

# DOWNTOWN VENTURA PARTNERS



## Minutes of Boards of Directors' Meeting April 24, 2010 505 Poli, 5<sup>th</sup> floor

**DVO Directors present:** Chair Dave Armstrong, Vice Chair David Comden, Secretary Jerry Breiner, and directors Cheryl Heitmann, Christy Weir, Jason Collis, Jim Luttjohann, Lori Moll, Lucas Johnston and Seana Marie, Jim Rice, Doug Wood, Michele Olsen, Zoe Taylor, Clarey Rudd (absent excused was Treasurer Greg Smith, absent was Steve Hoganson) | **quorum met with 14 of 17 - and 1 late arrival**

**DVP Directors present:** Chair Dave Armstrong, Vice Chair David Comden, Secretary Jerry Breiner, and directors Mark Hartley, Christy Weir, Jeff Becker, Mike Merewether, Cheryl Heitmann, Jeff Smith, (excused absent were Ed Warren and Treasurer Greg Smith) | **quorum met with 9 of 11**

**Other attendees:** Jayme Dwyer, Sid White, Larry Onaga, David Wilson and Mark Stadler (VPD), Charnelle Smith, Bret Weber (SGI), Jane Lax.

**The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chair Armstrong.**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Dave asked the members of the public to introduce themselves and their affiliations.

### **Team reports**

- **Ventura Police Department (VPD) report | Wilson** – David reported that the parking meters' installation timetable is in the hands of Public Works at this time with July as the proposed start date of installation. Mark Stadler reported that he is working with the Patrol Task Force on a number of issues citywide, focusing on past and present behavioral problems. They work typically in plain clothes. Discussion.
- **SGI/Clean & Safe | Weber** – Bret informed the boards that the reception so far has been tremendous, with a lot of good feedback on the teams work. With the grant given Goodwill industries to help hire, we now have a total of 6 men working the downtown to clean it up on a daily basis, only 2.5 DVP pays for. Ventura is one of only a few cities nationwide that are taking part in this program. He reported a large increase in cleanliness and weeding is having a positive effect on visitors. Dave A announced that he met with SGI and they will be using a vacuum-shredder to help minimize the amount of trash to dump.

**Approval of previous board meeting minutes | Breiner** - A motion was made to approve the previous DVO board minutes. Seconded and approved with 15 in favor, no opposing, and no abstentions. A motion was made to approve the previous DVP board minutes. Seconded and approved with 9 in favor, no opposing, and no abstentions.

**Old Business, Executive Committee updates | Comden** – None.

**Homeless emergency shelter ordinance | Larry Onaga, City of Ventura Planning Dept** – Dave introduced Larry as he gave a brief intro to the item coming before council regarding emergency shelters. The City is required by state law to designate possible sites for emergency shelters. Dave produced a letter he wanted the boards to review, proposing a change in the way Planning had asked Staff to edit the ordinance, removing industrial zones as potential sites. The plan is to go back to Council May 4 with a newly-drafted ordinance after public input. Discussion. As it is the new State-wide SB2 law would alter the way zoning is addressed regarding emergency shelters to allow them to be placed "by right" anywhere in the City. Dave insisted that the zoning of a potential location must provide enough space to accommodate housing where it's suggested/needed. The SB2 ordinance changes in Ventura must be enacted within one year of the City's Housing Element approval. The consensus at the Planning Commission meeting was that residential and industrial areas were not appropriate locations for multi-tenant emergency housing. Q: Is the industrial zone off Callens close enough to transportation to potentially allow this? A: discussion. Jerry asked for clarification from the State's requirements, as to transit. Q: Does the requirement also include services? Jerry said it was his understanding that only transit was a requirement. Larry will get back to the Boards on this question. Q: Does the transit-accessible zone also include Olivas and Harbor? A: Yes. Q: Is the Armory location included? A: Planning said they don't want to use the Armory, though it is designated R-1 (residential). We then reviewed Dave's letter and made suggestions including: quoting State law in the

letter, reconsidering industrial areas that are near transit or within the boundaries defined by State law, noting that existing emergency beds are located in a borderline industrial zone. A motion was made to allow Dave to edit the letter with these suggestions and send on to Planning, copying Council on it. Motion was seconded by both DVO and DVP. Passed DVP with a 9-0-0 vote and DVO with a 15-0-0- vote.

