

Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors Meeting May 13th, 2021

Board Members Present: Ryan Romaneski , Lindsey Vontz (new), Alex Park (new), Bret Peterson (new), Chris Harper, David Gross (new), Erica Perez (new), Jay Ashford, Julie Johnson, Kevin Whittinghill , Sara Goldware (new), Zandile Christian, Tomasz Finc

The meeting was convened via Zoom at approximately 7:00 PM

1. Agenda approval.

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

2. Minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from April DIA board meeting. (motion: Jay; second Kevin; all in favor minus Chris and new board members)

3. Chairs Report.

Ryan opened the meeting with a fun facts exercise to guess board members

4. For the good of the order

Jay reported from the recent Oakland budget town hall meeting. Various budget documents are available at <https://stories.opengov.com/oaklandca/published/5SOqtGYw> . The biggest change from previous years is that the page size of the budget has shrunk. Final budget will be due by June.

5. Neighborhood Updates

Ryan introduced Rebecca Sanchez who represented Sheng Thao. Rebecca has previously represented District 4, Friends of Sausal Creek, and will now also represent the Dimond. Her main focus is public safety and vegetation.

The Dimond tennis courts and Montclair pickleball courts are now open. Rebecca shared a link to the budget office [survey](#). She encouraged everyone to contact the office to help determine priorities.

Julie raised the issue of the CVS parking lot cleanup. Chris asked about the status of Bombera opening. Rebecca highlighted that Bombera had an open house in April but might not have a grand opening till June.

Chris asked about guidance for future outdoor events. Specifically picnic in the park with Circus Bella and Oaktoberfest. Rebecca mentioned that there will likely be big changes due to CDC changing masking ordinances with many logistical issues to work with. There are plans for a national night out in August.

Tomasz asked about updates on the Head Royce Loop and Rebecca said she would speak to Matt about it next time.

6. **Committees**

Ryan reminded everyone that every board member needs to be on at least two committees. Committee heads were asked to present their goals so that new board members could volunteer for committees.

Beautification

Julie filling in for JoAnn. We exist to create a clear, green, and artistically rich community for neighbors. Meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. Dimond public art and Keep Dimond Clean rolled into the Beautification committee. This includes KDC and Dimond Public Art. Victoria does a lot with tree planting. Alex works with Victoria and Marion on mulching and weeding.

Community Care and Improvement

Jay presented this committee as a merger of two older committees. Main functions are quarterly general meetings and grants. There were 12 grant applications last year and the committee funded 8. Covid slowed some of these. Four are close to completion. Others are in progress. If you like event planning and people who are doing good in the community this is a good committee for you.

Economic development and Business Development

Ryan presented this committee and its focus on the Dimond commercial core. It mainly functions to support business, connect with merchants, and activate vacant spaces. Goals this year include increasing the visibility of Dimond businesses. Kevin is currently running a FaceBook promotion to raffle off gift cards for local merchants. Bret is planning an in person event to dedicate the mural by BOFA. This group is focused now on the BID. If you want to see businesses thrive in the Dimond then this is a good cmte for you

Membership and Outreach

Tomasz presented this committee as a merger of the Communications and Membership committee. This group exists to publicize the work that the DIA does through our website, social media, newsletter, and news groups. It also grows our donor base and works to involve our members in volunteer activities.

Public Safety

Kevin presented this committee and its focus on work to deter and respond to crime in the neighborhood. And how we can be a channel for those concerns to Councilmember Thao and OPD. Focus is on reducing crime and increasing feeling safe. Sometimes it's about design like stop signs and cross walks. The group works with NCPC/22x and our CRO. Recent focus has been on sideshows and chronic problem areas inclusive of high garbage areas.

Ryan asks new board members to submit committee preferences

7. Anti Asian Violence

Ryan thanked Alex for helping to focus our statement in support of the AAPI community. The board plans to deliver this message to local businesses and offer to connect them with city resources. Alex highlighted that the purpose of this initiative is to build rapport with merchants and leverage DIA resources and communication channels.

DIA plans to create a new survey to ask residents about their top community concerns.

8. KDC Fundraiser

Lindsey presented on behalf of JoAnn. KDC will happen in June. This year's goal will be \$8000. Lindsey asked the board to commit to emailing potential leads by tapping into the boards' collective community network. Zandile highlighted that the board presence tabling is incredibly valuable even if it doesn't raise significant money. Specifically, speaking directly to our community is incredibly important and shouldn't be looked over. Chris highlighted that showing the DIA logo while tabling gives us more of a presence so that we aren't a mystery.

9. Discussing Cares Grant Planning

Ryan informed the board of a \$15,000 grant from the CA State Gov Covid relief act. This grant is Intended for non profits whose revenue were interrupted during the pandemic. The Dimond and Laurel received these grants. We're fortunate that we can balance our budget with reserves. We had two years of reserves saved. We ran a lean budget this past year. Dipped into only \$15k worth of reserves. We haven't planned for these funds and we need to figure out what to do with them.

Ryan highlighted numerous possible ideas including

- Investing for grants for businesses who have struggled, direct development of business focused projects like helping to paint storefronts
- Physical capital improvements
- New plantings
- Increase public art
- More KDC
- Replenish our reserves

Board members broke into smaller groups to discuss ideas

Report back included

Alex, Erica, Zandille: Providing some assistance to merchants. Small grants. Wanted to better understand the financial state of the DIA and if in person events were going to return in any capacity.

Julie and Sara Sara: Replenish reserves. Ask new board members about what they think. Support for mural on near BOFA lot

Chris and Lindsey: Replenish reserves. Reach out to merchants to understand needs

Brett and Kevin: Replenish reserves. Parklet subsidy program. Help merchants with some of the costs.

David and Jay: Using part of the money for reserves and really liked the idea of giving the money directly to businesses.

Ryan and Tomasz: Give funds directly to merchants and less focus on replenishing the reserves.

Julie to send out financial statements to show the current DIA financial state.

Board Office Elections

- 3 official offices
 - Chair
 - Very broad role
 - Lots of facilitation
 - Some speeches
 - Primary function is running meetings
 - Currently: Ryan
 - Nominees: Ryan
 - Recorder
 - Takes notes
 - Files the notes
 - Works with comms to get them posted
 - Currently: Victoria (on leave for 3 months)
 - Nominees: Lindsay (accept), Alex (accept), Jay (decline), Chris (decline), Tomasz (decline), Kevin (decline)
 - Treasurer
 - A lot of the job has been taken over by the bookkeeper Jenny
 - Holds onto the checks and prints them for events like Oaktobefest
 - Works with CPA at the end of the year
 - Supposed to report at all board meetings
 - Currently: Julie

- Nominees: Julie (decline), Marjorie (accept)

Only one office will need an election. Chris will send out the ballot.

Ryan thanked everyone for nominations.

12. **WIP Reports**. Skipped due to meeting running long

Adjournment at 9:04 PM.

Minutes written by Tomasz Finc

Approved 6/10/21