

**Dimond Improvement Association**  
Board of Directors Meeting - March 9, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Ryan Romaneski; David Gross; Victoria Wake; Bret Peterson; Judy Klinger; Jay Ashford; Heather Harris; Alex Park; Julie Johnson; Erica Perez; Kevin Whittinghill.

**Board Members Absent:** Anoush Jackson-Sattler; Charlie Deterline; Phyliss Martinez; May Seto-Wasem; Chris Harper; Michaela Sangalli-Guilano; Lindsey Berking; Chris Palomares; Marty Wunsch; Zandile Christian.

**Guests Present:** Officer Aaron Johnson, Officer Morgan Viss  
The meeting was convened at 7:02 p.m.

**1. Agenda Approval.**

**ACTION:** Motion by JUDY to approve the Meeting Agenda, BRET seconded. The motion to approve the Meeting Agenda was APPROVED unanimously.

**2. Minutes Approval.**

**ACTION:** Motion by HEATHER to approve the February meeting minutes. JAY seconded. The motion to approve the February meeting minutes was APPROVED unanimously.

**3. Co-Chair's Report.**

-A subgroup of the Finance / Admin Committee has been working on a draft set of finance policy and procedures. We will distribute after the meeting.

-CC&I and M&O Committee proposed a merger of the two committees; the idea is that there is an overlap in the people serving on both committees, as well as the responsibilities of the two committees, both being very public facing. For FY24, we will move forward with a merged committee known as a Community Outreach and Engagement

-there has been a rash of ATM robberies in the City; Jessica Flores from the SF Chronicle reached out to the Public Safety Committee for comment on what we are doing to address the crime. The Public Safety Committee is installing and operating security cameras and drafting coalition letters to CITY and STATE reps advocating for safety.

-we'd like to amend the Bylaws to explicitly allow voting by e-mail. The amendment will be circulated for review. The amended bylaws will need to address deadlines, timelines, logistics of voting by e-mail. The Board will vote on this in April, and then it will go to the Membership at the April General Meeting. We will need to submit our revised bylaws to the State.

-Officer Aaron Johnson: OPD is working with MAY at Grand Lake Kitchen to get her set up with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to help with general safety measures. We can also help any other businesses with this service. The crime in the Dimond is average for Oakland. Violent crime is not as severe as it is in the flatlands. Residents should always be aware and vigilant of their surroundings when out and about. Don't be focused on your phone. Outward facing cameras also help a lot.

KEVIN asks about parking dummy cars in the area as a deterrent. OFC JOHNSON will check on this and see if the resources are available.

OFC JOHNSON reports that the OPD Motors Division is back, and they take suggestions; right now, the focus is on International Blvd., but we will try to get cars up here in the Dimond. There will be overtime for a walking detail in District 4, so we should see more officers as early as this weekend, especially along the commercial corridors.

Regarding the recent rash of ATM robberies, OPD just caught a group who was carrying out the ATM robberies, and they have full squads working on this problem. OPD has received a lot of helpful info from the community (e.g., photos, video)

#### **4. Treasurer's Report.**

Committees should get any FY22-23 expenses reported by the end of this month. VICTORIA asked how long into April committees would have to submit year-end invoices and expense reimbursements. RYAN said we don't have a set deadline but it would be good to close the FY23 books by the end of April.

**5. For the Good of the Order.**

JUDY encourages everyone to walk to our in-person meetings. We shouldn't feel afraid to walk around. The more we are out there, the safer the community becomes.

VICTORIA gives a quick plug to the Dimond Cafe. Great food, open really early. Very diverse crowd. Everyone is encouraged to go out and spend some money there!

BRET reports that a "coming soon" sign is up for Yemeni Coffee in the old Hive location.

**6. District 4 Update.**

No District 4 representative is present. We need to establish a more consistent line of contact with this office.

**7. Dimond Shine Update**

March 25 is the day of the event. We need as much of everyone's help as possible. So far, 106 people (77 adults, 29 kids under 10) have registered, with a couple more weeks to go. Last year, we had 140 people, about half of which showed up and registered on the day of the event.

Categories of volunteers needed:

Set-up and Preparations Crew  
Greeters / Administrative tasks  
Project Leads

Our "day-of" projects include: litter pick up; graffiti removal, painting, weeding, mosaics cleaning, and planting. In addition to this work, we have also contracted or coordinated with public agencies, private property owners, and in some cases, outside vendors, for the following:

installation of 3 additional garbage cans;  
repair of signage at 2 bus shelters;  
repair of the fence at the Caltrans parking lots;  
repair and replacement of the Dimond merchant display kiosk;  
repair of the fence & clearing of broken signs at old Blockbuster site;  
removal of the damaged news rack in the Farmer Joe's / CVS parking lot; and,  
power washing the sidewalks in the business district.

## 8. New Board Member Recruitment

BRET: Normally, we would be presenting a slate of candidates at this time; but, we're not ready yet. We need more time to build up a pool of candidates; nominations could happen between March and April, possibly via e-mail, so we don't disrupt the long-term schedule.

RYAN: CCI Committee plans to have a General Meeting at the end of April; So, we could endorse the slate of nominations at our April 13 meeting, and these members will be voted in at the General Meeting at the end of April. We can then welcome new Board members at the May meeting, when we will do officer elections and committee assignments.

RYAN suggests that any exiting Board members consider staying on and assisting us through the transition in April. Transitioning the Committee work is probably the most important part of this.

## 9. VOTY and April General Meeting

We will award Volunteer of the Year at the General Meeting in late April. In recent years, we have awarded an adult Volunteer of the Year and a youth Volunteer of the Year. We could also award a "Business of the Year" award to spotlight neighborhood businesses who are contributing "random acts of beauty".

## 10. FY24 Budget

**ACTION:** KEVIN moves to approve the recommended budget. JAY seconds.

General discussion ensues on the recommended budget, particularly on the set-aside for Public Art. Members of the Beautification Committee emphasize their vote to retain the set-aside for public art. Expenses are further pared down after discussion. There is a budgeted deficit of \$11,150, which is down from an approximately \$50,000 deficit with the first budget draft.

**ACTION:** KEVIN amends the existing motion to approve the recommended budget while retaining the public art set-aside.

**ACTION:** The **MOTION** is **APPROVED**, with 9 votes in favor. (BRET and JUDY abstaining)

**11. District 4 Priorities Letter**

The letter is based on the survey responses of Board members regarding our group priorities. KEVIN will re-circulate the letter for review, with suggestions and edits by next Tuesday. KEVIN asks that everyone review the letter and insert their initials indicating they have reviewed.

**12. Board Retreat Follow-up**

This item is TABLED, and RYAN will circulate a summary of the notes from the retreat, to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 9:08 pm