



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday September 25, 2019**  
**Heritage Square Hall, 731 South A St. Oxnard, CA 93030**

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Chairman Vince Behrens called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- b. Directors present: Ozzie Lopez, Cathi Comras, Angelique Estrada, Janie Lai.  
Quorum met.
- c. City: Jeffrey Lambert, Community Development Director; Rosie Ornelas, Economic Development Manager; Emilio Ramirez, Housing Director.
- d. Staff Abel Magana and Amber Garcia.

**2. Public Comments**

- a. Jack Villa- Invited public to District Town Hall meeting at the Performing Art Center.
- b. Lang Martinez- Stated he was a homeless advocate working with a nonprofit, an addiction specialist, and nurse to assist the homeless.
- c. Roberto Garcia- Modular homes will be built at the harbor to provide affordable housing. Looking into the ODMD financials to find some ways to cut back to have \$50,000 in capital reserves.
- d. Gary Blum- Working on Holiday programs. The Steampunk Fest is in its fifth year and will include a concert. Heritage Scare, a new ghost tour, is planned. A homeless man threatened customers at the most recent First Thursdays Food Trucks. Dealing with negative social media. The Pagoda Christmas music and light program is underfunded. Asking the City for additional funds.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting August 28, 2019:**

- a. Motion to approve minutes made by O. Lopez; seconded by Estrada. Motion Passed.

**4. Financial Report for the period ending August 31, 2019:**

- a. Motion to table action on the financials until next meeting made by Comras;  
Seconded Estrada. O. Lopez opposed. Motion Passed.

**5. Executive Committee:**

- a. Recommendation: Appoint to the Executive Committee:
  - Fernando Garcia (replacing Mark Spellman) – Motion to approve made by O. Lopez; seconded by Estrada. Comras opposed. Motion Passed.
  - Janie Lai (replacing Oscar Madrigal) – Motion to approve made by Estrada, Seconded by O. Lopez. Motion passed.

**6. City Update on Homeless Crisis – Emilio Ramirez:**

- a. There will be a Homeless Resource Fair in Plaza Park on October 16 with 28 service providers. Over the past couple of months an assessment has been conducted of 78 individuals to determine their service needs. The Housing Authority has opened the waitlist for Section 8 vouchers and has 58 vouchers to process with plans to issue over 6 to 8 months. The K Street emergency overnight shelter is in operation with Mercy House managing. Some beds have been set aside for resource fair clients.

Working on protocol for encampments and will make sure it is finalized and implemented soon after the new ordinance takes effect.

**7. Downtown Improvement Settlement Fund (DISF) – Jeff Lambert:**

- a. Would like to use the settlement money to make improvements to attract private investors to the downtown. Recommendations planning to present to Council:
  - 1. Homeless Encampment Response Team to go across the City and Downtown- \$100,000
  - 2. Demolish the Laundromat on 5th street- \$195,000
  - 3. Downtown Parking Structure to have security cameras and proper lighting- \$195,000
  - 4. Maintenance of the Parking Structure- No budget disclosed
  - 5. Overtime Budget for the Police Department to specially dedicate to the downtown- \$250,000 for 3 years
  - 6. Downtown Ambassadors Program, non-sworn officers- \$400,000
  - 7. Downtown Revitalization and Project Manager- \$49,000

Total estimated capital upfront cost \$400,000. Annual cost for 3 years \$815,000

Magana suggested that bringing back the façade grant program would incentivize application of the new design guidelines to improve buildings, which many stakeholders have expressed interest in. Estrada agreed that it was an important program that should be considered.

**8. Committee & Staff Reports:**

- a. District Safety- Written Report handed out.
- b. Director – Magana reported there was a break-in at the Clean Team cage and the team's cell phone was stolen. Our Hit the Boulevard event went well, we had great vendors, entertainment performers, and La Gloria's team was amazing and benefited with an increase in clientele. Staff gathered over 200 signatures to help with the passing of the new ordinance. Invites the boards to attend The Ventura County Tourism Summit next Tuesday October 1.

**9. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Estrada- Thanks everyone for coming to the meeting and sticking through to the end and asks that our meetings stay on track and not get into extended conversations.
- b. Lai- Would like the City to consider having pay toilets in the downtown.
- c. O.Lopez- Has noticed the parking structure has been busier now but that the homeless frequently defecate and urinate there, would like more maintenance to go into the parking structure.

**10. Adjournment**

7:20 PM

Minutes compiled by Amber Garcia