DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Sept 24, 2026, 9:00am
held in Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel board room, 450 E. Harbor Blvd.

Call to Order. President Josh Addison called the meeting to order at 9:04am.
DVP Directors present: Addison, Vince Daly, Edith Espejo, Whitney Reed, Evan Jonker, Alison Huyett, Michael Mendelson, Sky Sunner, Doug Halter. **Others**: E.D. Kevin Clerici, Police Crpl Metz and Crpl Wojnarowski, Deputy CM Brick Conners, Community Development's A.J. Bernhardt, City ED Manager Meredith Hart, Sara Omanovic from Ema's Herbs, Vim Jonker.

Approval of September Agenda. Approved.
Approval of August meeting minutes. Approved with added sentence showing 2 opposition votes to bylaws ad hoc committee composition. Motion by Doug Halter, 2nd by Evan Jonker. Passed unanimously.

Police Report. Crpls Metz and Wojnarowski provided brief report. Overall crime was quiet downtown in Aug/Sept. A couple burglaries in parking structure in unlocked cars. Bar fights, but nothing unusual. PTF doing proactive patrols and encampment clean-ups in river bottoms. Greater attention on Ventura River area; fentanyl use remains prevalent.

CM Report. Conners shared recent actions from City Council, including approved language changes to parking ordinance; new lease for downtown mini park; revised MSM parklet license agreements and Council ad hoc committee is continuing its meetings with stakeholders. In response to questions, Conners said city and county have a task force looking at unauthorized food vendors on City property. ED's Hart said city's Westside received official opportunity zone designation. Hart also shared Surplus Land Act process for city parcels along Promenade has been completed. No affordable housing developers expressed interest in acquiring city parcels. Next step is public engagement and getting Council direction. Staff to return to Council in December with update to possible entertainment zone in downtown, with focus likely on allowing expanded alcohol consumption on closed streets in conjunction with approved special events rather than set days of the week. Hart also shared city staff are interviewing candidates to fill a newly created position in CM's office focused on creative and cultural economy.

MSM Report. Bernhardt shared various Main Street updates: including Rachel Dimond, the city's community development director, has left the city. As a result, the city has transitioned to a co-led effort, with CD and Public Works, now overseeing MSM improvements. This includes the ongoing effort to install bollards and concrete planters, as well as a coming order to install new planters/landscaping along Main St and the purchase of commercial grade furniture. Bernhardt said recent press conference was held to announce a $2 million allocation from the state budget to the city specifically for MSM improvements, though he said those improvements have not been decided and are being discussed internally and with Caltrans/state officials who helped secure the funds.

Executive Director's Report. ED provided updates and monthly written report was included with Agenda packet. ED provided parking update. No progress has been shared on proposed employee parking program. Digital parking system at Harbor Blvd garage still not functioning and public works says it is in negotiations with a parking firm to replace it later this year. No details provided. Citywide Parking Authority is running a significant deficit of expenses over revenues. Council to discuss newly introduced "up to 90 minutes of free parking" policy. Motorists who stay 91 minutes or more pay $1.50 at the 91st minute then pay 25 cents for every 15 mins. ED shared DVP has applied for a county clean air grant to replace aging Chevy truck with electric truck. Should learn result in November.

President's Report. President Addison highlighted coming ArtWalk Ventura and scheduled a special meeting on Oct. 8 at 9am to hold a board goal setting and strategy meeting. Addison instructed ED to provide roles of Board officers as part of preparation for strategy meeting and stressed importance of all board members having an opportunity to contribute at meeting and all comments be received in a respectful environment. Addison restated commitment to bring Brown Act training to the special meeting or Oct regular meeting, depending on the BA attorney's availability. The Board discussed the current Board vacancy. After discussion, it was decided an action item would be on the agenda for the Oct. 8 special meeting, where members could nominate candidates for appointment to the vacant property owner seat, which terms out in 2028.

Finance Committee Report. Treasurer Espejo presented summary of September financial compilation and actuals-to-budget. The board discussed and agreed, by motion, to extend DVP's new 4-day (Thurs-Sunday) pilot restroom attendant program along the Promenade through years end. Motion to approve the Sept financials and pilot restroom attendant made by

Espejo, 2nd by Vince Daly. Passed unanimously. Separately, Finance Committee reviewed all Sept financial materials, checking statements, credit card purchases and contracts.

ED Committee. Whitney Reed updated Board on 1st Downtown Harvest Days, which will take place the entire month of October, with events each week, the Scarecrow Stroll and the Fall Flavor Trail, involving over 50 business. Separately, DVP's refreshed website is live, as well as changes to DVP's communications/social strategy, with more emphasis on paid original content and narrative storytelling. In response to a question about city sales tax data, ED Clerici pledged to work more closely with city staff to obtain and distribute sales tax info as soon as city makes it available.

Councilmember Halter Report. Halter, who sits on MSM ad hoc committee, said committee continues to listen to the public, with the goal to produce a report in advance for the Nov. 10 Council meeting to discuss MSM's future. Halter said there is opposition to the city's contract with Flock cameras and the topic will be returning to Council with more information. He supports the city creating and soon filling the newly formed cultural position.

DVP-CEF Report. Addison said DVP-CEF will next meet following the Board's special meeting on Oct. 9.

Public Comments. None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Clerici