can participate. Also putting a statement in the newsletter on condemning Asian violence and mentioning our concerns at the General Meeting on April 27 is warranted.

12. **WIP reports.** Chairs of committees gave additional comments on written WIP reports.

13. **Action Plan for next month:** please email Ryan if you wish to be secretary for the DIA May 13 board meeting. Ryan will plan a celebration for the retiring board members.

**Adjournment** at 8:58 PM. Minutes written by Marion Mills

Approved 5/13/2021