

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors Meeting, 12/10/20**

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

Board Members Absent: Fran Donohue, Ben Stein-Lobovits

Guest: Amauri Collins-McMurray, Council District 4 Office

The meeting was convened at approximately 7:15 p.m.

1. **Agenda approval.**

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

2. **Minutes approval.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from September. (Motion: Jay; second: Julie; in favor, unanimous)

ACTION: Approve minutes from October. (Motion: Victoria; second: JoAnn; in favor, unanimous)

ACTION: Approve minutes from November. (Motion: Jay; second: Zandile; in favor, unanimous)

3. **Chair's report.** Ryan announced that Paul Epstein has resigned from the board. Since Paul served as Recorder, Ryan asked Victoria to take minutes for this meeting and asked that anyone interested in serving out the Recorder's term through March contact him.

Ryan reminded board members to complete the Doodle poll with their availability for board retreat dates in January.

4. **District 4 report.** Amauri gave the following updates:

Thanksgiving. More than 1,000 meals were given away at the Planet Fitness parking lot and homeless encampments.

Dimond Park. Replacement cost for the damaged tennis court fence was covered by an insurance claim. The complaint from the apartment neighbors to the west of the courts about the taller profile of the redesigned fence has not yet been resolved. The council office has asked City staff to restore the grounds outside the courts, which were significantly damaged during the court resurfacing.

Bombera. The City's sales agreement (Disposition and Development Agreement) for the firehouse station property has been extended, including permission for the restaurant to

stay open until 11:00 p.m. Opening date for Bombera will be the end of the year, at the earliest.

City Budget. The City is projecting a \$62 million budget shortfall, which means cuts to previously approved projects are likely. Marion asked if Measure Q funds are in danger of being diverted from their main purpose of supporting Oakland parks and recreation programs. Amauri doesn't think so but he will check. Ryan offered that DIA would be happy to write letters of support on budget matters, if needed.

BID Feasibility Study. Amauri asked for an update from DIA. Ryan responded that he met with Micah Hinkle from the Economic and Workforce Development Department to finalize the grant document. Ryan expects it to be signed by the end of the year.

5. **For the good of the order.** Ryan invited the Board to offer reports on what they are doing and working on outside of the DIA. JoAnn shared that the Potomac Street neighbors continue to protest the use of their Slow Street by Head-Royce parents during drop-offs and pick-ups. Although Councilmember Thao held a town hall meeting with the school, city staff, and the community on Nov. 23, the issue has not been resolved and is becoming more contentious.

6. **New committee formation.** Ryan invited each of the prospective new committees to report out their proposed name, purpose, and scope of work, along with opportunities they see to collaborate with other committees. Other board members were invited to ask questions, and make comments and suggestions.

For next steps, Ryan asked the committees to continue working on these elements and also be prepared in January, at either the board meeting or board retreat, to announce chairs and have draft goals for FY21. The goals, the organizational priorities they support, and the activities and timeframes involved should be entered into the spreadsheet provided by Ryan. He reiterated the importance of using the SMART goal model: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

7. **Work in Progress (WIP) reports** (*from written & verbal reports*).

Beautification. The committee met Dec. 1 and discussed tree-well mulching, the dead tree at the library, the search for an additional concrete planter for the Champion St. entrance to Farmer Joe's parking lot, and the new combined committee structure for next year. Later, it was decided to put on hold the group work on tree-well mulching until the first of the year due to the renewed pandemic restrictions.

Communications. The committee met Nov. 23 and discussed the future merger with the Membership & Volunteer Development Committee. Work continues on making immediate updates and structural improvements to the website. One of the A-frames needs repair or replacing; the cost is being assessed.

Grants. Of the eight 2020 grants, Dirndl Diaspora is the only project completed to date. Five others are in progress and two have not begun.

Keep Dimond Clean. Saturday KDC litter pick-ups resumed Dec. 5 with six volunteers showing up. Dimond Park weekly litter pick-ups were suspended until at least the first of the year.

David Coleman, John Zaro, and Victoria met with the City's Public Works and Waste Mgt. managers on Dec. 3 to discuss issues with commercial area trash collection, deployment and maintenance of receptacles, illegal dumping, and the 311/SeeClickFix system. It was a very informative and productive meeting that should lead to better communications and service quality. David, John, and Victoria have follow-up tasks and will continue to report back to the board on progress.

Membership & Volunteer Development. In November, the committee initiated and ran a Mini-Membership Campaign, asking each board member to contact five neighbors, friends, or associates to encourage them to join. While it's difficult to determine which new memberships may have resulted directly from the campaign, six new members joined in the past month, for a current total of 86.

Head-Royce School. Neighbors on Potomac Ave., strongly opposed to Head-Royce's use of their Slow Street, have now partnered with the Neighborhood Steering Committee (NSC) to fight the use of the street by parents during drop-off and pick-up times at the school. Weekly Wednesday protests are being held to promote the cause and distribute flyers. Neighbors on adjoining streets are starting to show interest, given that more parents are using their streets when Potomac neighbors are protesting.

The NSC, Potomac and Laguna neighbors, the City's Department of Transportation, and school representatives participated in a town hall meeting on Nov. 23 coordinated by Councilmember Thao's office. Unfortunately, no resolution was reached at the meeting.

Adjournment. Ryan adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Next board meeting: January 14, 2021

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake
Approved 1/14/21*