

Minutes - Railroad Square Association Board meeting

May 21, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER- Mike Montague called the meeting to order at 12 noon.

2.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR ABSTENTIONS- There were no conflicts or abstentions from Board

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – no members of the public were present

4.0 CONSENT ITEMS

3.1 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Feb. 18,2020. Minutes were unanimously approved by those present

5.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

5.1 *Update on prior month’s activities*- Mike reported that several businesses and property owners had contacted him with concerns about the lack of parking due to contractor trucks, property owners and employees parking in the free spaces on the street. Of major concern are the encampments under 3rd,4th and 6th Streets and the fear that businesses will not open if this the public health crisis is not cleaned out. A memo will be sent out to RRSQ businesses prior to opening up.

5.2 *Security report* -Mike reported that First Security is doing a good job, with reports from each night’s activities. They were also able to remove the trespassers living under Sole Desire’s overhang. Both graffiti and vandalism seem to have dropped off some. Mike will be walking the district with a First Security representative so that they understand what will be important for daytime patrolling. This will be just fact-finding tour.

6.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1- Hugh has taken over a treasurer and reported a balance of nearly \$180,000 as of April 30, 2020. Bills have not been received from the security company as yet.

Mike will cancel the old Quick Books accounting system. Mike also switched some funds into a money marketing account to gain some interest.

It was moved and seconded to accept the financial report as presented. All in favor.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1- *Authorization for the Exec Committee to approve contracts up to a cumulative stated value not exceeding (ex) 25% of our annual budget, and consistent with the adopted Management Plan.*

Hugh explained the need for the Executive Committee to be able to be nimble in signing contracts that require action between board meetings. After much discussion, Curt moved, Marianne seconded to authorize the Executive Committee to approve contracts up to \$10,000 and subject to Board approval at next meeting. Approved unanimously.

7.2- *Homeless Encampments under freeway* – discussion and direction on actions to take

Hugh has been actively involved with the Downtown Action Organization (DAO) and as an individual to contact the City about our concerns. The City clearly understands our concerns but their ‘hands are tied’ because of the Boise injunction that prevents homeless people from being evicted if there is no appropriate alternative safe housing for them. Also, the CDC says that dispersing an encampment in the midst of a pandemic could potentially spread the virus. City has said it might take 18-24 months to resolve. The economic impact on RRSQ would be catastrophic.

The DAO and the RRSQ Association will be meeting jointly and making recommendations for presentation to the Economic Development team and City Manager. Under consideration are: creating buffer zones, perimeter

fencing added, having SRPD provide 24 hour security, prevent fires, enforce social distancing, provide for public health and homeless services onsite and create a plan to progressively reduce or totally eliminate the encampment. Hugh proposed authorizing the RRSQA Exec Committee to meet with the DAO to refine the proposals and then present to the City as soon as possible. Action approved.

We are learning that getting rid of the encampments at this point is futile, but containing the harm is something that could be managed creatively. So long as there is 'shelter compression' or lack of alternative housing, nothing can happen. Perhaps another overflow camp like Finley....

Many Board comments and observations followed including:

- worry about Depot Park and how to protect it from being another encampment (fencing was suggested)
- 27 homeless have been moved to Finley as of Wed. from the major downtown encampments: RRSQ at 3,4,5,6th underpasses, College Ave underpass, Doyle Park and Corporate Center Parkway. RRSQ is fundamentally different because we are a business/tourist district
- Problems with campers not moving from around the Depot should be referred to SRPD
- Question re AC Marriott. Hugh will talk with Jeff Blackman. Mike reported that First Security has been keeping campers off AC's parking lot

8. OTHER DISCUSSIONS

8.1- *Report on issues/happenings in RRSQ by Board*

- Rafael announced that the City (Kim in Parking) is anticipating re-instating parking fees on the street on July 1. Details forthcoming
- Jim questioned if once people are moved out are there provisions to not allow more in to take their places. "Responsibly controlling".
- Re: sidewalk dining for Grossman's on the hotel lot- plan approved by the RRSQ Project Review Committee for wrought iron fencing and astro-turf to allow for gathering in lot with umbrellas and tables and access from inside the Deli only.
- Brown Act training: Rafael will coordinate with the City for @ an hour online presentation and Q&A and will offer 2 dates.

9. Meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Dee Richardson
Secretary