

## **Dimond Improvement Association**

Board of Directors Meeting - 08.12.21

Board Members Present: Jay Ashford, Tomasz Finc, Ryan Romaneski, Kevin Whittinghill, Chris Harper, Alex Park, Lindsey Berking, Sara Goldware, Bret Peterson, Victoria Wake, Erica Perez

**Board Members Absent:** Julie Johnson, Marjorie Jones, JoAnn Tracht-Rawson, Zandile Christian, David Gross and Ben Stein-Lobovits, on leave

The meeting was convened at 7:02.

### **1. Agenda approval.**

ACTION: Approve the meeting agenda as presented. (Motion: Jay second Victoria; in favor, unanimous)

### **2. Minutes approval.**

ACTION: Approve minutes from March DIA board meeting. (motion: Alex; second Jay 8 yeas, 2 abstention)

**3. Chair's report.** Ryan updates that we continue to work through the BID feasibility grant with the City of Oakland, they have everything they need and we're waiting to hear back on our insurance coverage. Hoping to meet with Councilmember Thao's office in the next couple of weeks. Ryan also shared that Circus Bella doesn't have a permit to use the park on September 19th and that the Park currently isn't issuing permits for large events because they're focusing on keeping the park open for youth programs given current circumstances. If anything changes, Ryan may request a special session if an event becomes possible and there's enough interest.

**4. Treasurer's report.** Ryan is standing in for Marjorie tonight, but she's happy to set up some separate time to meet with folks to talk about it. We're continuing to spend money at a pretty slow clip, relative to how quickly we're bringing it in. Marjorie and Ryan have been meeting to make

sure our accounts are more flexible vs being organized around committees. Which has made it difficult to align with our new committees. Marjorie has also shared our tax return with the executive committee and we are reviewing that now. She'll be leading a session at our next board meeting to talk through our 990 and running a training on how to read non-profit financials.

**5. District 4 update.** Matt Napoli updates that the slow street on Laguna and Potomac will be taken away to make room for the AC transit line there. The office's hands are tied - DOT is starting to re-evaluate the slow streets overall, given the pandemic circumstances. Alex asks if he knows whether Oakland has plans to require proof of vaccinations to enter buildings similar to what San Francisco has done. Oakland doesn't have its own health department (it's the county of Alameda's health department) - Alameda County might roll something like that out, but it wouldn't likely happen at the city level. Victoria wonders if anything exists like "pay/go" funds that would pay for things like public art. Matt answers that we do have public funds for art that is used for graffiti abatement, so if you have something like that, it might happen. Victoria asked if another meeting would be useful for some of our committee members to provide suggestions for those funds. Tomasz asked if Head Royce is planning to move the traffic light that is near Alida and Lincoln. Matt says they are working on the EIR for the expansion plan with the Department of Transportation and the City Attorney's Dept. We can find out more when that impact report comes out. Kevin mentions that he thinks we should expect Botts' dots (sideshow deterrents) at Fruitvale and MacArthur. Matt confirmed.

**6. For the good of the order.** Tomasz mentions Saint has opened close to the Laurel - it would be fun to promote them at some point. Victoria suggests that perhaps we should revisit what we consider the Dimond. Alex agrees this is worth thinking through. Bret agrees we should talk about it but adds that somebody needs to advocate for the area between Boston and 35th. Victoria agrees. Ryan adds that as part of BID formation we will have to define what the Dimond is, because we can only spend the assessment in areas where we collect funds. Bret mentions he's had a lot

of talks with people about what could be going into the empty lot, and a few have suggested a mixed use commercial space. Wondering how to go about enticing developers to enter that area without addressing zoning, in particular height limits. Would be nice to have that discussion. Ryan agrees we should take on that topic. Matt offers to discuss this directly with Bret. Victoria suggests a community meeting.

**7. Dimond Nights at the Movies Planning.** Kevin updates that movie night planning is going well, they need help with setup, breakdown, and selecting which movie to show and promote. Bret also mentions he's been in touch with David Roach who hosts the Oakland International Film Festival. The theme this year is Rediscovering Oakland. It would be similar to the Movie Night in the Park and will take place at multiple locations. Happening September 16 - 24th and we could host one night here in Dimond. He has most of what he needs, would just need help promoting it and some organizing help. If anyone is interested, get in touch with Bret.

**8. Fall Membership Campaign.** Jay shares that the Membership and Outreach Committee met in July and we're proposing a four week campaign to almost double our membership by mid November of this year. Who? Participants would include all of the board members, any of our regular volunteers, and members who might be able to reach out to friends in their circles to join the DIA. Ryan asks about what tools we might be able to use to help people with outreach. Lindsey volunteers to help with any promotional materials.

**9. Oakland Redistricting.** Kevin wants to share with the Board that Oakland is in the process of redistricting. In December there will be some decisions to approve a new map. Some differences between how redistricting happens from the last time redistricting happened in 2013. Matt encourages the committee to get involved in it. Jay mentions we could try to incorporate this in the next general meeting, tentatively scheduled for October.

**10. DIA Interns.** Ryan updates that we are soliciting ideas for projects for the DIA interns. Tomasz has offered to share some background information

about the internship programs with MetWest High School. The idea is that you have an intern that selects you and spends 2-4 hours a week on a project. Mentors meet to ensure we're supporting their growth. Interviews are August - November. Chris adds that the more specific the project, the better the outcomes for everyone. Victoria adds that it will be very helpful for the interns to actually live in the Dimond. If any committees or members are interested in getting involved or have ideas for the interns, get in touch with Tomasz.

**11. WIP reports.** *(from verbal and written reports)*

*Beautification: Mulching of all tree wells on Fruitvale between MacArthur and Coloma has been completed. Mulching of the corner of Bienati lot will happen soon. Major progress has been made on the online public art tour, with all pieces identified and photographed, and interviews underway with the artists.*

*Membership and Outreach: Jay discussed the plan for the next membership drive. Mailisha updated on the MetWest HS intern program. Tomasz showed upcoming website updates.*

*Economic and Business Development: Wrapping up online business promotion. Planned and executed first in-person event in the Dimond in 18 months! Preparing to show two outdoor movies in the Dimond in August and September.*

*Finance and Administration: Finalized signers and changes to chart of accounts. Launching governance work in the fall.*

*Public Safety: We completed our street safety survey and are preparing for its distribution. Our letter with NCPC 22x to Sheng Thao's office to address the illegal fireworks issue in Oakland is close to being finalized.*

**Adjournment** at 8:58 PM. Minutes written by Lindsey Vontz

