

Dimond Improvement Association

Board of Directors Meeting - April 14 2022

Board Members Present: Victoria Wake, Ryan Romaneski, Chris Harper, Alex Park, David Gross, Jay Ashford, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Bret Peterson, Julie Johnson, Kevin Whittinghill, Lindsey Berking, Zandile Christian

Board Members Absent: Marjorie Jones, Erica Perez, Tomasz Finc

Guests Present: Renia Webb, Councilmember Thao's office

The meeting was convened in the Dimond Library Community Room at 7:05 p.m.

1. Agenda approval.

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

2. Minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from February DIA board meeting. (Motion: Chris Secoded Kevin; in favor, unanimous)

ACTION: Approve minutes from March DIA board meeting (Motion: Jay Secoded Alex; in favor 10, 2 abstentions)

3. Chair's report. Ryan shares plans to discuss recruitment and growing the board in this meeting. This will also kick off the process of reconstituting our committees. If board members want to change committees, please let Ryan know by 4/20/2022. At our May Board meeting (5/12/2022), we will set aside 30 minutes to introduce new Board members to our committee structure, so please update your Committee Intros by Friday, 5/6/2022. Committees will also select a Chair, a Co-chair and any other leadership positions by the end of May. Ryan and his family will be moving to Los Angeles within the next year, so while he's interested in staying on in a leadership position for the rest of this year, he will be looking for a Co-Chair

and will be resigning from the board at the end of the year. In May, we will also hold Board elections: Chair/Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Recorder.

4. For the good of the order. Victoria updates that Keep Oakland Beautiful has announced their grants for this year. They are small grants, \$800 each. The due date is May 31st. They can be used for greenery or art. Beautification has applied for Beinati Overlook twice, but didn't get it the second time. Kevin asks if we've ever considered the area across from Bombera. David updates that he received a call yesterday from someone at the county about Beinati Overlook. The person said there's too much debris in front of the fence so they cannot fix it, someone will need to clear that area first. Bret asks whether there has been discussion about the changing of the guards, particularly with regard to some of the website and tech related matters that JoAnn and Tomasz now handle. JoAnn responds that she can continue to help when needed, and is happy to train Bret or anyone else on how to use the tools. Ryan suggests mapping JoAnn and Tomasz' current responsibilities and backups for each of them. Ryan updates that there are some grants from American Rescue Plans that may be available to us as well, and we'll be applying to those.

5. District 4 report. Renia updates that the office is going through some staff transitions, recently losing two staff members including Matt Napoli. The office currently has a surplus of funds. There has been discussion about adding a line item in the midcycle of the budget at the moment, which will need to be reviewed by May. The five year paving plan has been adopted. They are expecting some adjustments, but it's mostly final. If you want to see if your neighborhood is slated there's an interactive component on oaklandca.gov - you can search by address. Regarding botts dots status, this is still in process. DOT is also in transition staff-wise at the moment, causing delays. The office has been working closely with the area Capitan Basset - they have assigned a new Community Resource Officer, Aaron Johnson. There has been an uptick in armed bike robberies along Skyline Blvd. With the The Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland (MACRO) program finally kicking off, we hope there will be more boots on the ground to respond to these types of crimes. OPD gets over

5000 calls a day, many of which are mental health and homelessness issues, which our police force is typically not necessary or appropriate for. Once MACRO is up and running, OPD can allocate resources more strategically, and OPD will be able to focus on more serious crimes. 194 housing units are slated to go in at the empty lot on High street and Macarthur, across the street from Degrees Plato.

Kevin asks if Ryan Russo is resigning, the current Director of ODOT. Renia says yes.

Ryan asks if the graffiti abatement funds will be made available soon. Renia says yes, it's a top priority. Ryan asks- in the last mid-cycle budget revision we got funding for the business improvement feasibility study and there was some additional funding put in either for that project or for the formation of the BID. Wondering if there is some clarification there. Renia will follow up.

Kevin asks if there's new hires or a new director in the homelessness services department. Renia will check, but it seems like there has been so much turnover, so it's possible. Kevin updates that there were some issues in Dimond Park with a person living there trying to start fires there and at Safeway. It was difficult over several months to get resources for her, and ultimately nothing happened.

Julie asks if there was any information or traffic studies on the Fruitvale 580 exit, as there seems to be a lot of accidents there. Renia says she will check on that and follow up.

6. ACTION: Letter of Support for Dimond Park Improvements Victoria updates that Friends of Dimond Park is campaigning to get funding for Dimond Park accessibility and tot lot improvements in the City's 2022-24 budget. A letter from DIA could help make this happen. April 20 is the due date for this letter to the Mayor, Council President Bas, and Councilmember Thao. Bret wonders why we don't include Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan. Victoria agrees we should include her.

(Action: Write a letter in support of including Dimond Park improvements in the City's budget. Motion: Victoria Second JoAnn, in favor: unanimous)

7. ACTION: 2022-23 Board Recruitment Chris updates that the recruitment committee was very successful this year and we have an abundance of nominations to consider. We have to figure out what to do with that abundance. We officially had 16 Board members in 2021-22. Five Board members have or will exit: three are stepping down at the end this year (JoAnn, Marjorie; Tomasz), one Board member (Sara) resigned earlier in her term and a fifth, who was on leave (Ben), is not returning. We set a goal of adding 5-6 new members, which would have maintained the current size or grown it to 17, allowing us to further distribute leadership on committees and events and make the work more sustainable for all of us. Thanks to robust recruitment - and the increasing visibility of the DIA in the community - we interviewed eleven (11) Board candidates.

