

# DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2026, 9:00am

held in downstairs Anacapa room at Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel, 450 Harbor Blvd.

**Call to Order.** President Josh Addison called the meeting to order at 9:06am.

**DVP Directors present:** Addison, Vince Daly, Erik Feingold, Alex Schneider, Edith Espejo, Rick Stewart, Evan Jonker, Michael Mendelson, Councilman Doug Halter. **Others:** E.D. Kevin Clerici, Police Chief David Dickey, Cmdr. Ryan Weeks, Community Development's A.J. Bernhardt, Jeremy Ireland, Patricia Solano (The Trade Desk), Kate McDuffee and Loanne Wullaert (Ventura Majestic Theater), Cheryl Heitmann (DVO).

**Approval of February Agenda.** Approved.

**Approval of January Meeting Minutes.** Motion by Vince Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Erik Feingold. Passed unanimously.

**Board Election Ballot.** Motion from Board nominating committee to approve 7 self-nominated candidates for 2026 election that includes 2 property owner seats and 1 business owner seat. Passed unanimously. The terms of Directors Feingold, Goldenring and Stewart end in March, with elected members beginning in April.

**Board Seat appointment.** Member Schneider announced his resignation, to take effect on March 6 to coincide with his retirement from The Trade Desk. Board discussed candidates to fill coming vacancy and final 2 years of term. Two candidates – Patricia Solano and Jeremy Ireland – were nominated for the property owner position. Board voted 7-1 in favor of Solano. Schneider recused from vote.

**Police Report.** Chief Dickey and Cmdr. Weeks shared monthly downtown crime stats: no major incidents in Feb. Police continue proactive patrols at Vons shopping center, which is working. Dept released annual crime stats, which showed a marked reduction in violent crimes and crimes in general. Chief Dickey reinforced his support of PTF, downtown patrols.

**City Report.** No report.

**MSM Report.** Bernhardt shared update on housing projects (with a handout), as well as various updates, including Main Street Vision Plan is at 95% complete and to return to Council on March 24. City is working on new branding and wayfinding program as part of Vision Plan, which is currently unfunded. Contract for bollards and concrete square planters to be awarded in March; work to begin in late April. Construction on Portland Loo nearing completion. Staff released pre-approved parklet designs and parklet application process, now accepting applications. No deadline yet on parklet work being required. Following report, there was a motion made by Pres. Addison to form a Wayfinding ad hoc committee with members Vince Daly and Patricia Solano. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daly. Passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report.** ED provided updates and monthly written report included with Agenda packet. ED stressed significance of parking changes being considered. City's parking consultant to hold a public meeting on March 10 to present update on pilot employee parking permit program. In April, staff is expected to return to City Council with parking updates, including requesting funding to hire firm for initiate study on needed environmental review of proposed multistory parking garage at Santa Clara and Palm streets. In response to direction at January meeting, ED reported an electronic reader board installed on Main Street at slow motorists approaching downtown in 800-900 blocks. Transportation staff also agreed to lower speed limit to 25mph at Ash.

**Finance Committee Report.** Treasurer Schneider presented summary of January financial compilation and actuals-to-budget and answered questions. Motion to approve January financials, as well as authorizing ED, with Exec. Committee approval, to initiate transfer of up to \$300K in a CD or money market account to generate interest. Separately, Finance Committee reviewed all January ancillary financial materials, checking statements, credit card purchases and contracts. Motion by Alex Schneider, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vince Daly. Passed unanimously.

**ED Committee Report.** None.

**Councilmember Halter Report.** Halter shared that Council has met 5 weeks in a row and recently held a discussion on a possible charter amendment to allow elected mayor. Currently the mayor is selected by Council members, who each represent a district. By switching to an elected mayor citywide, it would dilute the district representation, he said. Council to look at goals and start budget process.

**DVO Report.** Cheryl Heitmann said DVO continues to advocate for Vision Plan and for reduction in vendor markets.

**Public Comments.** Director Feingold, who is terming off board, stated this would be his final meeting and thanked all board members for their leadership and commitment to DVP. He said the organization has weathered multiple storms and he felt it was as strong as it has been at any point his term.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Clerici