

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board meeting minutes, 3/9/17**

Board members present at start of meeting: Zandile Christian, David Coleman, Julie Johnson, Robert Raburn, Tom Rose, Jennifer Joey Smith, Daniel Swafford, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Arriving at 8:30:** Fran Donohue. **Absent:** Craig Flanery, Marion Mills. **Guests:** Opie Bellas, Laurie Umeh

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

Meeting was convened by Joey at 7:05 p.m.

1. February minutes.

ACTION: Approve minutes from February 9 board meeting. (Motion: Robert; Second: Daniel; in favor, 8; abstain, 1 [David])

2. Treasurer's report. Julie distributed a report on bank account balances and also announced that DIA's IRS Form 990 tax return for 2015-16 has been filed.

3. Friends of Dimond Park. Opie Bellas and Laurie Umeh of the newly formed Friends of Dimond Park (FODP) briefed the board on the group's work to raise awareness of access deficiencies at the park. They have identified and publicized the specific needs, spoken at city meetings and met with city departments, collected supporter signatures, and garnered press coverage. Their efforts contributed to Dimond Park's being named one of the city's four priority parks for capital improvements. The group is requesting a contribution of ~\$300 from DIA to help cover its printing and outreach costs; the inclusion of the FODP on the list of "friends" on our website; and the possible contribution and participation in the placement of a historical marker in the park.

4. Work-in-Progress (WIP) reports.

Oaktobefest. Daniel announced that the event planning committee meetings are set for the third Thursday of the month, at Hive, at 6:30pm. He and others continue to poll Dimond businesses about the event and the prospect of making it two days this year. Daniel will report the findings to DB&PA at its March 22 meeting.

Membership. Robert reported that member accounts have been reconciled in the database and that we have 130 current memberships (including those whose membership expired within a previous two-month "grace" period). This translates to 175 members, given that household memberships can include more than one person.

General Meeting, April 5. Zandile reported on plans for the meeting and classical concert. Victoria will coordinate the election. Robert volunteered to make the arrangements for and presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award. Zandile will work on having someone be at The Altenheim gate, given that it needs to remain locked; it was suggested (and with no objections) that paying a small fee to a youth in the community would be reasonable.

City Council report. Iowayna Peña from Annie Campbell-Washington's office reported that a community meeting at Bret Harte School will be held in April to introduce the new police chief

and a District 4 town hall meeting will be held following the mayor's release of her proposed budget. Robert asked if the district office had followed up on the DIA request to look into the unexpected and unexplained turning off of the Bienati parking lot water spigot; Iowayna will do further work on this issue as soon as possible.

Champion Fire House. Iowayna reported that the Cosecha owner is working with James Golde, the city's real estate manager, to finalize sale requirements and documents.

Commercial Area Trees. Tom reported on his and Marion's discussion with DB&PA about the committee's ideas on mulching tree wells and planting additional trees. Some members of DB&PA expressed concern about mulch not staying in the wells, which the committee will take into consideration as it meets with potential contractors.

Homeless & Panhandling. Tom reported out notes from the committee's recent meeting. They will be researching laws regarding panhandling and homelessness, and looking into possibly relevant signs and handouts that have been done in Redding. Stan Dodson is reworking the draft message to the community for consideration at the April board meeting and will also be talking to Rebecca Strauss of Caltrans.

5. Keep Dimond Clean allocation request.

ACTION: Approve allocation of \$400 from Keep Dimond Clean restricted funds to cover Mike Dobson's fee to prepare the KDC webpage for the 2017 fundraiser. (Motion: Daniel; Second: Joey; in favor, unanimous)

6. DIA & DB&PA coordination. Daniel briefed the board on the meeting he and Craig Flanery had with Ruth Villasenor, chair of DB&PA. They discussed the concept of allocating a portion of Oaktoberfest proceeds to shared priorities, and designating this portion ahead of splitting the remainder between the two organizations. This would reduce ad hoc coordinating throughout the year, ensure that funding is committed to important projects and programs, and facilitate annual budget planning for both organizations. Ruth was supportive of this concept and also of sharing Oaktoberfest bookkeeping costs. She will present the ideas to DB&PA at its next board meeting.

7. DIA budget finalization. The latest iteration of the proposed budget for 2017-18 was discussed and several additional changes were made.

ACTION: Approve the 2017-18 balanced budget of \$31,725 in expenses and \$31,725 in revenue. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Joey; in favor, 9; opposed, 0; abstain, 1 [Zandile])

8. Transfer of website domain name. JoAnn requested funds to transfer the dimondnews.org domain name from LMI to GoDaddy.

ACTION: Approve \$140 to register "dimondnews.org" with GoDaddy for eight years. (Motion: Victoria; Second: Zandile; in favor, unanimous)

9. Dimond sign installation. Tom brought up concerns about the plan in the works to install the retrieved Dimond Printers sign in the Dimond. His concerns included location, the style and condition of the sign, city permits, and expense. He suggested that a wooden sign along the lines of Montclair's entryway sign might be better, including the addition of "welcome to" to

the sign. Robert reported he had spoken with Caltrans and that a location at Harold and Fruitvale may not be allowed. He suggested that the area between the Shell gas station and the westbound Fruitvale I-580 on-ramp could be considered. Julie assured the board that the ideas on restoration and installation location and method were preliminary and that a fleshed-out proposal would be brought to the board by the Dimond Public Arts Committee for discussion and approval before any action is taken.

10. Committee structure & responsibilities. Victoria suggested that an ad hoc committee meet to develop a proposal for DIA committee structure and responsibilities, adding that this is especially important given our recent retreat and our newly adopted budget. She noted that while some priorities are being addressed by strong and active committees, others are not getting the attention we would all want. Fran and Joey volunteered to form the ad hoc committee with Victoria. They will report back at the next board meeting.

11. Proposed bylaws amendment re: election of officers. This discussion was carried over from the last meeting. Victoria restated the proposed change and Robert asked that we be sure that making this change does not jeopardize our approved status as a 501(c)(3); Victoria agreed to look into it more closely and alert the board if there appeared to be any issue.

ACTION: Approve amending bylaws Article IX and adding Article X, as proposed, to move the election of officers to the first board meeting following the general meeting at which the board of directors is elected. Further approve submitting the proposed changes to the membership for a vote at the April general meeting. (Motion: Victoria; Second: Tom; in favor, unanimous)

12. Proposed bylaws amendment re: number of board members. Victoria presented the text of the proposed bylaws amendment to increase the number of board seats to 19. Although the board voted at its February meeting to draft this amendment, Victoria raised concerns again about the large number and that the subject was perhaps brought up and decided too quickly at the February meeting. After further discussion, the following actions were taken.

ACTION: Reconsider and reopen discussion on the board action taken at the February meeting regarding increasing the size of the board to 19. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Robert; in favor, 9; opposed, 1 [Daniel])

ACTION: Approve amending bylaws Article V to increase the maximum number of board members to 17. (Motion: Victoria; Second: Fran; in favor, 8; opposed, 2 [Daniel, Tom])

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by Joey at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Next board meeting: April 13, 2017

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake