

# DVP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

January 27, 2022, 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 8:39am.

DVP Directors present: Armstrong, Debbie Fox, Kelsey Jonker, David Comden, Whitney Riles, Eddie Melendez, Councilman Joe Schroeder, and Mark Hartley and Yvonne Besvold via Zoom. Others: E.D. Kevin Clerici, Community Outreach Alex Reyes, Cheryl Heitmann (DVO), Ventura Police Chief Darin Schindler, Police Cmdr. Matt Cain, interim E.D. Manager Meredith Hart via Zoom.

**Oct Minutes.** Motion by David Comden, second by Eddie Melendez. Passed unanimously.

**Dec Financials.** Continued to next month.

**Police Report.** Chief Schindler introduced Cmdr. Cain, who now supervises PTF and will oversee all special events, among other duties. Schindler reaffirmed his commitment to PTF and its importance citywide. PTF is currently operating with 5 of 6 positions filled, and the chief wants to see it filled in coming months. Cmdr. Cain shared some recent calls for service stats, including some car thefts in the parking garage, a commercial burglar and one arson call in the downtown in late Dec through most of January. Chief Schindler shared that vagrancy calls are coming from all parts of town, with movement towards the east end and deep into the river bottoms. PTF is still spending a lot of time with camp clean-ups and connecting vagrants with programs. The chief said he personally would like to see the County and other cities take more responsibility for cleanups to help free up his officers. Ventura, he said, shoulders a disproportionate load of homeless housing and services, as well as the jail and county hospital. The top issue is mental health challenges and individuals resisting services. He said there is a plan to reach out to other cities to better collaborate and spread awareness about these issues.

**Main Street Moves.** Interim E.D. Manager Hart said she is the designated staff lead on MSM and is beginning weekly check-ins with each City department. Staff will take MSM back to City Council at the March 14 meeting to get clarity on how and if to apply the City's Net Zero fee, the appropriate rate for the lease fee, and direction on standards for allowing parklets and vehicle traffic at the same time. City and DVP jointly applied for a federal EDA grant to pay for purchase and installation of removable bollards and traffic intersection improvements. Currently, staff is looking at a lease rate of roughly \$2 per square foot. Once Council weighs in on the lease rate/Net Zero, then staff will look to get commitments from restaurants/landlords before initiating the Pedestrian Mall act process and design guidelines.

ED Clerici shared several updates. Staffing has been slightly affected by Covid infections. Those out have had modest symptoms and people are coming back. DVP had 34 family reconnections in 2021, with 260 total since inception. Special events are returning in 2022. The ARC Thrift store is closed when lease expires in March. The entitled project for the Top Hat corner has sold and new ownership is moving forward on developing it. A new office tenant, Sensor Industries – moved into offices this week in the 400 block of Main. In coming weeks, will look to upgrade the current Main Street Moves signage and add new furniture. Construction is nearing completion on a few projects, including the Yard & the Stout Burger, the Cuernavaca taco shop, as well as 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 openings include the Asiatique Eatery and the new kitchen at Rocks & Drums.

**Board Nominating Committee.** David Comden, Whitney Riles and Kelsey Jonker volunteered for the nominating committee, which will review the candidates for the 2022 Board Election in February and early March.

**2022 Board Retreat.** Board discussed and agreed to hold a special treat, to be held on an evening in February, to establish priorities. Staff would work to secure a location and time/date. Retreat could possibly replace March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34am.

Minutes prepared by Alex Reyes, Kevin Clerici