

**Dimond Improvement Association  
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 12/14/17**

**Board members present at start of meeting:** Ahmad Anderson, Fran Donohue, Julie Johnson, Katherine Kott, Marion Mills, Ryan Romaneski, Jennifer Joey Smith, Victoria Wake. **Arriving later:** Robert Raburn, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson. **Absent:** Zandile Christian, Daniel Swafford  
**Guests:** Iowayna Peña, John Zaro.

**Abbreviations used in minutes:** (FOSC) Friends of Sausal Creek; (OPD) Oakland Police Department.

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Joey convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

**1. Approval of agenda.**

ACTION: Approve agenda as prepared. (Motion: Joey; Second: Ahmad; in favor, unanimous)

**2. November minutes.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from November 8 board meeting. (Motion: Ryan; Second: Marion; in favor, 6; opposed, 0; abstain, 4 [Ahmad, Fran, Joey, Robert])

**3. Dimond Lights.** A brief discussion included questions on how a four-day event was determined and what events were planned for teenagers, and a suggestion that an event proposal to the board would have been advisable.

**4. Selection of nominating committee for board election.** JoAnn, Robert, and Ryan will be the committee this year, issuing the recruitment notice and interviewing prospective candidates.

**5. February 7 general meeting.** Joey and Robert reported on preparations for the meeting, which will focus on disaster preparedness and resilience in the Dimond. It was suggested that the community be educated on the geology of the area and that DIA not recommend in favor or against automatic gas shut-off valves, given mixed opinions on the subject.

**6. Council District 4 report.** Iowayna reported the following from Annie Campbell-Washington's office:

- Council Districts 4 and 5 will hold a disaster preparedness resource fair in mid-January at Fruitvale School.
- Annie will attend Dimond Lights in the evening on December 16.
- The unlicensed cannabis outlet on Champion has until December 31 to vacate; the Dimond is "green zoned," so a future cannabis business is possible.
- Annie and staff will follow up on actions agreed to at the meeting with DIA's Homeless & Panhandling Committee.
- A new water spigot at Bienati parking lot has been installed and a DIA representative can pick up the mechanism to access the water.

- There's no recent news on Bombero's progress with the renovation of the Champion Fire House.

7. **CVS issues.** John Zaro reported on his efforts to get CVS to keep its parking lot free of trash and to remove graffiti from the building. He has reported the issues to the city's code-violation office and encouraged others to do the same, which has resulted in visits by a city inspector and deadlines for CVS action. John noted that the situation has improved at times only to deteriorate again. He is collaborating with others, including David Coleman, to broaden the approach with additional tactics.

#### 8. **Work in Progress (WIP) reports.**

*Beautification.* Victoria reported that committee members held a site visit with Trees for Oakland Flatlands staff on November 13 to look at possible locations for additional trees. Prepping and mulching of 14 additional tree wells (Fruitvale between MacArthur and Montana) has been scheduled. And a November 18 work party with FOSC at Bienati Creek Overlook yielded more than two dozen bags of removed ivy and other plant debris.

*Community Life.* Katherine announced that youth makerspace pop-ups will be at Dimond Lights (Head Royce School and Dimond Library participating), Oaklandish in February, and Dimond Library in March. She also reported that DIA's youth engagement program has made it to the second round of Oaklandish's Innovator Awards competition and that, unfortunately, the gift-wrapping station set up at Oaklandish for Plaid Friday didn't have any customers. Ahmad reported that he will be meeting with the principal at Bret Harte School about youth engagement opportunities.

*Public Safety.* Via email, Daniel reported that the committee has identified the desired security camera equipment and has permission from Cybelle's owner for a pilot project at that site. Sourcing for competitive pricing on installation is in progress now.

*Homeless & Panhandling.* Marion reported that the committee is awaiting follow-up from its November meeting with Councilmember Campbell-Washington, including Annie's commitment to make these contacts: CVS and Two-Star Market, asking them not to sell liquor to panhandlers; Farmer Joe's, offering support to reduce panhandling in its parking lot; Greg Minor in the city administrator's office on OPD issues; and the city attorney's office on interpretation of homeless and panhandling ordinances. (Iowayna responded that these are definitely on their list to accomplish soon.)

9. **Marijuana dispensaries.** The board discussed the City process underway to license eight dispensaries in Oakland in 2018, including potentially in the Dimond commercial area. Various perspectives were expressed, and no position or action was suggested at this time.

10. **Caltrans park & ride.** Robert reported that Caltrans has approved the encroachment permit request he submitted to designate DIA as the "adopt a spot" litter-removal steward for the newly renovated lot. A sign is forthcoming.

11. **Retreat preparation.** Following a general discussion, it was decided that the January board meeting would be skipped in favor of asking that all committees meet and do some pre-

retreat reflection on 2017 and planning for 2018. Fran volunteered to have the January 28 retreat at her house.

**12. DIA mission and purpose statements.** Victoria presented the amended draft language, which reads:

*Our Mission:* To make Oakland's Dimond District a vibrant, safe, and beautiful place for everyone to live, work, shop, and play.

*Our Motto:* Involvement Builds Community

*Who We Are:* We are a community-based, 501c3 non-profit organization, with membership and participation open to all. We bring together residents, businesses, agencies, and other groups to engage in community projects, to address issues of common concern, and to cultivate a friendly, inclusive neighborhood.

**ACTION:** Approve the mission, motto, and "who we are" statements as presented. (Motion: Joey; Second: Robert; in favor, unanimous)

**Adjournment.** Joey adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**Next board meeting:** February 8, 2018

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake  
Approved 2/8/18*