February 20, 2025
DIA Board Meeting

Members Present: Kevin Whittinghill; Judy Klinger; Chris Harper; Jamie Watson; Alex Park; Maria Rincon; Bret Peterson; John Jacobs; David Gross; Victoria Wake

Members Absent: May Seto-Wasem

Guests: Tom Sulas; Aisha Hamilton; Erin Brown; Craig Johnson; John Jacobs; Rebecca Dean (District 4)

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: February agenda is APPROVED by acclamation.

MOTION January minutes are APPROVED by acclamation, with Maria, Alex, and Kevin abstaining.

2. Recent Accomplishments

- Keep Dimond Clean Fundraiser: Raised over $13,000, exceeding the $12,000 goal.
- Security Measures: Pulled security camera footage for an auto burglary on January 13th.
- Litter Cleanup: 160 bags of litter collected in January.
- Tree Rounds Installation: Installed for seating at Bienati Overlook on February 2nd.
- January Newsletter published
- Exterior Maintenance: power washed St. Louis Vet in preparation for patching and painting.
- Community Grants: CBO committee has selected grants to be voted on later in the meeting.
- Broken Windows Repairs: Economic Business Development committee issued reimbursements for broken windows at Mary's Hair Salon and Grand Lake Kitchen.
- Beautification Efforts: Interrupted the life cycles of numerous weeds in Bienati Overlook.

- New Volunteer: Tom Donovan joined as a volunteer lead for Keep Dimond Clean on Wednesdays.

4. Treasurer's Report

FY2025 Account Balances as of 2/20/25

BofA Checking:	$100,143.53
BofA Savings:	$5,196.10
BofA Total:	**$105,339.63 (**$87,563.63)**
Less Restricted Funds**:	$11,776 (FODP) $2,500 (Judy S) $7,500 (DMA)
Wells Fargo Checking:	$90,565.46
Wells Fargo Savings:	$2,917.96
Wells Fargo Total:	**$93,483.42**

Budget-to-Actuals as of 2/13/25 (87% of FY25)

Revenue

Budgeted: $92,196.41
As of 2/13/25: $79,205.45 (85% of budgeted)

Expenses

Budget: $106,650.00
As of 2/13/25: $44,842.19 (42% of budgeted)

Beautification Committee
as of 2/19/25

Project	Actual	Budget
Keep Dimond Clean	$25,107	$33,150
Dimond Public Art	$0	$16,900
Trees & Landscape	$758	$2,700
Dimond Shine 2025	$374	$5,000
General Ops	2.97	0
TOTAL	**$26,241**	**$57,750**
55% REMAINING		

Economic and Business Development
as of 2/19/25

Project	Actual	Budget
Reimbursement Program for Merchants (still awaiting 2 applications)	$2,970	$5,000
BID formation grant	**$25,000**	$0
TOTAL	**$27,970**	**$5,000**

Finance and Administration
as of 2/19/25

Project	Actual	Budget
Board Recruitment	$0	$250
Board Development	$819.02	$1,500
General Ops	**$**3,599	$4,600
TOTAL	**$4,445**	**$6,350**
30% REMAINING		

Public Safety
as of 2/19/25

Project	Actual	Budget
Increase Traffic Safety	$24.57	$1,000
Enhance security camera inventory	$730	$6,000
Printing + Postage	$64	$0
TOTAL	**$769**	**$7000**
90% REMAINING		

5. Report: District 4

REBECCA DEAN from the District 4 City Council Office reporting:

Re budget season, which typically starts around April / May, we've started the conversations a lot sooner because of the current economic crisis. Council Member Ramachandran is working with other council members to prevent closures of additional fire stations. Two (2) stations closed in January, more are scheduled in February, but have not closed yet. Hopefully, future closures can be prevented at the March meeting.

In the layoffs announced so far, it was reported that Neighborhood Services was disbanded. Other staff were laid off in other departments. The Department of Transit Director is now also overseeing Public Works.

Budget discussions will start in April, and more cuts are expected.

CM Ramachandran is looking for ways to increase revenue for the City. One option is a sales tax proposal, which will be on the ballot in the upcoming special election. If approved, the sales tax will be raised from 10.25% to 10.75%, and is projected to raise approximately $29 million a year.

JUDY asks about news that City employees were inappropriately paid overtime because of a mistake in the payroll forms. Rebecca will take this back to the D4 team.

