

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors Meeting, February 11, 2021**

Board Members Present: Jay Ashford, Zandile Christian, Tomasz Finc, Chris Harper, Julie Johnson, Marjorie Jones, Marion Mills, Ryan Romaneski, Daniel Swafford, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake, Kevin Whittinghill

Board Members Absent: Fran Donohue, Ben Stein-Lobovits

Guest: Amauri Collins-McMurray, Council District 4 Office

Abbreviations used: BACT (Bay Area Clean Team); BID (Business Improvement District); DB&PA (Dimond Business and Professional Association); DPW (Oakland Department of Public Works); OPD (Oakland Police Department)

The meeting was convened via Zoom at approximately 7:00 p.m.

1. **Agenda approval.**

ACTION: Approve the meeting agenda as presented. (Motion: Marjorie; second: Marion; in favor, unanimous)

2. **Minutes approval.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from December board meeting. (Motion: Marion; second: Jay; in favor, unanimous)

3. **Chair's report.** Ryan thanked Julie and Marjorie for working with him on the budget, including assessing the status of current financials and how to approach preparing the FY22 budget.

4. **District 4 report.** Amauri gave the following updates:

Dimond Park. Amauri commented on the submission from Friends of Dimond Park of its three priorities for DPW attention, as requested by the council office. Repair of picnic tables and benches could possibly be addressed; the flooding in the park is being worked on currently; and improving accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act is likely beyond the city's capacity at this time.

Local Heroes Awards. The traditional annual program has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The council office will instead make individual recognitions over the coming months. Amauri welcomed recommendations from DIA board members.

City Budget. Many part-time and temporary employees have been laid off. Certain cuts have been determined and put into place already. Amauri will send the board the City Administrator's document that lays these out. At this point, it's unclear that the BID Feasibility Study grant for the Dimond will survive future budget trimming, but Councilmember Thao is working to see that it does. Meanwhile, the City is watching closely the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue bill under consideration in Congress. Should it pass intact, the City could see a \$120 million* one-time infusion of funds.

5. **For the good of the order.** Considerable concern was expressed about sideshows that took place the previous weekend at Coolidge Ave. and MacArthur Blvd., and at

Fruitvale Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. Graffiti on Dimond businesses was pervasive. Clean-up by the businesses and/or property owners is underway and volunteer Phil Caskey will tackle what he can this coming Saturday. Within DIA's service agreement with BACT, some graffiti removal on free-standing public infrastructure should be happening as well. Kevin, John Zaro, and others have been discussing more organized volunteer effort. One thought is to hire BACT to take care of more, if needed, with the costs split between DIA and DB&PA.

La Perla will have a soft opening on February 14 at its new location on Fruitvale Ave.

The February DIA e-newsletter is in the works and will be in a new, easier-to-produce format. One Membership & Outreach Committee goal for FY22 is to publish the newsletter more often, such as bi-monthly instead of quarterly.

Paws & Claws has closed and work is being done on the building. No one knew what is planned for the space.

6. **IRS 990.** Marjorie shared earlier in the week the draft IRS 990 form for DIA for FY20, which she is preparing to submit next week. She gave an overview of its purpose and content, and invited questions from the board. Required forms for the same period will be submitted to the California Franchise Tax Board and the state Office of the Attorney General as well.

7. **FY 22 Budget.** Ryan presented a summary chart of DIA's average income and expenses over the last several years, and invited discussion about revenue in the coming year, given the absence of a traditional Oaktobefest in 2020 and 2021. He then presented a summary of budget requests from the committees, showing to what extent specific expenses would be offset by projected revenue, including KDC fundraising, member dues, donations, and cost-share matching with DB&PA. Overall, proposed expenses need to be reduced by about \$30,000 and Ryan asked the committees to look for cuts and adjust their budget requests in the online spreadsheet by March 5.

8. **Board recruitment.** Time was short for this item. Ryan asked for two volunteers to join with the Finance & Administration Committee to conduct the recruitment. Kevin volunteered.

9. **Work in Progress (WIP) reports** (*from written reports*).

Beautification. A new round of tree-well weeding has begun, given weed growth this winter. Natural chipped material from the city supply at Joaquin Miller Park is being used for mulch, and the red lava rock is being removed.

Grants. The Dimond Gateway project to renovate landscaping and make irrigation repairs was recently completed.

Membership & Outreach. The February newsletter is in progress. Timing of a spring/summer membership campaign needs to be determined so as not to conflict with other campaigns. As of February 11, DIA has 89 current members.

Public Safety. DIA co-wrote with the NCPC22x a letter to Sheng Thao's office listing public safety priorities for the Dimond: developing a relationship with our OPD Community Resource Officer, reducing the uptick in crime, and increasing traffic safety. The hope is that these issues can be addressed with the help of her office.

Head-Royce School. The issue of parents' using the Potomac St. Slow Street for routing during school drop-offs and pick-ups remains unresolved. It appeared that a reroute to use the school's Lot F at the top of campus might happen, but it has fallen through, ostensibly because it isn't allowed under the school's conditional use permit from the City. Staffer Matt Napoli from Councilmember Thao's office is seeking accurate information from the City's transportation and permitting departments. Meanwhile, the Potomac Street neighbors plan to resume their Wednesday morning protests.

Adjournment. Ryan adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Next board meeting: March 11, 2021

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake
Approved 3/11/21*

*See 3/11/21 minutes for updated figure.