

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 2/13/20**

Board members present at start of meeting: Jay Ashford, Zandile Christian, Fran Donohue, Chris Harper, Tomasz Finc, Julie Johnson, Daniel Swafford, Victoria Wake. **Arriving a little later:** JoAnn Tracht-Rawson. **Absent:** Marion Mills, Robert Raburn, Ryan Romaneski. **Guest:** Betsy Baum Block

Abbreviations used in minutes: OPD (Oakland Police Department); PMP (Paid Membership Pro, the membership program DIA uses).

Chris convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

1. Agenda approval.

ACTION: Approve the agenda as presented. (Motion: Tomasz; Second: Jay; in favor, 8; opposed, 0; abstain, 0)

2. Chair's report. Chris said there is a FY21 Budget document in progress on the team drive (under Board Planning/2020 Retreat). He urged everyone, especially committee chairs, to insert or adjust recommended numbers for the coming year.

3. Continuing team-building with Betsy Baum Block. Betsy conducted a discussion and exercise to help the board move into strategic planning. She suggested three things to aim for: a sense of awareness that we are a system; skillful ways to navigate conflict; and increased positivity.

Betsy asked the questions: "What needs to be different?" and "What could shift?" Responses included: dealing with overall structure; improving interpersonal communication; being clear and forthcoming about what we each can do and committing to that; looking at capacity issues of an organization that's taking on bigger things, i.e., moving into the "next weight class" when there's only so much volunteer time; how we can be more satisfied and happier with each other and what we do on behalf of the community.

Jay described a way to look at our functioning as three overlapping circles: content (what we do); process (how we do it); and behavior (could be positive or less so depending on how effectively we put the first two in place). More work will be done at upcoming meetings.

4. January minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from the Jan. 9 board meeting. (Motion: Jay; Second: Tomasz; in favor, 8; opposed, 0; abstain, 1 [JoAnn])

5. Volunteer of the Year 2019. Victoria reported out the results of the online board vote to select a Volunteer of the Year from the seven individuals nominated at the recent Board retreat. Carol Lonergan received the most votes and by consensus was chosen to be the awardee. It was also agreed that a Youth Volunteer of the Year award will go to the students of Oakland Technical High School and the American Indian Public High School, who have volunteered four or more years for Oaktobefest.* The ad hoc committee for the Apr. 1 general meeting will take care of notifying the awardees, preparing certificates and gifts, and making the presentations.

6. Grants program. Jay reported that 12 grant applications were received and the Grants Committee (Jay, Julie, Tomasz, Victoria) evaluated and ranked them. He briefly described each of the projects, and other committee members commented that the applications as a whole were very

impressive. Julie stated that the Dimond Public Art (DPA) committee agreed to fund the \$1,500 Dimond Gateway Mural Project application, since it falls within the guidelines for use of the Dimond Public Art Fund (funds set aside from Oaktoberfest for public art installations and maintenance).

Victoria suggested that the \$6,500 grants budget be modestly augmented with unspent FY20 budget funds so that, together with the \$1,500 from DPA, the eight highest ranking applications could be awarded: Dimond Gateway Mural Restoration (Kristi Holohan), \$1,500; Dimond Gateway Garden Restoration (Tricia Christopher), \$1,500; "A Lord of a Ring" performances (The Peripatetic Players), \$750; Restoration of Dimond Park Picnic Tables & Benches (Friends of Dimond Park), \$1,500; Multicultural Art classes (Rachel-Anne Palacios), \$1,500; Enhancing Health: Qigong at Dimond Park (Gail Whang), \$1,000; The Dirndl Diaspora (Kristen Caven), \$1,500; Spring Fling: Community Dance (Greacian Goeke), \$1,500.

ACTION: Increase the FY20 Grants Program budget by \$2,750 to enable additional grants to be awarded, assuming that these funds will come from unspent FY20 funds and not reserves. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Jay; in favor: unanimous)

7. Work in Progress (WIP) reports (from written & verbal reports).

Beautification. Thirteen thank you letters were sent to volunteers who water trees, planter pots, and landscaped areas in the Dimond. The committee met Jan. 27 and talked about FY21 goals and budget.

Communications. Newsletter article deadline was Feb. 12 and some articles are still outstanding. There continue to be issues with PMP and Tomasz is looking into other database plugin options. An application was submitted for a Google Ads Grant. Publicity for April's general meeting will start soon. The committee is very happy to have Mailisha Chesney as a new member and a new Dimond News Group moderator.

Keep Dimond Clean. Zandile reported that King Triton, a local UC San Diego alumni group, will bring a group of volunteers to the Dimond on Saturday, Mar. 7, 9:00am-12:00pm. Zandile is organizing for litter pick-up, weeding, and other specific projects for the day.

CVS issues. JoAnn has set up a meeting on Feb. 26 with CVS regional and store management, OPD, Councilmember Thao's office, and representatives from DIA and the community. Daniel will forward the quote received fall 2018 from Bay Area Clean Team on the daily cost to pick up litter in the CVS/Farmer Joe's parking lot to Diana Tam (Farmer Joe's) and Darrell Larson (CVS).

February 4 general meeting. Victoria thanked all the board members who jumped in to lead and run logistics for the meeting, only one day in advance, when she came down with the flu. The main program featured five speakers on "Wildfire Prevention & Protection"; a representative from US Census 2020 also spoke. There were approximately 35 attendees, plus speakers and board members.

April 1 general meeting. Jay, Fran, JoAnn, and Zandile are the ad hoc committee, with Jay taking the lead. He has put together a timeline and is meeting with the committee. The committee will oversee the main program ("Learn More about the City of Oakland's Budget and Budgeting Process" with panelists), as well as the Board election and Volunteer of the Year awards.

8. Announcements.

Chris and Victoria attended the NC22X meeting earlier in the week. There was a good turnout and many ideas were brainstormed for NC22X focus in the coming year. The steering committee election

was conducted and all four nominees were voted in: Tom Donovan, Jon Wells, John Zaro, and Jennifer Zilliac.

Daniel passed out postcards promoting the D4 Local Heroes Award Ceremony and the Laurel Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 22. Councilmember Thao's office will host the heroes awards and barbeque at Laurel Elementary School from 11:00am to 1:00pm. About 20 heroes have been selected, including at least two from the Dimond: Farouq Alawdi from Two Star Market for the annual Thanksgiving community feast; Derek Schubert and Dave Fryer from Trees for Oakland for getting trees planted in the commercial district and Dimond Park.

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

Next board meeting: March 12, 2020

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake

Approved 3/12/20

*In a vote by email taken following the meeting, Antioch High School students were added to the two other awardees in this category.