



# DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

December 9, 2021, 8:30am in the Bayview Room  
atop the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel

**Call to Order.** President David Armstrong called the meeting to order at 8:36am.

DVP Directors present: Armstrong, Mark Hartley, Emily DeArkland, Debbie Fox, Kelsey Jonker, David Comden, Whitney Riles, Yvonne Besvold, Danny Quintana, Joe Schroeder. Others: E.D. Kevin Clerici, Mike Merewether (property owner), Ventura City Manager Alex McIntyre, Interim E.D. Manager Meredith Hart, Kyle Thille (VCBC).

**Oct Minutes.** Motion by Debbie Fox, second by David Comden. Passed unanimously.

**Nov Financials.** Continued to next month.

**ED Strategic Updates and Main Street Moves.** Interim E.D. Manager Hart provided City updates on Main Street Moves street closure and shared legal analysis provided by City Attorney's office on the necessary procedural steps to initiate and execute the Pedestrian Mall Law of 1960 process. This effort includes formal noticing, signage, some CEQA review, a claims process, culminating in a vote of the property owners adjacent to the proposed area. A simple majority is required for approval. The transition to a mall could not take year-round effect until the claims process (and any possible litigation) was fully satisfied. There was robust Board discussion on this topic, with many questions posed to City staff. Additionally, per Council direction, the City staff is looking to establish a lease requirement for restaurants to use the City parking stall area for outdoor dining parklets, as well as new design guidelines. Council also formed a special Council committee to study and propose improvements to Mission Park/Figueroa Plaza and ensure proposal in alignment with improvements to Main Street.

City Council is set to vote on extension of the MSM emergency permit. Board agreed to send a letter to Council seeking a 6-month extension to continue momentum of the joint MSM program. Council also to vote on extension of current citywide state-of-emergency. State law limits each extension to 3 months.

DVP staff and City staff agreed to work on a grant application to the federal Economic Development Administration. The grant would seek funds, likely upwards of \$1.5 million, to pay for the purchase and installation of removable bollards and proposed traffic intersection improvements, including diagonal crossing signage and signals.

Separately, ED Clerici shared several updates. Construction is nearing completion on a few projects, including the new kitchen at Rocks & Drams, the Stout Burger, the Cuernavaca taco shop, Asiatique Eatery, the boutique hotel at the former Elks Lodge and Model Citizen on Oak Street. Residential projects include Mar Y Sal at Ventura Avenue, the apartments at Kalorama and Thompson, condos at San Jon and Thompson Blvd and ongoing work at the Coastline apartments. New store openings: Local Vintage and Endgame Cards and Anime. El Rey Cantina is ending its lease.

**2022 Budget & Work Plan.** Motion by David Comden, seconded by Emily DeArkland. The 2022 spending plan would continue work on MSM program, pandemic response, expand homeless outreach services, advertising and hopefully see the return of special events. Board discussed holding a retreat in early 2022 to discuss priorities.

**Closed Session:** Board met in closed session to discuss personnel. Reopened meeting in open session and announced that approved changes would be communicated to staff.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27am.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Clerici