

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 8/10/17**

Board members present at start of meeting: Ahmad Anderson, Zandile Christian, Julie Johnson, Katherine Kott, Ryan Romaneski, Victoria Wake. **Arriving later:** Fran Donohue, Daniel Swafford. **Absent:** Farouq Alawdi, Craig Flanery, Marion Mills, Robert Raburn, Jennifer Joey Smith, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, **Guest:** Stan Dodson

Abbreviations used in minutes: DB&PA (Dimond Business & Professional Association); OPD (Oakland Police Department); (FOOSC) Friends of Sausal Creek.

Victoria convened the meeting (in Craig’s and Joey’s absence) at 7:05 p.m.

1. Approval of agenda.

ACTION: Approve agenda as prepared. (Motion: Ryan; Second: Fran; in favor, unanimous)

2. July minutes.

ACTION: Approve minutes from July 13 board meeting. (Motion: Fran; Second: Katherine; in favor, 5; opposed, 0; abstain, 3 [Julie, Ryan, Zandile])

3. Mission and purpose statements review.

The group discussed the past official and unofficial mission and purpose statements from 1953 through 2017. Individuals noted the merits of being positive, being succinct, and capturing accurately the scope of our work. Stan related that Oakland Trails has one-sentence vision and mission statements, and a bullet-point “what we do” list. The Executive Committee will take the comments and work on a draft for board review at the next meeting.

4. DIA budgeting for 2017.

Stan presented his concerns about how DIA developed its budget this year, in particular about the absence of a solid and substantial dedication of funds for grants to other community groups. He noted that Oaktoberfest profits are intended to support DIA and DB&PA, and, through them, other worthy local groups; that the messaging to event sponsors includes this purpose; and that local non-DIA projects are used as examples of the event’s value. Daniel, Fran, and Victoria explained how the formal budget—the first in many years—came about and that there was no intention to stop or minimize the sponsoring of other local efforts. The strong intention was to establish an expense budget limited to the expected revenue for the year. That said, there are moves afoot to increase the level of support for non-DIA projects this year and set up a more formal grant-making process in the future.

5. Mentoring a volunteer program.

Katherine asked for feedback on volunteer needs and the possibility of DIA’s acting in a formal mentoring role with youth and adults who volunteer. She reported that Chris Harper has offered to serve as the mentor for a contingent of Head Royce students who would take on the multi-step

duties of deploying A-frames for DIA publicity. Zandile reminded us that Keep Dimond Clean is an official “community service” program, whereby individuals working off traffic tickets and the like can perform documented service hours. Volunteer needs suggested to Katherine included Oaktoberfest, Dimond Lights, Dimond Park Litter Walk, and Beautification Committee projects.

6. Dimond Public Art (DPA) future projects.

Julie reported that the committee met and discussed two proposed mural projects presented by local artist Debbie Koppman. Debbie described the two projects to the board and showed draft artwork: (1) two painted murals on the outside of the library, inspired by ideas from the librarians; (2) a tiled mural on the face of Soon’s bar on Fruitvale, reminiscent of the historic tile, remnants of which are still visible. She has completed some steps toward approval and funding for the projects but will need to fundraise for the remainder of the costs.

Afterwards, Julie briefed the new board members on DIA’s competitive grant program from some years back. DPA will meet in September and start developing a district plan for public art, with the intention of soliciting input from the community via public forum and reviving a grant program built on artists’ proposals and a review panel.

Among comments from the board: Zandile endorsed seeing a greater variety of artists in the district. Katherine noted David Coleman’s idea for artwork at the Keep Dimond Clean bag pick-up site, and the related idea to have a graffiti taggers’ competition for that location. Daniel said that the city’s Cultural Funding Program would be an excellent grant source for DIA projects.

7. Work in Progress (WIP) reports

Beautification. Victoria reported that the DB&PA voted to split the costs of the DIA’s initial tree-planting and mulching efforts, with each organization covering \$415. Also reported: the committee held an August 5 work party to weed and mulch Bienati parking lot; completion of the stone replacement at Woodbine corner is expected later in August; a work party to clear overgrowth at the Sausal Creek overlook will be scheduled in September in partnership with FOSC.

Community Life. Katherine and Ahmad reported that efforts continue to find a location for the youth makerspace. The ideas of using un-leased commercial space or a container in a parking lot have not proved feasible.

Finance. Fran and Julie reported that DB&PA has approved the 2017 Oaktoberfest contract and it is now with Daniel for signature. The committee is nearly finished reconciling the 2016 Oaktoberfest expenses and will soon be determining the final split of net profits to DIA and DB&PA. Jenny Maxwell (bookkeeper) is integrating the desktop Oaktoberfest QuickBooks accounts with the online DIA QuickBooks accounts, clarifying and reconciling data along the way. Due to all the record-keeping activity, the committee has filed for an extension to submit our 2016 IRS Form 990, moving the deadline from August 15 to February 15, 2018.

Membership & Volunteer Development. Katherine reported that we had five new members since the last meeting, with two of those making additional contributions. The committee will meet on

August 14 and determine some near-term recruitment initiatives, including contacting lapsed members.

Communications. Katherine is working up the August issue of the e-newsletter, which will be published the week of August 14. She also announced: the DIA Google calendar is now embedded on the DIA events page on the website; JoAnn and Kathleen Russell are developing a memorial page; and free training for JoAnn by the webpage developers ends this month, after which we will incur an hourly fee for assistance.

Public Safety. As reported in the WIP notes, co-chair Carol Lonergan attended the OPD's Area 3 Leaders meeting in June. Daniel reported that the committee is getting closer to final recommendations on security camera placements.

Oaktoberfest. Daniel reported that he and others have been tabling at local events to publicize Oaktoberfest and that the next planning committee meeting will be August 16, 6:30pm, at Hive.

Oaktoberfest (DIA presence). Victoria reported that Chris Harper and she (two of the three ad hoc committee members) have met and outlined plans and tasks for organizing the Event Information/DIA booth. A staffing sign-up sheet will go out soon and the committee will meet with Daniel.

General Meeting, October 4. Katherine reported that plans are coming along for the "Panhandling & Community Life" general meeting. She, Marion, and Ahmad have secured a panel of speakers and a facilitator. They will gather and produce useful facts about panhandling in a handout. The desired outcome of the meeting is for attendees to be more aware and informed, both of the complexity of the issue and the choices they have in responding (and the likely consequences of those choices).

Adjournment. Victoria adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Next board meeting: September 14, 2017

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake