

DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2024, 9:00am
held in Anacapa meeting room
at Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel, 450 E. Harbor Blvd.

Call to Order. President Peter Goldenring called the meeting to order at 9:09am.

DVP Directors present: Goldenring, Josh Addison, Rick Stewart, Maria Fiore, Vince Daly, Yvonne Besvold, Emily DeArkland and Councilman Doug Halter. **Others:** E.D. Kevin Clerici, Police Sgt. Craig Kelly, Deputy CM Brick Conners, Cheryl Heitmann (DVO), Glen Overley.

Approval of September Agenda.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes. Motion by Doug Halter, 2nd by Josh Addison. Passed unanimously.

Ventura Police Department Report. Sgt. Kelly shared August crime stats, pointing to high arrest rate on drug offenses, a few late-night fights and a couple burglaries in vacant buildings. Kelly said he's trained a dozen officers on bike safety, so increased bike patrols will be put in place, including inside MSM, as time allows. Kelly said dept is revamping its current Chronic Offender ordinance and looking to strengthen it to respond to individuals who chronically break laws. Additionally, dept is strengthening its exclusionary ordinance. A question was raised about adding MSM to the areas where individuals can be excluded, and Kelly said he would look into it. Further, depts support efforts to "re-patriot" individuals brought to Ventura's main jail from other parts of County for booking, then released on Victoria, adding to Ventura's unhoused population.

City Manager Economic Team Report. CM Conners said illegal street vending ordinance to go before Council in October. The ordinance is designed to better respond to large scale unauthorized street food vendors who set up on City sidewalks, less so to deal with the single person hotdog carts. The ordinance will better sync City rules with state rules and provide more teeth to local enforcement. Recent enforcement efforts have shown that these operations are often well funded and return quickly with new equipment and materials even when shut down or when possessions are confiscated. Conners also said Ventura Connects is operational. There was discussion on the City now possessing an account with Placer.ai, which tracks cellphone data and can provide detailed data/reports on visitation, unique visitors and how people are moving throughout downtown by time of day and day of week. ED Clerici and Conners to meet, mine some of the data and return with highlights.

President's Report. President Goldenring reminded everyone of ongoing MSM survey, encouraged participations by all and thanked Brick and City staff for thoughtful approach. Results are to go to MSM Subcommittee in early October, followed by full report to Council on Oct. 22, with final decision on MSM at Nov. 12 Council meeting.

Approval to reschedule Nov. 28 Board meeting off Thanksgiving and to Dec. 12, 2024. Motion by Doug Halter, 2nd by Emily DeArkland. Passed unanimously.

Approval to arrange City Council candidate forum. Discussion on the approach settled on inviting all candidates from all 3 Council races, having promotional materials focused on inviting downtown stakeholders DVP represents but ensuring forum is open to anyone to attend. DVP would hire an independent MC and the forum would focus on getting candidates to share their views of downtown and respond to questions generated from downtown businesses, property owners and residents. Passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report and Approval of August Financials. Treasurer Besvold shared summary of August compilation and forecasted expenses. Besvold laid out budget timelines (draft budget in Oct, with final approval in Dec), explained ongoing efforts to study employee compensation/benefits with Insperity's assistance, and proposed uses of projected surplus funds, including vehicle maintenance, planters and wayfinding signage. Separately, Finance Committee reviewed August ancillary financial documents and contracts. Motion by Josh Addison, 2nd by Vince Daly. Passed unanimously.

ED Committee Report. Josh Addison shared that ArtWalk (Sept. 21-22) was extremely successful.

Promenade Ad Hoc Group Report. ED Clerici provided summary of group's focus, including re-opening of the upper floors of the Beachfront Garage, added patrols, restroom cleanliness, added lighting and a proactive effort to get the City to include funding (Measure O) for beach cleaning and general Promenade aesthetics. Timing is now, because City is expected to break ground on Surfers Point Managed Retreat project (which includes new bike paths and parking lots) in 2025.

DVO Report: Cheryl Heitmann said DVO Board purchased 5 picnic tables for MSM and is focused on holiday events and decorations, including a star theme this year.

Executive Director's Report. Monthly written report included with Agenda packet. Upcoming public events include downtown Halloween trick-or-treating and costume contest in Oct. 26. Recent changes to add Ambassador service hours on Friday, Saturday nights is going well (and under budget), as well as homeless outreach efforts. Staff evaluations underway.

Public Comments. None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Clerici