

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 7/11/19**

Board members present at start of meeting: Jay Ashford, Zandile Christian, Tomasz Finc, Chris Harper, Julie Johnson, Robert Raburn, Ryan Romaneski, Daniel Swafford, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Arriving 7:45 p.m.:** Fran Donohue. **Absent:** Marion Mills. **Guests:** Amauri Collins-McMurray (City Council District 4), Calanit Kamala (DB&PA), Stefania Pombo (BayWheels), Justin Nguyen (BayWheels).

Abbreviations used in minutes: DB&PA (Dimond Business & Professional Association).

Chris convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Agenda approval.

ACTION: Approve the agenda as presented. (Motion: Robert; Second: Tomasz; in favor, unanimous)

2. BayWheels. Stefania Pombo and Justin Nguyen, representatives of the new, Lyft-owned, bike-sharing program BayWheels, briefed the board on its plan to establish a presence in the Dimond. Its bicycles are electric battery-assist and can be docked at any bike rack or at BayWheels multi-bike stationary racks. Customers access the bikes via phone app and pay \$2 per ride or \$15 per month; the bikes will also available at \$5.00 for the first year to qualified low-income Oaklanders; and the system is Clipper-compatible. The board had various questions and recommendations, with a particular concern about where bikes will be left in the district. BayWheels would like to make a presentation to the larger Dimond community at a future public meeting.

3. Various minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from the January 10 board meeting. (Motion: Tomasz; Second: JoAnn; in favor, 10; opposed, 0; abstain, 1 [Jay])

ACTION: Approve minutes from the April 3 general meeting. (Motion: Robert; Second: Tomasz; in favor, unanimous)

ACTION: Approve minutes from the April 11 board meeting. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Jay; in favor, 8; opposed, 0; abstain, 3 [Fran, Victoria, Zandile])

ACTION: Approve minutes from the May 9 board meeting. (Motion: Jay; Second: Tomasz; in favor, 7; opposed, 0; abstain, 4 [Daniel, Julie, Ryan, Zandile])

4. Chair's report. Chris talked about the importance of board members notifying the chair as early as possible if they cannot attend a board meeting. He has set up a google invitation system, which should help. (Note: Chris notified the board earlier in the day via email that board member Ahmad Anderson has resigned.)

5. Council District 4 report. Amauri reported on elements in the recently approved city budget that affect the Dimond, including \$20,000 allocated for a business improvement district feasibility study and \$300,000 allocated for renovation of the park tennis courts. Dimond Park will also benefit, along with other city parks, with the filling of 8.5 parks maintenance positions and the addition of 1.5 positions dedicated to keeping park toilets functioning. Amauri has been spending many hours on the trash pick-up issue in the park. He has spoken and met with many of the key players. The basic tension

is between the need for more trash cans and pick-ups vs. city staffing and assignments. Amauri has asked for 15 more receptacles and two pick-ups a week.

6. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.

Beautification. Victoria reported that DIA was awarded a \$800 grant from Keep Oakland Beautiful for ivy removal, fencing improvements, and signage at Bienati Overlook. More tree-well mulching will happen on August 2, as well as moving and replanting of moraea in three new locations. The committee will rig up protection for the Champion Transit Plaza landscape during Oakttoberfest.

Communications. JoAnn reported that Victoria will initiate some reordering of pages and content on the website, including the introduction of a news section. Tomasz has been working to solve several issues with the Paid Memberships Pro program, including the handling of expired memberships and recurring membership payments. The next newsletter will be issued ~August 15.

Dimond Public Art. Roberto Costa and associates have begun installing mosaics on the lightpole bases in the Bienati parking lots. The mosaics are themed with local activities and nature.

Economic Development. Daniel reported that Active Method (formerly Montclair Physical Therapy), which is moving into the old CitiBank location, might be interested in using the old Dimond Printers sign that DIA salvaged some years ago.

Keep Dimond Clean. JoAnn asked all board members to sign up to help table for the KDC fundraiser on one (or more) of three dates: August 17, August 31, and September 7, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Zandile pointed out that KDC litter volunteers would likely help as well. JoAnn also asked for participation in one-on-one solicitation of Dimond merchants.

Oakttoberfest. Daniel reported that event planning is underway. Signatures from merchants for the street closures have been secured. The planning committee will hold its first meeting later in July.

Dimond Picnic. JoAnn will contact Karen Marie Schroeder about coordinating a DIA table.

August general meeting. Jay and Tomasz reported that the meeting date and location will be August 15 at Hive. (Note: This date was later changed to August 27.)

October 2 general meeting. Robert received confirmation from the League of Women Voters that they will facilitate the “meet your local officials” evening.

7. Acknowledgement of merchant contributions to KDC. Robert suggested that DIA acknowledge the contributions of Dimond merchants to the Keep Dimond Clean program by producing a recognition sticker for storefront windows. There was some discussion of sticker design and wording; responsibility for next steps was not determined.

8. Storage space. Tomasz has talked with Camille and Rishi, owners of the old Dimond Printers, about the possibility of using space in their building to store DIA materials and equipment. They have generously agreed and will draw up an agreement providing DIA space for a six-month period (with possible extensions, depending on construction in the building) and limiting access to two or three board members. (Note: This arrangement proved unfeasible and the search continues.)

9. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. Chris reviewed the proposed budget. Victoria explained her recommendation that the grants/sponsorships expense line be increased to enable more organizations to do worthy projects in the Dimond, and to put more of the growing Oakttoberfest proceeds to good use.

ACTION: Approve increasing the Grants/Sponsorship expense line from \$3,000 to \$8,000. (Motion: Ryan; Second: Zandile; in favor, unanimous)

ACTION: Approve the proposed FY20 budget, totaling \$70,750 in income and \$70,750 in expenses, pending agreement of DB&PA on \$16,320 in cost-sharing requests. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Zandile; in favor, unanimous)

An ad hoc committee of Victoria, Ryan, Fran, and Jay was formed to develop draft guidelines and process for the expanded grants program.

10. Committee structure. Chris presented two changes to the committee structure: The Finance Committee will be folded into the Executive Committee; the Homeless & Panhandling Committee will be folded into the Public Safety Committee.

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

Next board meeting: August 8, 2019

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake
Approved 8/8/19*