

DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

August 25, 2022, 8:30am in the Board Room
atop the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel

Call to Order. President David Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

DVP Directors present: Armstrong, Yvonne Besvold, Emily DeArkland, Debbie Fox, Kelsey Jonker, Whitney Riles, Deputy Mayor Joe Schroeder. Others: E.D. Kevin Clerici, Alex Reyes, City Manager Alex McIntyre, Assistant City Manager Akbar Alikhan, Community Development Director Peter Gilli, residents Leah Tubb, Estelle Bussa, Clarey Rudd, Stephanie Caldwell, Kyler Carlson.

Approval of Minutes and Financials. Postponed to September meeting.

Update on General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan & Local Coastal Program. Community Development Director Peter Gilli provided overview of the ongoing effort, the impact of DVP's Preserve Downtown website and the following week's public meetings to release and discuss the alternatives. Gilli provided a brief, sneak-peak of the land-use alternatives that would be released the following week and answered questions. He said the City is still in the input-collecting stage and a final decision by City Council would not occur until 2023. He said historic landmarks would be protected and there is not a plan to up-zone parcels along Main Street inside the MSM footprint, though there could be changes in the areas around the Vons shopping center off Ventura Avenue, around Plaza Park, along Front Street and the City parcel that houses the parking garage off Harbor Boulevard. The City's hired consultants Raimi & Associates would make the presentation at the Museum of Ventura County. There was some discussion on the Preserve Downtown website, and it was agreed that some changes would be made, given the new information, to encourage people to engage and participate in the coming land-use meeting and GPU process. Some public comments asked questions about timelines, next steps and clarification on DVP's position on the GPU. Board members expressed concern with density bonuses that would allow added building heights and densities. City staff encouraged dialogue and questions. In addition to the meetings to introduce the land-use alternatives, it is anticipated the City's GPAC Committee would meet prior to the September Board meeting. DVP Board members agreed to stay engaged, leading to a formal Board position in coming months as more stakeholder input was gained and details emerged.

Authorized E.D. to hire architect to assist DVP with its position on the General Plan update. Motion made by David Armstrong, seconded by Emily DeArkland. Contract not to exceed \$5,000. Passed unanimously.

Updates on Main Street Moves. DVP staff is now working with restaurants owners to improve and upgrade their patio spaces and provide updated insurance, under the newly signed permit. All sidewalks have been reopened and the parklets are capped at no more than 16 feet from the curb. Council agreed to change the liability language in the final, 2-year permit, in favor of DVO/P's request. It is expected that virtually all owners will continue with their patios. City staff will continue to look for federal grants or other funding sources to purchase removable bollards that would allow for a flex street. Ventura Police control placement of all barricades and traffic signals. City is working to develop formal design standards for the parklets. The VC Certified Farmers Market is relocating to Main Street on Aug. 27. New location will allow for additional vendors, better activation of the street and Mission Park. Public events continue to draw large crowds as Covid concerns wane, include VC Pride Festival, Boots & Brews Country Music Festival and monthly VC Art Markets. DVP's outdoor movie series will continue in September, closing with E.T. on Oct. 14.

No Police Report.

Public comments. Leah Tubb shared comments on the GPU discussion and Clarey Rudd shared comments about the pending closing of his store, Bank of Books.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11am.

Minutes prepared by Alex Reyes, Kevin Clerici