

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 5/9/19**

Board members present at start of meeting: Jay Ashford, Fran Donohue, Tomasz Finc, Chris Harper, Marion Mills, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Arriving later:** Robert Raburn. **Absent:** Ahmad Anderson, Zandile Christian, Julie Johnson, Ryan Romaneski, Daniel Swafford, **Guests:** Amauri Collins-McMurray, Sheng Thao.

Abbreviations used in minutes: DB&PA (Dimond Business & Professional Association); DPA (Dimond Public Art).

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

1. Discussion with Councilmember Sheng Thao. Sheng briefed the board on the city's budget process, now underway. She is meeting with key groups in her district to hear their thoughts and concerns. The board homed in on three priorities:

(1) Park Maintenance: The mayor's budget proposes freezing eight vacant park positions and continuing to use those funds for overtime. Landscaping & Lighting Assessment District revenues, the major source of funding for parks, have not kept up with needs; a property tax measure to increase the assessment will likely be on the November 2020 ballot. Amauri and Sheng will work on addressing some immediate park issues, including inadequate garbage receptacles and collection.

(2) Police coverage: Sheng said that police assignments seem to be in continual flux and she intends to determine why the Dimond is not getting the beat officer and Community Resource Officer coverage it should. She will be scheduling a "safety walk" in the Dimond, during which all officers assigned to the area will walk with her to meet and talk to all the merchants.

(3) Business Improvement District (BID) feasibility study funds: Sheng will look into the status of this program, which used to grant study funds to commercial neighborhoods. She stressed that it's important to determine if there is likely to be sufficient support for a BID in the Dimond before undertaking a study.

2. Agenda approval.

ACTION: Approve the agenda with the addition of Victoria's item regarding a December event. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Jay; in favor, unanimous)

3. April minutes approval.

Approval of minutes was moved to the June meeting. Victoria will distribute a revised version of Marion's draft minutes with some reformatting.

4. Chair's report. Chris talked about his intention to get a budget approved at the June meeting, with everyone's help between now and then.

5. Council District 4 report. Amauri reported that the permitting process for Grand Lake Kitchen and Bombero is moving forward. Robert asked about the status of the cannabis dispensary since it's been scaffolded for some time without apparent progress; Amauri will check into it. The council has received the information about DIA's Volunteer Fair on June 5 and will include it in their May newsletter.

6. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.

Beautification. Two fortnight lillies (thinned from the transit plaza) were planted in the tree well in front of Flavor Brigade, and store staff is watering them; the well could not be replanted with a tree per utility clearance guidelines. Two silver linden trees will be planted on Dimond Ave. adjacent to Grand Lake Kitchen in the next two weeks. Scoping for additional tree-well mulching in the commercial area is underway. An unknown vandal weed-whacked the native plants at the Bienati Overlook just before Earth Day; volunteers salvaged as much as they could. A "Beauty Spots" webpage has been created to profile planted areas maintained by volunteers; committee member Alex Park is interviewing the stewards. The committee intends to apply for a 2019 Keep Oakland Beautiful Small Grant.

Communications. Tomasz wrote PHP code to generate automatic notices to members one month before their membership expires, followed by notices at two weeks and at expiration. Issues with website speed are being looked into. Publicity is going well for the June general meeting, with Kathleen Russell taking the lead. The new A-frames will be used for the first time. JoAnn is producing the May newsletter, to be issued mid-month.

Head Royce School (HRS). Chris, Daniel, JoAnn, and Victoria attended the school's master plan update meeting on May 8. Community concerns focused on neighborhood impacts and congestion on Lincoln Avenue as a result of the proposed increase in enrollment, and the building of a loop road and performing arts center.

Maintenance services agreement. DB&PA has agreed to co-fund the expanded services agreement; the ad hoc committee will now go into final negotiation with the company and finalize the agreement.

October 2 general meeting. Robert has spoken with Louise Anderson of the League of Women Voters (LWV) about partnering with DIA to facilitate the "meet your local officials" evening. She will confirm some time in June, following the next LWV meeting.

7. June 5 General Meeting. JoAnn reported on planning and publicity to date for the meeting, which will be a "Volunteer Fair." The ad hoc committee, which also includes Ahmad and Chris, will be working to recruit additional community groups to present and to spread the word to bring in the public, including youth. Jay offered to help get announcements to several middle and high schools.

8. Draft Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. Chris presented the work of the budget ad hoc committee (Chris, Fran, JoAnn, Victoria), incorporating estimated revenue and requested funds from each committee that responded to Chris's request. Committees were asked to further review the figures on the team drive document (Cmte: Finance folder) and insert comments as desired.

9. December event. Victoria suggested that we explore holding a holiday pancake breakfast at Bjornson Hall, teaming up with the Sons of Norway. The event would present an opportunity to partner with another Dimond group, and draw from both groups' membership and supporters. It could be called "Dimond Lights," and perhaps include a craft aspect, but be less labor-intensive for DPA than the events of the past several years. There was general interest, and Victoria will talk with DPA co-chairs Julie and Ryan, to see what they think.

Adjournment. Chris adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Next board meeting: June 13, 2019

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake

Approved 7/11/19