

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 3/14/19**

Board members present at start of meeting: Ahmad Anderson, Zandile Christian, Fran Donohue, Chris Harper, Julie Johnson, Ryan Romaneski, Robert Raburn, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Arriving later:** Daniel Swafford. **Absent:** Tomasz Finc, Marion Mills. **Guests:** Jay Ashford, Amauri Collins-McMurray.

Abbreviations used in minutes: DB&PA (Dimond Business & Professional Association)

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

1. Agenda approval.

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

2. February minutes approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes from the February 21 board meeting. (Motion: Fran; Second: JoAnn; in favor, 6; opposed, 0; abstain, 3 [Ahmad, Julie, Robert])

3. Chair's report. Chris talked about where we are in the goal- and budget-setting process. He asked that board members be more responsive to requests, as much time is being lost in issuing repeated email and phone call reminders.

4. Council District 4 report. Amauri Collins-McMurray, Community Liaison to Councilmember Sheng Thao, introduced himself and said he would be our contact going forward. Highlights of his update included:

- The council office held a town hall meeting in Redwood Heights and brought city police and transportation officials to talk about safety and the city's summer road-paving program.
- The office is planning a series of "safety walks" in various neighborhoods, accompanied by police representatives, to talk to neighbors about how to prevent break-ins and thefts.
- Sheng will hold office hours at the Montclair Farmer's Market on March 24 and at Communité Table on April 13.

5. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.

Beautification. Daffodils planted in the fall are blooming in five locations. Marion and Tom Rose will survey tree wells on Fruitvale Ave. below MacArthur Blvd. to determine red lava mulch needs and obtain bid. Tree stumps will be removed from two street-tree wells on Fruitvale Ave. and Dimond Ave., where the city cut down dead and damaged trees.

Communications. Carol Lonergan is the lead publicist for the April general meeting, following the DIA publicity checklist. Victoria and JoAnn have ordered new A-frames for delivery this month. A new paid version of Paid Membership Pro software gives access to technical support and plug-ins. Tomasz will adjust membership expiration reminders to go out 30 days prior and 14 days prior.

Dimond Public Art. Artist Pam Consear repaired the postcard mural at St. Louis Veterinary, which had been damaged by graffiti. The committee is working with Roberto Costa and his team to plan mosaics for light pole bases at Bienati parking lot, using Small Sparks grant and DB&PA match.

Head Royce School (HRS). The city held two commission meetings and invited comments related to the scope of the Environmental Impact Report it is preparing on the school's proposed expansion. The Neighborhood Steering Committee (NSC) submitted a 14-page letter to the HRS trustees regarding its concerns with the expansion and lack of transparency. NSC also submitted a 10-page document covering its concerns to the city's planning department.

April 3 general meeting. Ryan reported on the results of the ranked-choice voting for Volunteer of the Year, announcing that the Friends of Dimond Park will be the 2018 recipient.

Board nominations. Two potential nominees have been interviewed. Amy Johnson has grant-writing and blogging experience and serves on the Oakland Public Library's Advisory Commission. Jay Ashford has served on various city commissions, is a IT and project management consultant, and is president of the Bret Harte Middle School PTSA.

6. Maintenance agreement (*continued from last meeting*). Zandile and Victoria did a brief refresher on the prospective services agreement and again asked for board approval to finalize negotiations with the provider for a maximum annual cost.

ACTION: Authorize the Maintenance Agreement Ad Hoc Committee to conclude negotiations and finalize a new services agreement with Bay Area Clean Team, first securing a commitment from the Dimond Business & Professional Association to cost-share at the increased level required for the expanded services. (Motion: Zandile; Second: JoAnn; in favor, unanimous)

7. Request for grant to Circus Bella. Robert presented the request from Circus Bella for a grant to support its performance this year at the Dimond Picnic. The non-profit has experienced a significant increase in its operating costs due to new state employment requirements. Each performance costs about \$9,300 to mount.

ACTION: Approve grant of \$1,500 to Circus Bella from the FY19 Grants & Sponsorships budget line to support this year's performance at the Dimond Park Picnic. (Motion: Robert; Second: Victoria; in favor, 8; opposed, 0; abstain, 1 [Zandile])

8. General Meetings 2019. JoAnn led the board in a discussion about future meeting topics, based on ideas generated at the board's January retreat. Tentative topics were chosen for specific dates and recruitment of ad hoc committees was initiated, with these results: June – community engagement (JoAnn, Chris); August – merchants & police (Jay); October – elected and agency officials (Robert); December – city department of transportation.

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

Next board meeting: April 11, 2019

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake
Approved 4/11/19*