

**Dimond Improvement Association
Board meeting minutes, 9/8/16**

Board members present at start of meeting: Zandile Christian, David Coleman, Craig Flanery, Tom Rose, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Victoria Wake. **Arriving at 7:10 p.m.:** Daniel Swafford, Fran Donohue. **Arriving at 7:15 p.m.:** Julie Johnson, Robert Raburn. **Arriving at 8:25 p.m.:** Jennifer Joey Smith. **Absent:** Marion Mills. **Guests:** Hayward Blake, Eileen Espejo, Carol Lonergan,

Meeting was convened by Craig at 7:02 p.m.

1. August 11 minutes.

ACTION: Approve minutes from August 11 meeting. (Motion: Robert; Second: Zandile; in favor, 6; abstain, 4 [Craig, Daniel, David, Tom])

2. Treasurer's report. Julie distributed a report on bank account balances, which included DIA's portion of Oaktoberfest 2015 proceeds (in BofA checking account) and Dimond Business & Professional Association's (DB&PA) Oaktoberfest 2015 proceeds as a pending disbursement.

3. Work-in-Progress (WIP) reports.

Oaktobefest. Daniel asked about plans for a DIA booth; Craig, Joey, and Chris Harper will staff the booth, and possibly others.

Website. JoAnn asked board members to watch for an email requesting text on specific topics for the new website.

Art in the Street. Julie requested more assistance at the September event, including at the DIA table. Some of the project's initial active volunteers have dropped off, leaving a greater burden on just a few people. July attendance was strong but August attendance was low.

General Meeting, October 5. Zandile reported on plans for the League of Women Voters presentation on November ballot measure pros and cons. She received requests to present from speakers on Measure HH and Proposition 55, but concerns were raised that it might not be appropriate at an LWV forum. Fran, Tom, Julie, Victoria, Daniel, and Robert volunteered to assist Zandile with tasks before and at the meeting.

Eileen Espejo, representing the Coalition for Healthy Oakland Children, provided information and answered questions on Measure HH, the soda tax measure on the Oakland ballot.

Dimond Business & Professional Association. Fran reported that DB&PA has the Oaktobefest 2016 contract to approve and sign.

NCPC 22X. Zandile reported that the steering committee, which is presently very small, is discussing how they can move forward as a viable group. Carol added that new bylaws are being developed and may reflect Neighbors for Racial Justice's interest in addressing the causes of crime.

Commercial area trees. Victoria reported on the tree inspection walk with the city's arboricultural inspector Giacomo Damonte in August. The city will maintain the trees--

pruning and removing as necessary--but does not have a tree-planting program. (It's budget and staffing were cut significantly in 2008.) Giacomo has submitted detailed work orders for tending to the trees, but can't say when the work might happen. He also provided suggestions and referrals for pursuing a DIA program to supplement the city's work; Marion and Victoria plan to present a proposal to the board at a later meeting.

4. New District 4 City Council liaison. No report given because new staffer is not onboard yet.

5. ADA compliance in Dimond Park. Hayward Blake, a member of the Access Committee of the Dimond Park Advisory Committee, related the many accessibility issues facing the park and the work of the subcommittee to raise awareness and spur action. The price tag for improvements is \$2.5 million, but he and fellow committee members, including Marilyn Miller, Laurie Umeh, and Opie Bellas, are mounting a strong advocacy campaign for action.

6. Expansion of City's mobile food program. No report given because the city planner expected to attend was not present.

7. Champion Transit Plaza kiosk repairs. Victoria reported on on-site meetings with UMC, the vendor who maintains AC Transit's kiosks. The company has submitted an estimate for various tasks, including plexiglass replacement, lock repair or replacement, and graffiti removal and application of protectant.

ACTION: Approve up to \$600 for repair of the Champion Transit Plaza kiosk and authorize Victoria and Robert to determine which of the proposed tasks will be included. (Motion: Victoria; Second: Robert; in favor, unanimous)

Note: It was requested that the location of keys be included in an inventory of DIA materials and that instructions for proper cleaning of the kiosk plexiglass and metal be disseminated.

8. District 5 Candidates Forum, 9/26: Victoria reported on plans for the forum to be co-sponsored by League of Women Voters (LWV) Oakland, Glenview Neighborhood Association (GNA), and DIA. It will take place 9/26, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church, and include candidates for City Council and School Board. Robert, Zandile, Carol, and Victoria volunteered to arrive at 6:00 p.m. to take on roles as assigned by LWV. A donation to the church from GNA and DIA was discussed; since Glenview includes more of District 5 than the Dimond, GNA has suggested DIA cover just a small portion of the contribution.

ACTION: Approve \$60 donation to the Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church to offset its costs as venue provider for the 9/26 candidates forum. (Motion: Victoria; Second: JoAnn; in favor, unanimous)

9. Real estate and economic development. Joey gave updates on a number of properties in the Dimond commercial area. Remediation work on the Blockbuster site is expected to take about 18 months; the owners do not have immediate plans for development. Remodeling is in progress at the Dimond Printers and Full Moon sites. The Veg Hub and a Mediterranean eatery are expected to open soon in two vacant spaces between the post office and Radio Shack.

10. New business.

- Robert distributed Caltrans I-580 Park & Ride Project Description handouts and reported that the \$2 million in state funding for improvements to and around the Caltrans lots was approved. As part of the beautification, Caltrans will also post an Adopt-a-Spot sign acknowledging the DIA.
- Joey led a discussion about a gas shut-off valve discount program like what Glenview Neighborhood Association is doing (a topic discussed at previous meetings). The consensus was to not pursue it as a DIA project.
- Joey and Victoria reported that AC Transit has sent an initial response to DIA's request to install a NextBus real-time arrival sign at the MacArthur Blvd. & Fruitvale Ave. bus shelter, saying they are looking into the feasibility.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by Craig at 8:37 p.m.

Next board meeting: October 13, 2016

Minutes submitted by Victoria Wake