JUDY also asks about the apparent lack of parking enforcement. Rebecca says more parking enforcement employees have been hired in the last 6 months, and the City is prioritizing not laying off revenue-generating positions.

VICTORIA asks which services have been modified within Public Works (i.e., trash collection being shared on Saturdays?) Rebecca did confirm that the City has done away with the free monthly bulky drop-off day.

Re traffic suppression, Fruitvale / Mac and Excelsior / Park are high priority locations for sideshow prevention.

REBECCA asks about safety ambassadors - how they are doing. KEVIN responds that our daily walking ambassador has been active in assisting business owners on a regular basis. Burglaries at night are continuing, though. JAIME notes that a survey will be going out to get info from the business owners on the efficacy of the program.

5. <u>Community Grants</u>

BRET presents CEVO Committee's recommendations for the community grants

VICTORIA suggests, in the future, we give some priority to "new" applicants (i.e., those who have not applied for a community grant before)

RE the Dirdl Day grant, ZANDILE suggests we should not be paying for contest winnings. Others spoke in support of this use because it has a positive effect of bringing more people to the event.

MOTION by JUDY to (i) encourage using "Dimond history" as an acceptable criterion for future community grant subject matter; and, (ii) to give new applicants (who have not applied for a grant in the past) some priority in the grant award process. Motion seconded and **APPROVED** by a vote of 9-1.

MOTION by BRET to approve the top seven projects as presented, less the admin fee requested by Dimond Resilience Project. JUDY seconds. Motion is **APPROVED** unanimously.

6. <u>Public Safety Ambassadors Program</u>

JAIME reports on the status of the program. Fund disbursement is expected within two weeks.

Mark, our neighborhood daytime Safety Ambassador, continues to patrol, build relationships with merchants, and report incidents.

Re data collection: surveys are being distributed to merchants with a deadline of March 28th. We need to increase responses and gather actionable data.

Action Items: Increase outreach efforts to merchants for survey completion. Continue compiling and analyzing safety data for future reports.

7. Dimond Shine Day

MARIA reports on the upcoming Dimond Shine Day event on Sunday, March 23rd, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Activities include: weeding, mulching, painting, mosaic cleaning, and graffiti removal.

Volunteer Needs: Setup crew (8 AM - 9:30 AM), cleanup crew (11 AM onwards), wheelbarrows, trucks.

Action Items: Board members should promote the event through social media and neighborhood networks, and sign up for shifts using the spreadsheet provided in Maria's recent e-mail.

8. Budget Planning for Next Fiscal Year

KEVIN presents the daft budget for FY 2025-26, currently showing a small deficit of $7,549.55. He also presents some options for cutting expenses.

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VICTORIA advises that we come up with an estimate of the cost-share with the Dimond Merchants Association in advance, so we can submit it to DMA before we vote to approve the budget.

KEVIN suggests we consider putting a cap on the public art fund. VICTORIA will come up with some suggestions for capping the public art fund and present them to the Beautification Committee at its next meeting.

9. Board Recruitment and Elections

Recruitment Update: Eight to nine expressions of interest have been received so far. The nominations committee (Maria, Judy, Kevin, Victoria) to review candidates.

CHRIS suggests we hold Board elections at the scheduled General Meeting on March 26, in conjunction with the scheduled League of Women Voters presentation.

The Board agrees, and the CEVO committee will handle the General Meeting and election process.

Election Process: The nominations committee will finalize the slate of candidates and prepare informational materials for board members to review before the March Board meeting. Once the Board approves a slate of candidates, the membership will vote during the March 26th General Meeting, and the new Board members will be installed in April.

10. <u>Good of the Order</u>.

BARBARA LEE came to the Dimond last Thursday to walk around and get acquainted with the neighborhood. KEVIN and MARK, the Safety Ambassador, met with her. She went into Oaklandish and made a purchase, then spoke with MARK for a few minutes. They took some photos and left.

CHRIS will be appearing in a play in Point Richmond in July, *Into the Breeches.* During June and July he may be less available, especially in the evenings.

VICTORIA: Farmer Joe's has now planted in the concrete planter at the intersection of Champion and the FJ's driveway.

ZANDILE: League of Women Voters is holding a candidate forum at City Hall on March 15.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:03 p.m.
Minutes prepared by David Gross