

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 9/14/17**

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

Craig convened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

1. Approval of agenda.

ACTION: Approve agenda as amended with removal of mission statement discussion, and addition of Council District 4 report and Head Royce update. (Motion: Marion; Second: Victoria; in favor, unanimous)

2. August minutes.

ACTION: Approve minutes from August 10 board meeting. (Motion: Katherine; Second: Fran; in favor, 6; opposed, 0; abstain, 3 [Craig, JoAnn, Marion])

3. Co-Chairs' report. Craig read updates from Joey, including that she met with Friends of Dimond Park representatives about their plans and progress in becoming a 501(c)(3) and opportunities for working with DIA, and that the owners of the old Full Moon Seafood House are getting close to leasing the remodeled space.

4. Treasurer's report. Julie reported on continuing progress with the new bookkeeper Jenny Maxwell. Desktop and online QuickBooks files have been integrated, Jenny is getting familiar with DIA programs, and the chart of accounts will be streamlined. Julie asked for input on what the board would like to see in periodic financial reports.

5. Work in Progress (WIP) reports

Beautification. Victoria reported that the Woodbine corner stone-replacement project is complete, with expectation that FOOSC will plant additional natives in the fall. Major ivy clearing is planned as a Creek to Bay Day project on September 16 at the Bienati/Dimond overlook to Sausal Creek. Marion added that the August 26 farewell ceremony, which DIA helped organize, for the magnificent oak in Dimond Park went very well.

Community Life. Katherine reported that the youth makerspace will debut at the library next March as part of Teen Tech Week. Head Royce will provide student peer mentors and some equipment. Ahmad reported that the non-profit Liminal has a 1,000 sq. ft. space in the Laurel that may be available for a youth-directed creative writing program that the Laurel and Dimond neighborhoods could co-sponsor. He is also interested in pursuing grant opportunities for these and other programs.

Public Safety. Daniel reported the committee continues to work on identifying good locations for security cameras in the commercial area, and that David Coleman is going merchant to merchant to assess issues of homelessness and panhandling. Marion requested that the committee coordinate with the Homeless & Panhandling Committee.

Oaktoberfest. Daniel reported that the event is getting good publicity, including a segment on “Eye on the Bay” on KPIX. Vendor spots are nearly sold out and \$50,000 in sponsorships has been secured. Ahmad assisted in getting the John Santos Sextet as a headliner for Sunday afternoon. Daniel encouraged us to spread the word and also help recruit more volunteers.

Head Royce School. Craig reported on a meeting organized by Chris Harper between DIA and school officials intended to foster good communications. At the meeting, Craig and JoAnn learned that a new Neighborhood Liaison Committee (NLC) has been formed, with a representative from the Neighborhood Steering Committee residents’ group, a Head Royce parent, and school representatives. (The NLC is required under the school’s conditional use permit.)

There are two documents relevant to the identified neighborhood issues of school expansion, traffic, and noise: The existing Strategic Plan 2020, which calls for substantive community engagement, and the Master Plan, still in development, relating more to facilities and expected to be submitted to the city within a year. Anyone wanting a copy of the strategic plan may contact Chris at chris.harperdia@gmail.com. Also, under the school’s conditional use permit, it must submit a quarterly assessment of traffic conditions to the city.

Head Royce is hoping to lease the Ability Now recreation field for sports practice not to exceed 35 hours a week. The school has yet to determine what will be built on the Lincoln Center site, acquired in the last several years.

Oaktoberfest (DIA presence). Victoria reported on staff scheduling for the Information/DIA booth, which still has slots to fill. Victoria will coordinate on Saturday and Chris Harper will coordinate on Sunday.

6. Council District 4 report.

Craig read notes sent by Iowayna Pena, including:

- The office is in touch with Dimond Park staff to preserve a commemorative piece from the large oak being removed.
- The office is aware of panhandling concerns in the Dimond business district and is engaging with the community to address the issues and deploy social services staff.
- Stephen Curiel, Facilities & Complex Manager, OPW, is repairing faulty mechanisms in the water source at Bienati Parking Lot and aims to have the spigot replaced and accessible by the end of September.
- Construction is underway at Cosecha in the old firehouse.

7. October DIA General Meeting, “Panhandling & Community Life.” Marion reviewed the format, speakers, and objectives for the meeting. The intention is to convey information, present perspectives on the issue, and deepen the community’s understanding of its options for

response. Marion, Katherine, and Ahmad have put together the speaker panel, which includes representatives from the DIA, DB&PA, Neighborhood Council 22X, a homeless advocacy organization (the committee is selecting from four potential groups), OPD, CHP, and the City of Oakland. Leslie Ann Jones will moderate. Robert encouraged the committee to look into the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision holding that panhandling is protected as free speech.

8. Request for budget allocation for park patrol safety program. Daniel proposed, on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, that \$500 from the committee's budget be allocated to support the Oakland Volunteer Park Patrol, created and led by Oakland Trails (Stan Dodson, founder). The program trains volunteers who engage and assist the public in the wildland areas of Dimond Park, and several other nearby parks, to "improve the quality and safety" of the park experience. Their duties include educating park users on rules, regulations, and etiquette, and reporting any safety issues and emergencies.

ACTION: Approve the allocation of \$500 from the Public Safety budget to support the Oakland Volunteer Park Patrol program. (Motion: Daniel; Second: Marion; in favor, unanimous)

It was agreed that a "DIA Partner Funding Form" would be completed to constitute the formal request and means for payment. Daniel also indicated that Stan would report back to DIA and that DIA would be appropriately acknowledged.

The discussion led to a consensus that the Finance Committee will develop a clear process for requesting and approving expenditures, including how committees should prepare budgets for approval and how support for other community groups should be proposed, documented, and approved.

9. Membership processing & count. Katherine solicited input on particular aspects of the "Membership Management: Responsibilities & Processes" document she circulated in August from the Membership & Volunteer Development Committee. It was agreed that members would receive an initial renewal notice (about one month before expiration), a reminder notice (about two weeks before expiration), and an expiration notice (when membership has lapsed). There would not be a grace period. Fran will coordinate a working group with representatives from the Finance, Membership & Volunteer Development, and Communications committees with the charge of establishing workflows for dues payment and recording.

A third discussion item regarding purposes and terminology for meetings (i.e., "membership" vs. "community") was postponed, given that the discussion on revising and updating our organizational mission statement also was postponed.

JoAnn reported that we have 95 paid members, 74 recently expired members, and 70 sign-ups for the e-newsletter.

10. Upcoming Events Planning. Two events were discussed.

Two-Star Thanksgiving: Ad hoc committee of Robert and Farouq was determined. Robert will send an email to the full board to recruit one more to join the committee.

December event: Ad hoc committee of Julie, JoAnn, and Daniel was determined. Committee will first figure out if an event will occur and, if so, what, when, and where it will be.

11. Requests from the co-chair. Craig asked that board members come prepared with proposed motions in writing to save time. He also asked board members to include the number of minutes needed when submitting agenda items.

Adjournment. Craig adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Next board meeting: October 12, 2017

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake