

DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

February 23, 2023, 8:30am in the Board conference room
on the first floor at Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel

Call to Order. President David Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:43am.

DVP Directors present: Armstrong, Hutton Becker, Kelsey Jonker, Eddie Melendez, Whitney Riles, Emily DeArkland, Debbie Fox. Others: E.D. Kevin Clerici, Police Cmdr. Matt Cain, City E.D. Manager Meredith Hart.

Approval of January Minutes. Motion made by Eddie Melendez, 2nd by Debbie Fox. Passed unanimously.

Approval of January Financials. Continued to March meeting.

Approval of Board Election slate. The nomination period was extended 24 hours to 5pm Friday, with a final approval vote by the full Board to be conducted by email. The official letter and ballot would be printed Monday and mailed. The slate would be come from the Nomination Committee of Hutton Becker, Debbie Fox and Emily DeArkland. Motion by Debbie Fox, 2nd by Whitney Riles. Passed by majority vote.

MSM Update: City is under contact with RRM Design for the design guidelines, including “fortified” parklets. City also under contract with Rincon Consultant to conduct CEQA analysis. City consultant Jim Cogan, who is helping to oversee MSM and these contracts, will be at February Board meeting to present more details.

Future of Downtown Parking: City Council to hold a series of workshops to discuss parking citywide, including Downtown Parking District. First workshop will be general overview, followed by a staff presentation in the 2nd workshop to include, among topics, the proposed parking garage at Palm & Santa Clara street, possibly expanding meters to surface lots, the needed repairs at the Harbor Blvd. parking garage and the future of the created Parking Authority, which currently is only a shell but hasn’t been activated. The final workshop is anticipated to come with recommendations from staff/hired consultants and seek City Council direction. DVP can form a position as part of this dialogue.

Police Update: Cmdr. Cain shared crime stats over last 28 days. No trends, no major incidents, some bike thefts, some late-night fights, a car was stolen outside of the district. Cain said interviews were completed and VPD to add 2 officers to PTF, allowing for 7-day coverage. No start date is set, but this remains a department priority. Project Roomkey is set to end Feb. 28, though the County has said it will use other funding to continue the program in a similar fashion. The Best Western Plus Inn plans to reopen as a hotel once all Roomkey placements move out. Best Western expects the total number of Roomkey residents to reduce to 35 on March 12, and then to zero in May. DVP Ambassadors patrol the hotels and areas around it daily, and have regular contact with the neighborhood.

Board Retreat. Board supported scheduling a retreat in April, after the March election is completed. ED will send out summary of past Board subcommittees for review and feedback before a retreat date is set, likely at the March Board meeting.

City Update: Cary Glenn shared updates, including changes to Council E.D. Subcommittee, which has new members. City is under contract with consultant firm to produce a new E.D. Strategy. Former Mayor Bill Fulton is part of the consultant team. That work is getting started, and City/firm will engage with stakeholders citywide.

Direction on Block By Block contract. Board directed ED to continue research and to develop cost and responsibilities analysis on possible shift to having DVP employ all workers. Motion by Mark Hartley, 2nd by Debbie Fox. Passed unanimously.

E.D. Updates. ED provided printed copies of ED report. DVP to continue advocacy on General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan & Local Coastal Program and will continue to look for ways to communicate with City staff to present and discuss the affirmed position. 1 of 2 new Clean & Safe Ambassador positions has been filled. The 2nd position is awaiting outcome of whether a current employee out on medical leave can return to work in February. These positions are for enhanced services along West end of district and Front Street areas. Staff continues work with restaurant owners to improve and upgrade their patio spaces and provide updated insurance. Staff continues efforts with Public Works staff and Dixon consultants on parking garage project at Palm & Santa Clara. Next steps include completing financial analysis and demand study. City looking at adding meters in 700 block of Main Street. DVP staff in Jan going door-to-door to engage retail owners on current concerns, MSM, solicit input on priorities.

Public comments. None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Clerici