

**Dimond Improvement Association  
Board of Directors meeting minutes, 7/12/18**

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

**Abbreviations used in minutes:** DB&PA (Dimond Business & Professional Association); FOOSC (Friends of Sausal Creek); OPD (Oakland Police Department)

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Chris convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Agenda approval.**

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

**2. June minutes approval.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from the June 14 board meeting. (Motion: JoAnn; Second: Ryan; in favor, 7; opposed, 0; abstain, 3 [Ahmad, Marion, Ryan])

**3. Chair's report.** Chris has read the pre-retreat board survey results, which identify board members' sense of our strengths and weaknesses; he will be taking those insights as guidance as the year progresses.

**4. Work in Progress (WIP) reports.**

*Beautification.* Victoria reported that the native planting at Bienati creek overlook was weeded by FOOSC and their Team Oakland volunteers, and that Robert arranged for a large, donated load of mulch for the Bienati parking lot. Marion gave an update on plans for mulching 21 tree wells in the commercial area. The committee will consider a bid on this, along with the second bid for the Champion Transit Plaza landscape project, at its next meeting.

*Communications.* JoAnn reported that the new tablecloth and runner with logo have been received; she will be ordering printed thank you notes for donations above a certain level; she and Victoria are researching new A-frames and producing an informational flyer for the DIA table at the picnic; and Tomasz is assisting board members in activating their google accounts and accessing the team drive. Victoria gave a brief rundown on prospective items in the August newsletter; she will send an email soliciting other items and announcing an August 7 copy deadline, with publication expected mid-August.

*Dimond Public Art.* Ryan reported that two new community members have joined the committee—Janet Brugos and Myra Kaplan. The next Art in the Street event is planned as part of Oakttoberfest. Julie and Janet will coordinate the activities, while Ryan and Myra will coordinate planning for the Dimond Lights winter event. JoAnn is helping get access to the Safeway display windows on Fruitvale; the committee will then arrange for new artwork to be placed. In the coming months, the committee will reach out to the ~25 people who expressed interest in public art at February's general meeting, enlisting their participation in the development of a draft master plan for public art in the district.

*Homeless & Panhandling.* Marion expressed appreciation for the community members on the committee, but made the point that having another board member join would be very helpful and increase the committee's effectiveness. She also reiterated disappointment that the agreed upon actions from the councilmember's office have not happened to date.

*Keep Dimond Clean.* Zandile reported that Kathleen Russell and JoAnn are coordinating the KDC Fundraiser this year. The campaign will begin in August, and will include various forms of publicity and outreach, including tabling at Farmer Joe's 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on August 4 and 18, and September 8. Merchants who are not members of DB&PA will be approached for contributions as well.

*Membership & Volunteer Development.* Ahmad is giving consideration to assuming the committee chairship and will let the board know his decision.

*Public Safety.* Daniel reported that members of the committee did a walk-through with OPD Community Resource Officer Giovanny Guzman to identify good locations for additional security cameras. The committee is looking closely at the MacArthur Blvd./Dimond Ave. intersection and the Fruitvale Ave./Bienati Wy. area. It's expected that Kana, the future cannabis dispensary, will have a robust security camera system as well. The committee continues to work on setting up a community meet-and-greet with both Officer Guzman and the OPD walking officer Daniel Cornejo-Valdvia

*Dimond Picnic, July 22.* Robert reported that the A-frames with posters have been deployed, with the help of volunteer Tom Donovan. The day's activities will include a creek walk with FOSC at 10:00 a.m., Recreation Center activities beginning at 11:00 a.m., Circus Bella at 1:00 p.m., and open swims following. Due to the recent demise of two huge oaks, canopies will be provided to shade the organizational tables.

*General Meeting, October 3.* Robert reiterated that the League of Women Voters will coordinate and facilitate the District 4 candidates night. Tomasz will join the ad hoc committee with Robert and Zandile.

**5. Council District 4 Report.** Iowayna Peña from Annie Campbell-Washington's office wasn't present. The board discussed issues that we hope the office will address before the end of Annie's term, particularly the promised next steps on panhandling and homelessness. It was agreed to develop a new statement of our priority issues for council-office attention and convey it to Annie—for whatever might be possible in her remaining months—and to candidates for the District 4 council seat.

**6. DIA 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** The ad hoc committee (Chris, Julie, Marion, Zandile) has met and put together initial ideas for the event. The date will likely be a Friday in September, with the venue still to be determined.

**7. Grant request for "Old Survivor" film.** Stan described the film project, which will celebrate our East Bay redwoods and tie in the Dimond as the gateway to Oakland's park and trail system. With a \$1,500 contribution (and a matching contribution from DB&PA, which has been secured), the two groups would enjoy sponsorship benefits at the \$5,000 level, which include various film, web, and print acknowledgements, and a table at the October 9 premiere, expected to draw 1,000 attendees.

ACTION: Allocate \$1,500 from the Grants & Sponsorships budget line item for support of Oakland Trails' new film, "Old Survivor." (Motion: Chris; Second: Ahmad; in favor, unanimous)

**8. Relationship with DB&PA.** Fran and Daniel were invited to share their thoughts on the development of this year's budget in conjunction with the merchants, something that has not been formally pursued in the past. They both described a relationship that is much stronger now and a process that has produced a solid, collaborative, co-funding partnership on many programs and projects.

**9. Discussion about committees.** Chris asked board members to give their perspective on how the committee structure is working. Among the comments were: over the last year, the structure has been well-defined and is producing results; the real work of an organization like DIA happens at the committee level; we need to be cautious about taking on too much generally or saddling particular members with too many obligations across multiple committees.

Elsewhere during the meeting, Chris made two related requests:

- that committees let him know when they are meeting so he can attend if he's available.
- that committees not feel limited to their own members when it comes to seeking input and assistance, but rather consider including other board members as desired or needed.

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

**Next board meeting:** August 9, 2018

*Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake*

*Approved 8/9/18*