**DVO Board Elections | Johnston-Comden** – Lucas brought forth the ballots for the 2010 elections. Comments were made, and the public was asked to leave for a few minutes for a closed session of DVO.

OPEN CLOSED SESSION  
CLOSE CLOSED SESSION  
REOPEN OPEN SESSION

Results were tallied, and the newly elected board members for 2010 are:

Jerry Breiner, incumbent  
Jason Collis, incumbent  
Jayme Dwyer  
Jim Luttjohann, incumbent  
Patrick Mullins  
Clarey Rudd, incumbent  
Seana Sesma, incumbent  
Charnelle Smith  
Zoe Taylor, incumbent  
Christy Weir, incumbent

**Executive Director search committee update | Heitmann** – Cheryl stated the committee has been very actively engaged in the process of finding a new executive director. It is a closed process, as she reminded us, but they are open to suggestions and ideas any time. The process of going thru new applications and scoring them has revealed a current list of about 10-12 candidates, the first batch narrowed down from 38 total. At this point, there are several stages to go thru, and the committee is dedicated to reviewing each and every one as carefully and intelligently as the next. Dave mentioned that he had received one complaint from a member of the public, assuming errors in the process. Dave responded with a lengthy and detailed email, describing the pain-staking process the committee goes thru with each candidate, regardless of geographical location. He stated he was proud of the work this amazing committee has done and the way it is being handled is exemplary. It is a slow process, and as Cheryl the committee will work at the pace necessary to achieve our goal, however long it takes.

**Economic Coordinating Council | Armstrong** – Dave gave a detailed intro to the letter and summary in front of us, regarding the formation of the ECC. The strategic plan outlines the concept of a citywide council, composed of members of the DVP/DVO, Chamber, VVCB and City to work on a coordinated effort to boost our City's economics. They would report directly to the community every quarter and once a year. Discussion. Q: Would the community councils be involved? A: If the Chamber continues its current plan to meet with the councils in their updates, then yes. Concern was raised over the need for a "staff person" from DVP to work with the representative from DVP, as we have no staff. Discussion. Motion was made to accept the proposal, and seconded by both DVO and DVP. Passed DVO with 15-0-0, passed DVP with 9-0-0.

**Approve February DVP Financials | Armstrong for Smith** - Motion was made to approve the DVP financials for February, delivered at last meeting but not agendized for vote. Motion was seconded, passed 9-0-0.

**Approve DVO/DVP participation in Flag program | Armstrong** – Dave brought for the letter from Councilmember Monahan regarding the request for DVO participation in the promoting and endorsement of a flag program downtown. Participation in the program is at \$50/pole, and the DVO/DVP has been asked to endorse, not pay for, the program with our downtown merchants. Motion was made and seconded for both DVO and DVP. Passed DVO 14-0-0. Passed DVP 8-0-0.

**DVP Board terms | Armstrong** – Dave agendized the assignment of terms for DVP board members as our bylaws are being worked on, to utilize the staggered limits within. Discussion. With 8 property owners and 3 business owners, we drew lots to determine length of terms. The terms are:

Breiner – 2 years	Merewether – 2 years
Comden – 3 years	Heitmann – 1 year
Hartley – 3 years	Greg Smith – 3 years
Armstrong – 3 years	Jeff Smith – 1 year
Warren – 1 year	Becker – 2 years

**Announcements –**

- Visitors Bureau - Great press of late was the report from Jim Luttjohann. We have received international coverage in Budget Travel magazine.
- Botanical Gardens – new website is now up and running, looking good.
- Music Festival – Begins April 30<sup>th</sup>!
- Dave thanked Christy for her assistance Monday night, helping push the Thrift Store requirements to a successful vote. It goes in to effect in 30 days and thrift stores have a short period of time to comply. We should stay tuned.
- This month's Third Thursday is at the new "394" club, formerly Riviera Bistro, formerly Deco.
- Turning Point's annual breakfast is May 5 for all interested.

**Public Comment –**

Jill Martinez told us that the El Patio renovation has begun in earnest, with a lot of attention being paid to recreating and reviving some of the original architectural elements that are still at the site. There is neither smoking nor alcohol allowed on the premises.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Jerry Breiner – secretary, 2009-2010**