Ryan explains that we have two options. Typically there's a nominating committee and we present a slate of candidates. Given the number of qualified candidates this year, we have two options. Option 1: Maintain the current cap, and reject four candidates. Option 2: Raise or eliminate the Board member cap, which would amend the bylaws to raise the cap on Board membership or eliminate it entirely, allowing us to grow the Board and potentially see all current applicants elected to the 2022-23 Board. According to Article XI, Sections 1-3: bylaw amendments can be offered in writing by any member. Once submitted, the Board must report to the members at a regular meeting within sixty (60) days of the date of the receipt. Amendments are ratified by a majority vote of all Members present at a meeting called for the purpose. Amendments shall be in effect immediately following ratification.

Kevin asks what the normal board attrition rate is. Ryan says it's about 25%. JoAnn wonders if setting expectations upfront about how much work it is so we don't have as much dropoff mid-year. Alex wonders if we suggested to anyone that committee membership is an option versus joining the board. JoAnn mentions that we did change the limit to 17 three years ago. Ryan suggests that in a perfect world we'd have a board of

15-17 and then an army of volunteers, but we're still a few years from that. Jay suggests "when it rains, get a bigger bucket." Bret echoes that the things we want to do require more people, and getting more volunteers means bringing more folks on the board. Kevin suggests we shouldn't sacrifice the board candidates we now have just because we went through the wrong process, and in future years we will employ the right process.

(Action: Vote to raise the board limit from 17 to 23 at the membership meeting in April. Motion: Jay Second: Bret, in favor: unanimous)

(Action: Put forth and endorse this slate of new and existing candidates Motion: Bret Second: Kevin, in favor: unanimous)

8. Discussion: FY22 Dimond Shine Recap Victoria updates on the Dimond Shine day results. Our objective was to bring out 100 volunteers, generate continuing volunteers for KDC and greening, and make significant physical improvements.

Results (at the event) were: 53 bags of litter collected, 50 stickers scraped off infrastructure and windows, 37 tree wells weeded & mulched, 25 bags of green debris collected, 20 (approx) graffiti & tags removed, including one large mural, 12 mosaics cleaned, 9 light poles + 2 walk activator poles painted, 9 planter pots painted, 3 locations planted or weeded (GLK, Giant Burgers, Gateway Garden).

Results (before & after the event) were: 15 trash receptacles replaced or repaired (Oakland Public Works), 11 planter pots cleaned, plants pruned or replaced, mulched (Caskeys), 6 fire hydrants repainted (EBMUD), and 6 blocks of sidewalk power-washed (DIA-contracted).

Participants: 141 total. 74 pre-registered showed up (70% show rate), 55 registered on site, 12 DIA board members.

The board had approved a budget of \$6100 and we overspent by about \$1100.

Some ideas for next time were to: Have waivers signed electronically as

part of registration, put people to work right away—perhaps with some prep activities at the gathering place—before they set off on projects (to reduce standing around time), have a post-event gathering so people can celebrate and socialize, develop real-time communication so admin desk knows which projects need more help, and get City supplies earlier and don't expect much.

Jay adds that it's hard to think of an event that puts this organization in a better light. Julie suggests next year we should keep the timeline more specific. Victoria mentions that we could have done more with the merchants, and Ryan updates that some of the merchants are expecting to have their facades power washed. Victoria adds that we should continue to cultivate our project list throughout the year.

9. Discussion: April General Meeting Planning and VOTY Jay updates that we have our first General Meeting and Volunteer of the Year awards event coming up. Pizza night with three local pizza vendors. Drinks and supplies from Safeway. Volunteer of the Year and Board voting Zandile updates that Volunteer of the Year nominees are Tom Sonnemann and Marion Mills.

(ACTION: Motion to award two Volunteers of the Year for Marion Mills and Tom Sonnemann. Motion: Jay, Second: Kevin, in favor: unanimous)

Ryan wonders if there's a way to confirm that all the candidates are members. Jay and Chris will draft an email to candidates to inform them ahead of time.

10. Discussion: Oakland General Plan Housing Element Principles Bret asks the board to please review the Housing Element Principles document and raise all questions and concerns by commenting and suggesting edits. The hope is to have a letter to send to the City consultants and planners soon. The principles listed are intended to help spur development and investment in the Dimond District by targeting zoning in the area.

We have to plan to build 26,000 units in Oakland or we are in violation of state law. Bret is hoping that we can start to suggest specific locations in the Dimond by identifying some areas of poor land use, and also land that's owned by rich property or land owners who would develop if the conditions were better. Note, properties that were previously slated for redevelopment are automatically slated for 20% affordable housing by the state in the following cycle.

Alex proposes coming up with a way to develop this list that would be more objective and fair to small businesses.

12. WIP Reports. *(from written reports)*

Beautification: Joann shares that the KDC fundraiser needs to be taken over by someone, as well as the neighborhood liaison with Head Royce. Making sure we have replacements for JoAnn on both of those. JoAnn will help whoever takes over the KDC fundraiser. Ryan mentions that there's someone on the board with fundraising experience.

Adjournment at 9:10.

Minutes written by Lindsey Berking. Minutes approved 5/12/22