

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 8/8/19**

Board members present at start of meeting: Jay Ashford, Chris Harper, Julie Johnson, Marion Mills, Robert Raburn, Ryan Romaneski, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Absent:** Zandile Christian, Fran Donohue, Tomasz Finc, Daniel Swafford. **Guests:** Tim Little (DPA), Rishi Desai (Dimond property owner), Calanit Kamala (DB&PA).

Abbreviations used in minutes: DB&PA (Dimond Business & Professional Association); DPA (Dimond Public Art); OPD (Oakland Police Department).

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

1. Agenda approval.

ACTION: Approve the agenda as presented. (Motion: Robert; Second: Marion; in favor, unanimous)

2. July minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from the July 11 board meeting. (Motion: Robert; Second: Ryan; in favor, 7; opposed, 0; abstain, 1 [Marion])

3. Chair's report. Chris thanked board members for their various efforts over the past month, including the picnic (Robert), the Oaktobertfest contract (Victoria, Julie, Fran, JoAnn), and the August 27 merchant & community mixer (Jay, Tomasz). Chris asked board members to respond to the online meeting invitations immediately when they receive them, even to indicate "maybe" when in doubt.

4. Budget reports. Julie distributed budget vs. actuals reports for FY19 (last year) and FY20 to date. Budget figures for FY20 have not been entered yet so the report reflected actuals only. Although FY19 may have a few more tweaks, at this point it shows that income was 87% of projected and expenses were 58% of projected.

5. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.

Beautification. Victoria reported that Phase II of tree-well mulching was completed, as was the transplanting of seven moraeas into three empty tree wells at Champion/MacArthur and Fruitvale near Farmer Joe's. Using KOB grant funds, a major ivy removal and tree pruning was accomplished at Bienati Overlook. Committee member Alex Park's father replaced (at no charge) the faulty Safeway water faucet that's used for watering the linden tree on Fruitvale. Marion reported that the Friends of Dimond Park planted eight new trees in the park.

Communications. JoAnn reported that Kathleen Russell will retire from her roles as Dimond Calendar coordinator and Dimond News Group co-moderator as of the end of November. This will also be her last year as lead on the KDC fundraiser. Tomasz continues to work on the PayPal issue for members signed up for recurring annual payments.

Economic Development. Robert reported that Dominica Rice-Cisneros will get her final City Council approval to complete the purchase of the Champion Street firehouse soon, after which the build-out of Bombero restaurant can start in earnest.

Keep Dimond Clean. JoAnn reported that she has five or six board members and KDC volunteers signed up for each of the fundraiser tabling days, but more board members are needed to help with the solicitation of individual merchant contributions.

Dimond Picnic. Robert reported that the picnic and circus were a great success, despite the challenges of getting the area cleared of trash that morning and the water line that broke when the circus was setting up, necessitating a move to another area. He also acknowledged the great help of Karen Marie Schroeder.

Head Royce School. JoAnn will distribute to the board the letter the Neighborhood Steering Committee received from the school responding to its questions.

Maintenance services agreement. Victoria reported that Zandile and she have completed the negotiations with Bay Area Clean Team and a revised services agreement is being drawn up. Work under the new agreement will start later this month.

October 2 general meeting. Robert reported he has met with Louise Anderson of the League of Women Voters of Oakland to finalize the invitation letter and list of invitees to the “Meet Your Public Officials” evening. A total of 33 people, including 22 elected officials and 11 agency leads, will be invited to participate. Another board member is needed to join Robert and Ryan on the ad hoc committee for the meeting.

6. August 27 merchant & community mixer. Jay gave an update on plans for the mixer, with this schedule: 6:00-6:30, check-in, nametags, mingle, and munch; 6:30, speakers, including Councilmember Thao, Felicia Verdin and/or Giovanni Guzman (OPD), Cali Kamala (DB&PA), and Chris (DIA). Carol Lonergan is the lead on publicity, which began two weeks ago. Next week, Cali will go door-to-door to merchants with flyers encouraging them to attend. Victoria suggested that an update be given on prospective merchants and empty storefronts, and that all merchants present be introduced so attendees can connect. Refreshments were discussed, resulting in the following resolution.

ACTION: Approve up to \$250 in expenses for mixer refreshments, to be matched by DB&PA. (Motion: Robert; Second: Jay; in favor, unanimous)

7. Bay Wheels. Chris led a follow-up discussion on the presentation Bay Wheels gave at the last board meeting. Parking for the bikes in the Dimond generated the most comments. Among the possibilities raised were: At existing bike racks (i.e., open distribution, which is Bay Wheels preference); dedicated Bay Wheels multi-bike docks at the Caltrans lot (with the challenge of working out an agreement) or other public lots, such as Bienati Way. Chris will draft a bullet-point list of the ideas and comments, and formulate a communication to the council office and Bay Wheels.

9. Oaktobefest contract. Victoria reported that the draft contract, along with Daniel’s proposal, was sent to DB&PA, which responded with several comments and requests today. In the next week, the outstanding issues will be resolved, and the contract will move to signature. Daniel’s fee and bonus terms remain the same as the previous two years.

ACTION: Authorize the DIA Executive Committee to finalize the contract with all parties and secure signatures by DIA, DB&PA, and the event planner (Daniel Swafford). (Motion: Victoria; Second: JoAnn; in favor, unanimous)

10. Proposed mural at 3525 Fruitvale Ave. Cali presented the proposed project, with slide illustrations. The property owner, Rishi, and members of DPA added other information. The mural would be ~1,800 sq. ft. and depict a nature/garden theme in the larger, nearly square section, and a Monet-esque stream, foliage, and flowers along the narrower, longer section of the space. A protective coating that could be washed would be applied to the mural. The quote by Robin Gibson, the artist, is

\$18,000, with a proposed cost-share of \$6,000 DB&PA, \$6,000 DIA, and \$6,000 via corporate and community fundraising.

Boardmembers were enthusiastic but had a number of questions and concerns, including: the condition of the wall, particularly layers of paint (possibly containing lead) and cracks, and how to adequately prepare it; the durability and maintenance of the mural; any permit requirements; copyright on the art with guarantee it would not be painted over; and how the Bank of America's trees along the wall would be handled. DPA committee members will continue to work with DB&PA and Rishi to evaluate the project and report back to the full board.

Adjournment. Chris adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Next board meeting: September 12, 2019

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake