



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday October 23, 2019**  
**Heritage Square Hall, 731 South A St. Oxnard, CA**

- 1. Call to Order**
  - a. Chairman Vince Behrens called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
  - b. Directors present: Cathi Comras, Angelique Estrada, Fernando Garcia, Janie Lai, Tiffany Lopez, Oscar Madrigal. Quorum met.
  - c. City: Jeffrey Lambert, Community Development Director.
  - d. Staff Abel Magana and Amber Garcia.
- 2. Public Comments**
  - a. Gary Blum- Promotes 5<sup>th</sup> annual Steampunk Festival at Heritage Square.
  - b. Roberto Garcia- Would like to find ways for ODMD to have capital reserves. Disagrees with some of City's recommendations for using the Downtown Improvement Fund and wants long lasting improvements.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting September 25, 2019:**
  - a. Motion to approve made by Comras; seconded by Estrada with addition of Comras' request for Emilio Ramirez (Housing Director) to provide a list of homeless services. Motion Passed.
- 4. Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2019:**
  - a. Motion to approve financials made by Comras; seconded by T. Lopez. F. Garcia abstained. Motion Passed.
- 5. November Board Meeting**

Recommendation: Reschedule date of November Regular Board Meeting to Nov. 16, due to holiday. Corrected to Nov. 20. Motion made by T. Lopez; Seconded by Estrada. Motion Passed.
- 6. City Report:**
  - a. Jeffrey Lambert- Madison Park expected to return the third week of January with development plans for both blocks. Planning within the next month to have a development agreement drafted and to go to council in early 2020. Billboard Lofts project at 8<sup>th</sup> & A, 51 condos with ground floor commercial has been filed. Planning to go to council committee Nov. 12 to present recommendations for the Downtown Improvement Settlement Funds. Adjustments to the list presented last month and the report will go out a week before the Nov. 12 meeting with Housing and Economic Development Committee at 4:30pm. The Housing and Economic Development Committee met with staff on cannabis retail and asked staff to add churches with youth groups to the buffer area, meeting with Council for full consideration on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> council will discuss short term rentals city wide with limitations.
- 7. Committee & Staff Repots:**
  - 1) Image Enhancement**
    - a.) Holiday Programs & Street Décor- Last year's budget \$32,000, this year's budget \$28,000. Goal is to maximize impact and focus on areas with most foot traffic. Seeking sponsorships from vendors to help with costs.
    - b.) Merchant Engagement- Want to have quarterly gathering with our partners and merchants to let them know what is happening in the downtown. Reaching out to encourage merchants to participate in the holiday window décor. Downtown Café Hour at Ruby's at 7:30am on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> for merchants and property owners to be informed of what is happening in the downtown.

**2.)** District Safety- Vagrants have stayed away from repeated call areas. Graffiti is on a rise with larger taggings. Will report to supervisor regarding potentially adding night patrols.

**3.)** Executive Director- Met with City Corps and Brian Yanez (Public Works) to coordinate services better. Looking to hire a third person to start in January. Found a street sweeper for Clean Team that could be useful in their daily work. Received a grant to receive 16 cigarette butt collection receptacles. Went through Workers Comp and Liability Insurance Audits and received a refund on State Fund. CPA is finishing our financial review for our November meeting.

#### **8. Board Comments/ Future Agenda Items:**

F. Garcia- Planning to increase involvement in the next coming year and wants to take more action on easy fixes such as painting and putting in fake grass to have noticeable results.

Lai- Would like the DISF money to be spent on more cameras and lighting for better security in the downtown to discourage crime.

Comras- Still waiting on Emilio's list with names, numbers, and addresses of available services for the homeless so merchants can handout. Also wants to establish Transportation & Development Committee next month as recommended by Marco Li Mandri.

Behrens- Suggests looking into other cities to see how they function to make their city great and follow their example.

#### **9. Adjournment**

7:00 PM

Minutes compiled by Amber Garcia