

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board meeting minutes, 6/10/15**

Board members present: David Coleman, Fran Donohue, Craig Flanery, Julie Johnson, Marion Mills, Robert Raburn, Tom Rose, Joey Smith, Daniel Swafford, JoAnn Tract-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Absent:** Zandile Christian, Chris Harper

Guests: Adam Simons (Council District 4), Stan Dodson

Craig chaired the meeting in Chris' absence. The meeting was held one day earlier than the customary meeting date of the second Thursday, due to the scheduled Warriors NBA finals game on June 11.

May 14 Minutes. Minutes were approved with some corrections (Motion: Robert; Second: Marion)

Treasurer's Report. Julie presented a report showing balances in all accounts. She will soon have online access to all accounts from former Treasurer (Tito). Some funds are with Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation, which will need to be disbursed directly from the FOPR account. They cannot be transferred to DIA accounts. Julie will report next month on these funds.

WIP Reports.

Dimond Night Out. Daniel reported that Passport sales were just over 200 (final tally to come); in previous years the total was closer to 400. Likely reasons for the lower showing were discussed, among them: A need for stronger leadership, and a need for more partner organizations benefiting and therefore inclined to join in the sales effort. Suggestions for next year included: Hire some paid support staff, such as an intern; consider a date other than June; add a raffle, with every Passport number entered to win; conduct sales via EventBrite; make it a partnership among DIA/DBPA/NCPC.

City Council. Adam was not present. Robert suggested that a list of priorities, from DIA's perspective, be presented to Councilmember Campbell-Washington. (Suggested future agenda item: Preparing the list of priorities.)

22X NCPC. JoAnn reported that the group "Neighbors for Racial Justice" has been designated a "neighborhood action group" (NAG) and officially has a seat at the NCPC table.

Dimond Public Art. JoAnn will be on the agenda of the City's Public Art Advisory Committee on July 6 to present the utility box art project. Once approved, a contract with the City can be executed. Realistic timing for the art to be installed in this fall.

Homeless & Panhandlers. David reported on his continuing efforts, including working with Caltrans (Rebecca Strauss) to keep the Park & Ride and off-ramp cleared. David, Robert, and Marion agreed to be an ad hoc committee on the subject.

Keep Dimond Clean. Marion reported that she has been organizing a Monday morning litter pick-up in the park. Volunteers meet at 8:00am by the tennis courts. Having five to six people is sufficient. (Suggested future agenda item: KDC fundraising.)

General Meetings. Joey reported that the June 3 meeting was well-attended and full of good information and discussion. For the August 5 meeting, Julie and Daniel will pull together an urban homesteading theme, including a few DYI (do-it-yourself) presenters from the area.

Dimond Taproom. Mark Hoffman and Ben Holoman spoke to the Board about their developing enterprise to open a pub featuring local wines, beers, and ciders in the former Curves location on Champion Street. The lease is not finalized and the site needs many code upgrades. Mark and Ben estimate the start-up costs at \$50,000. They are shooting a video and will then initiate a “kickstarter” online fundraising campaign. The Board agreed to send a letter of support and encouragement to the property owner. Joey will draft the letter and Craig will sign in Chris’ absence.

Woodbine Corner. Tom gave background on the community project, completed in 2011, to create a rock garden and median landscaping at this corner. Since then, continuing care had been less than ideal and weeds had invaded. But very recently, new plants appeared in the median and within the rock garden, along with a red-tipped stake at each plant. Tom has talked with a gentleman named Wayne, who did the planting on his own. Wayne would like to keep the stakes in place until the plants are established to protect them from being trampled, but expects they would be removed in the next month or so.

Dog Park. Marion reported on the latest discussions of a dog park in Dimond Park. Establishing a dog area under the stone pine trees on the slope had been suggested some years ago, but was nixed when an arborist said it would kill the trees over time. Park supervisor Michelle Doppelt lead a group of residents this April on a walk around the park to discuss ideas and point out issues, but the sense is that no further action or planning will happen until the Sausal Creek project is completed. The fairly new ordinance allowing dogs on leash in the park has been going well, according to what Michelle has told Marion.

CN-1 Zoning. Joey, Robert, and Julie attended the May 27 stakeholder meeting in Rockridge. Robert handed out notes from the meeting taken by Stuart Flashman, the organizer. The ultimate course of action will likely be a formal appeal to the City from the stakeholder group seeking changes in the CN-1 zoning rules, particularly about Conditional Use Permits (CUPs). Right now, CUPs are granted in perpetuity, passing from one business to any successor business at that same location, even if the new business purpose is entirely different. Also, certain kinds of businesses, such as nail salons and dry cleaners, do not currently need CUPs to operate. Discussion of these and other issues will continue at the next meeting of the stakeholder group on July 22. When a draft set of recommended changes is developed, the DIA Board will be asked to comment and potentially provide a formal endorsement.

Farmer’s Market. Robert reported that Keith Wall of Pacific Coast Farmers Market can come to a future meeting and report on the potential for establishing a farmer’s market in the Dimond. Fran and Joey volunteered to work with Robert on this.

Adjournment. JoAnn motioned, Fran seconded, and all were in favor to adjourn.

Next Board meeting: July 9, 2015

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake