

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 10/11/18**

Board members present at start of meeting: Ahmad Anderson, Tomasz Finc, Chris Harper, Julie Johnson, Marion Mills, Ryan Romaneski, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Arriving later:** Fran Donohue, Robert Raburn, Daniel Swafford. **Absent:** Zandile Christian. **Guests:** Mona Barra-Gibson, Jen Katz.

Abbreviations used in minutes: DPW (Oakland Department of Public Works)

Chris convened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

1. Agenda approval.

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

2. September minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from the September 13 board meeting. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Tomasz; in favor, unanimous)

3. Council District 4 Report. Mona introduced herself as Annie Campbell-Washington's new chief of staff and expressed her commitment to address issues as feasible between now and the end of Annie's term. The discussion focused on three areas:

- *Following through to set up a meeting with CVS management, city representatives, and community stakeholders.* JoAnn and Victoria will forward to Mona the prospective attendees discussed with Iowayna Peña in the past.
- *Fixing the ongoing problem with overflowing city trash cans in the commercial area.* DPW's attention is inadequate and the collection seems to happen mostly when individuals submit a See-Click-Fix request for each can. Board members would like to see DPW's collection schedule and know how it compares to that of the Montclair and Laurel districts.
- *Following through on specific actions promised on panhandling in the district.* The action list dates back to a November 2017 meeting with DIA Homeless & Panhandling Committee members and the council office.

Mona will follow up on the above and will make a point of keeping DIA better informed when steps are taken so we can be assured that efforts and progress are being made.

4. Chair's report. Chris encouraged all board members to start seeking out prospective new board members. Building back to a full board will help us share the workload and move forward with our many ambitions.

5. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.

Beautification. Marion reported that 200 daffodil bulbs have been ordered from Keep Oakland Beautiful (KOB); she will let the board know the November planting date so others can join in. Victoria reported that DIA's application was successful for a \$500 grant from KOB to offset costs for the Champion Transit Plaza landscape renovation; the renovation will happen this Saturday; a watering schedule with volunteers is being set up and Tazah Market is kindly letting us use their water.

Dimond Public Art. Julie reported that 15 artists participated in the Oaktoberfest Art in the Street, with fee proceeds of \$773 going to event revenue. She would like to arrange for a less noisy location next year. Ryan reported that the committee is nearing completion of a Master Art Plan, working with input from the February general meeting. It will focus on three sites in the Dimond, looking at two to three concepts for each site, and will incorporate a youth component. Dates and location for Dimond Lights are TBD.

Oaktoberfest. Daniel announced the event debrief for October 23, 6:00 p.m., at Hive. Marion asked about the booth numbers painted in the street; Daniel said they should wear off in a relatively short time.

Head Royce School. JoAnn reported that several board members attended the September 20 tour of the prospective “south campus.” She also attended her first meeting as a member of the Neighborhood Liaison Committee, which reviews the school’s compliance with its existing city “conditions of approval.” Relations between the school and the community remain tense, particularly about the new master plan in development. The neighbors are asking the school to provide more information and a mechanism for timely, meaningful discussion now, rather than waiting until a later point in the planning.

65th Anniversary Celebration. Board members reported that the party went very well, although attendance was less than hoped for. Suggestions were made for broader publicity, a larger budget, and redirection for those who went to the wrong location.

General meeting, October 3. Robert reported that the event was a great success, with standing room only into the hallway. All Council District 4 candidates participated. JoAnn will post the video to the website and send out a link via the news group.

6. Pumpkin patch support. Daniel explained that the owner of the property between the Shell station and Bienati Way is looking to make interim productive uses of the space until a development plan is in place. Initial ideas include a Hallowe’en pumpkin patch, followed by a Christmas tree lot. A portion of the proceeds would be contributed to DIA. Some board members expressed concern about competition with Farmer Joe’s, but there was general support for making use of the space.

ACTION: Convey to the lot owner that DIA is supportive of interim commercial uses for the space, with a portion of the proceeds going to DIA for charitable purposes. (Motion: Daniel; Second: Fran; in favor, 8; opposed, 0; abstain, 2 [Marion, Victoria])

7. District 4 priorities. Victoria reported that Dimond Park maintenance and tree replacement came out on top in the online poll to determine the third of three priorities to present to the council office. The next step is for the assigned committees to each draft a paragraph to combine in a letter: Public Safety and Homeless & Panhandling committees (police presence); Economic Development Committee (opening and sale of specific commercial spaces); Beautification Committee (park maintenance and tree replacement). The committees will send their drafts to the full board by Friday, October 26, for review and comment. The letter will be finalized at the November board meeting.

Adjournment. Chris adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Next board meeting: November 8, 2018

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake

Approved 11/6/18