

DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2024, 9:00am
held in top floor meeting room
at Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel, 450 E. Harbor Blvd.

Call to Order. President Erik Feingold called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

DVP Directors present: Feingold, Kelsey Jonker, Hutton Becker, Emily DeArkland, Peter Goldenring, Danny Quintana, Councilman Doug Halter, Rick Stewart and Yvonne Besvold.

Others: E.D. Kevin Clerici, Angie Hecht (DVO), Cheryl Heitmann (DVO), Asst. Police Chief Rick Murray, Deputy CM Brick Conners, Marlyss Auster (VVCB), Ed Wehan (VVCB), Julie Madsen (VVCB), Michele Foster (VVCB), Josh Addison, Sky Sunner (Happy Place Eatery), Maria Fiore (Café Fiore), Councilman Mike Johnson, Niall Padden, Suzanne Malloy (Rosie Lee Imports), Eli Tan (Spice-Topia)

Approval of February Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Peter Goldenring, 2nd by Emily DeArkland. Passed unanimously.

Approval of February Financials. Treasurer Besvold provided summary of February compilation and brought up the 2025 PBID Assessments. Formal decision on assessments will be on April agenda. Separately, Finance Committee reviewed February ancillary financial documents and contracts. Peter Goldenring made motion to approve, 2nd by Kelsey Jonker. Passed unanimously.

Public Comments. None at this point in the meeting. Later, some public comments were made as part of various reports.

Ventura Police Report. Chief Murray discussed recent incidents in Downtown, including some narcotic offenses, graffiti, and assaults. In response to a previous request, Murray said foot patrols and the length of time patrol officers are walking along Main Street is not tracked. The Dept. paid for 90 hours of foot patrols on a trial basis over the previous month, Murray said, but there is not budget to continue. Murray said recent event at Fairgrounds, Hall of Flowers, had no calls for service. Same for Spring Wine Walk, which had not major impact on VPD. Murray agreed to meet with DVP's new Promenade Committee. Murray said VPD interested in adding surveillance camera atop Crowne Plaza (Crowne GM Quintana said it would be welcomed there.) Police also continue to meet with Strawberry Festival and Fairgrounds staff to discuss improved traffic plan for this year's festival in May and X Games in June.

Board Action Items:

Certified 2024 Board Election results. Motion made by Peter Goldenring, 2nd by Doug Halter. Passed unanimously. Top 2 vote getters in the Property Owner category were Josh Addison and Vince Daly. Top vote getter in Business Owner category was Sky Sunner. Their 3-year terms begin at the conclusion of meeting. Both Addison and Sunner introduced themselves. There was discussion by Board to appoint a person to fill current Business Owner vacancy, which would bring total Board members to 11. Board agreed to wait and consider an appointment at April meeting, when newly elected members would be seated and could participate in vote. The current Business Owner vacancy is for 1 year in length, and the seat would be part of the regular 2024 Election.

Consider appointment of Liaison to Ventura County Fair Board. Decision postponed to April meeting.

MSM Committee Report. Committee has not met. No formal report. City Council approved Citywide Parklet Design Guidelines at its March 26 meeting. There was update from DVP's new Promenade Committee, which produced a letter to City Council advocating for repairs and reopening of Beachfront Garage. Desire for greater safety, cleaning, lighting and coordination atop Committee's list. City Council voted on March 26 to replace stairwell and work to reopen the currently fenced off upper floors of the Beachfront Garage (closed due to concrete spalling). Promenade Committee to meet in late April to continue discussion and invite Chief Murray to attend.

DVP relationship with DVO. No discussion and no action was taken.

City Report. Deputy CM Conners reported past events at Fairgrounds (Hall of Flowers) went smoothly. City/VPD now working with Strawberry Festival organizers on revised traffic plan. Same for coming X Games. Conners said he is the City's liaison with the Fairgrounds. He also reported City contracts out for janitorial services in restrooms along the Promenade/Pier and contract calls for multiple cleanings per day. City to address stairwell in beachfront garage, and repair/stabilization work on the historic Pier continues. Goal is to reopen it sometime later this year. City's Clean & Safe team is still working on launch of Ventura Connect, with possible soft launch in May. This new work-request program will allow members of the public to submit work orders for various things and the system would provide acknowledgement to submitter, and measurable outcome of request. Conners said there would be coordination with DVP on the system.

X Games Report. Marlyss Auster introduced and gave overview of Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau, then discussed last year's financial impact from X Games, and the ongoing planning efforts around this year's X Games, which will be in Ventura June 28-30. Board discussion was around ways to improve linkages between the Fairgrounds and Downtown, as a way to encourage more patronage in downtown shops/eateries during the special event. VVCB responded that those linkages were not direct part of their programming. DVP to assist with production of 2 special events – Roller Disco and Skate Jam – which will be held on Oak Street and Main Street and be free and open to all, including families. Also look at possible ped-cabs and other links between Fairgrounds and downtown.

Closed Session. Board met in closed session to conduct E.D. performance evaluation.

Closed Session Report. Board approved compensation increase, and President to meet with E.D. to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Clerici