

**Dimond Improvement Association  
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 10/12/17**

**Board members present at start of meeting:** Fran Donohue, Craig Flanery, Katherine Kott, Marion Mills, Julie Johnson, Robert Raburn, Ryan Romeneski, Jennifer Joey Smith, JoAnn Tracht Rawson. **Arriving later:** Farouq Alawdi. **Absent:** Ahmad Anderson, Zandile Christian, Daniel Swafford, Victoria Wake. **Guests:** Iowayna Peña, Chris Harper.

**Abbreviations used in minutes:** CHP (California Highway Patrol); (DB&PA) Dimond Business & Professional Association; (FOSC) Friends of Sausal Creek; OPD (Oakland Police Department); OPW (Oakland Public Works)

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**1. Approval of agenda.** Ryan commented that Daniel was not present and could not give a verbal Oaktobefest report, although he sent an email update.

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

**2. September minutes.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from September 14 board meeting. (Motion: Robert; Second: not recalled; passed)

**3. District 4 Council Report.** Iowayna reported on the following items:

- Friends of Dimond Park and Iowayna met with Wejay Kim in the City, asking how they can get all the cosmetic things done along with the accessibility requirements.
- Marion asked about the park funding and has it been secured. Iowayna advised “yes and no,” even though there was funding approved the exact amount is not known yet.
- She addressed Ahmad and Katherine’s questions about grants for youth engagement and said that Yvonna Cazares is the point person in the Mayor’s office.
- She encouraged use of new link in newsletter – History of City – What makes this city Oakland to you?
- Robert inquired about repair of Bienati Parking Lot spigot, which was not repaired by the city as promised. Iowayna advised that EBMUD turned off the water for seven locations due to some fundamental issues. Robert commented that using water from private businesses sets a bad example.
- Katherine asked when we should reach out to the councilmember’s office and when to city staff directly re: issues. Iowayna suggested contacting the city staff first through normal channels so she can be the follow-up person coming behind, if needed; that way we have followed the standard process.
- Marion inquired about meeting with Annie regarding panhandling issues; Annie has agreed to it and will get back to DIA about setting up a time.
- Annie has not taken a stance on the A’s stadium.

**4. Review of Financials.** Julie presented YTD financials. She and bookkeeper are still working on some cleanup of categories and classification. Members requested some additional modification of format

## **5. WIP Updates.**

*Dimond Public Art:* Hive has volunteered to make room for a December art fair; a meeting is set for later this month.

*Communications:* Newsletter deadline is coming up, with a mid-November publication.

*Finance:* Fran advised that the books have been closed out on Oaktobefest 2016 and proceeds have been distributed to DBPA & DIA.

*Membership:* The membership plug-in on website is changing to MembershipPro, which we can test for free for the first year. (JoAnn is training on the new program.) It will replace Ultimate Membership Pro, which had problems when another reminder was added, resulting in multiple (eight or nine) emails being sent out. The new platform will allow more control. The donation button will come down, because PayPal was not reporting. New system should work better. From May through October, 42 new members were added, and a total of \$1,230 was received.

*Economic Development:* Joey reported that brew pub tenants are possible in the old Full Moon Seafood; owners of Dimond Printers space are looking for master lease for downstairs; cannabis dispensary applying for space; the new owners of the building with the former soccer store on MacArthur near Lincoln are looking for new tenants; Olive & Oak has closed; there are two small, 200 sq. ft. spaces available.

*Community Life:* Still looking for a small space for youth engagement makerspace; the library agreed to host a space during teen tech week in March but is unable to commit to hosting a program on an ongoing basis.

*Public Safety:* DB&PA is willing to contribute matching funds for the placement of security cameras. Total projected spending between both groups is \$6,500. The cannabis dispensary will have cameras as well.

*Two Star Market Thanksgiving:* Robert made a request for volunteers.

**6. Process Improvement.** Motion to approve new process for third-party funding requests as presented. Amendment accepted to include marketing requirement to advertise DIA in all media materials. Process to be laid out with logo. Add to #6 “at regularly scheduled meetings of the board.”

ACTION: Approve new process for third-party funding requests. (Motion: Fran; Second: Not recalled; unanimous.)

## **7. Funding Request Forms.**

ACTION: Approve new Partner Funding Request Form and DIA Budget spending and Reimbursement Form. (Motion: Fran; Second: Not recalled; unanimous.)

**8. October 4 General Meeting.** Marion and other board attendees reported on the general meeting on panhandling and homelessness. Leslie Ann Jones moderated, and the panelists and attendees were informative. Organizers were disappointed that there was conflict in scheduling

such that city representatives could not participate. A summary of related ordinances was provided and it was noted that the Supreme Court has determined that panhandling is protected free speech.

A good comment was made at the meeting that “we are all just learning.” The forum was intended to air various viewpoints and not everyone agreed on solutions. Greater participation from merchants would be desirable. Next Steps: A commitment to review the DIA point of view; board members are interested in finding out more about working with groups like Downtown Streets Team.

## **9. Announcements.**

Friends of Dimond Park Community Meeting

October 17, 6:30 p.m.

Speakers include: Ken Lupoff, Oakland Parks & Recreation Foundation; Chris Sheppard, arborist; Michelle Doppelt, Dimond Park Supervisor

**10. New Business.** Craig announced he will be stepping down as co-chair effective immediately and he will also be resigning from the board. Joey will also be stepping down from the co-chair at the end of our business year. It was mentioned that Victoria has expressed a possible interest in co-chairing in the coming year. Chris Harper has also expressed an interest in re-joining the board and perhaps would consider co-chairing with Victoria in the new business year. Further discussion was tabled until November meeting when Victoria will also be present.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:00 p.m.

**Next board meeting:** November 9, 2017

*Minutes submitted by Fran Donohue and JoAnn Tracht-Rawson  
Approved March 8, 2018*