

CITY OF RENO
DOWNTOWN POLICE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
February 19, 2014

Members

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I. ROLL CALL

Chairman Darrell Clifton called the meeting to order and requested a roll call.

Committee Members Present: Vice Chairman Dave Bennett, Chairman Darrell Clifton, Jerry Daughhetee, Jim Gallaway, Larry Garrison, Dean Hanson, Greg Landrus, Lieutenant Amy Newman, and Chief Marshal Justin Roper.

Also Present: Sergeant Brian Dye, Sergeant Dan Thompson, Officer Mike Morris, Officer Jason Pruyn, Officer Stephen Greenlee, Ramon Barboza, Council Member Jenny Brekhus, Alex Woodley, Alexis Hill, Zac Haffner, Lisa Mann, and Deputy City Attorney Rob Bony.

Absent: Deputy Chief Tom Robinson.

Chairman Clifton verified that there was a quorum. This was confirmed.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.

Chairman Clifton inquired if there was public comment. There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (For Possible Action) – January 15, 2014.

Chairman Clifton inquired if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15 meeting. Jim Gallaway made the motion and Lieutenant Amy Newman seconded. There being no opposition, the minutes were approved.

IV. MEMBERS AND STAFF REPORTS (The items in this section are not for action and if action is desired the item will be placed on a future agenda and designated “For Possible Action.”)

A. Chairman Report – Chairman Darrell Clifton

- Update on the progress of the Regional Alliance for Downtown (RAD) Safe and Clean Committee.
- Update on the progress of the Regional Alliance for Downtown (RAD) Public Policy Committee.

Chairman Clifton informed the Committee that the RAD Safe and Clean Committee are working on the Good Neighbor Agreement. There is a meeting tomorrow at the Noble Pie Parlor at 1:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. They will talk about expanding the Good Neighbor Agreement and getting more block captains involved. Any interested are welcome to attend.

Chairman Clifton informed the group that there was no update on the RAD Public Policy Committee.

B. Police Report – Deputy Chief Tom Robinson, Lieutenant Amy Newman, Sergeant Brian Dye, Sergeant Dan Thompson

- Update on solutions and on-going enforcement at special assessment district locations.
- Update on downtown camera system.
- Introductions of new additions to the Downtown Enforcement Team (DET).
- Identification of future Police Report agenda items.

Sergeant Thompson introduced the new additions to the DET of Officer Mike Morris, Officer Stephen Greenlee, and a ride-along Officer Jason Pruyne who has an interest in coming on the team.

Sergeant Dye informed the group that they have been implementing a Motel Interdiction Team (MIT) component. They meet with property managers and owners and ask for a roster. These properties are checked for warrants, ex-felons or people who should not be registering. Then they do sweeps where they coordinate with a transport vehicle. They confirm warrants and make arrests. This has been expanding and working pretty well.

Sergeant Dye informed the group that Officer Bassett would be meeting with IT staff today to see where we are with the cameras downtown. The way the cameras transmit is through microwave. Where they are placed affects how they send out signals. We are looking at getting fiber optic cameras. This is in progress but it will take awhile since they are expensive. Sergeant Thompson informed the group that we have a series of cameras that run down 2nd Street but these were all have microwave. These have been finicky during inclement weather or wind events. IT has learned that every street light in the city has fiber optic and that it is just a matter of getting with the Streets Department to hook up the cameras.

There hasn't been much change to the activity in the downtown area due to the weather. We recently had the Pajama Crawl but it had no impact due to the horrible weather. They saw one group of ten in pajamas. The majority of the people were in the casinos. Other than this, there has not been a significant increase in anything.

Mr. Gallaway contacted the Downtown Enforcement Team (DET) to do some parking enforcement at the Palladio. It brought up some valid points on both sides to try to keep the posted 24 hour parking/loading zone clear. This will be an ongoing process for us. Mr. Gallaway informed the group that he had a cab bring him back from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) game and the whole

loading zone was full leaving no place for the cab to drop him off. Employees are using this for parking. Mr. Gallaway appreciated the DET looking into this problem. Mr. Gallaway informed the group of a person who had been proud of the fact that they had 1200 parking tickets and they had never paid for one. What happens after citations are given? This person told Mr. Gallaway that citations dropped off every 24 months and that no one was pursued for payment. Deputy City Attorney Bony did not have an answer for this and suggested it be made a future agenda item. Alex Woodley informed the group that at one time we did not have the capability to connect with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to put unpaid tickets on someone's record. Now through the police department and the state we will get the NCIC system in the City Clerk's Office this will allow those parking tickets to be processed through the DMV and payment will be required upon registration of vehicle or driver's license. Discussion was held as to revenue being lost but this will not continue. Mr. Gallaway suggested that this become a press release once we are ready to go forward so that people are on notice.

Council Member Brekhus inquired if the foot patrol had been talked about. Lieutenant Newman informed the group that we have not talked about this in reference to the district. Sergeant Thompson has been overseeing this on the swing shift side. The walking downtown foot patrol is comprised of four officers working 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. They have chosen sporadic days of Wednesday through Saturday in order to increase visibility through community outreach. So far the program has worked well and had great feedback. The intention is not to have a bunch of arrests and citations but to meet with the casinos and increase visibility. We recently expanded our footprint. Originally, it was from 2nd Street to 6th Street on Virginia Street then Sierra to Center. Now we include the river and Arlington. It encapsulates a lot more and has been working well. Sergeant Thompson informed the group that the guidance has been to do meet and greets with business owners and the condominiums. In the last operation, they made 180 citizen contacts and 36 businesses. They have been taking pictures with and for people. It has been positive. The best is that the police have enjoyed working this. It was inquired if these officers were taken from somewhere else? Sergeant Thompson informed the group that this assignment is hired overtime from Patrol. Lieutenant Newman informed the group that these are similar to the SURGE operations.

Lieutenant Newman informed the group that they have also been attending meetings with Steve Hardesty to talk about the expansion district. These have been going well.

Chairman Clifton inquired about the Reserve Program. There was no new information on this item. Mr. Gallaway felt that we should know where this stands because tomorrow night is one of Mr. Hardesty's meetings with the public. Council Member Brekhus noted that this would be coming to the Council Agenda soon. Mr. Gallaway informed the group that tomorrow night was the second public information meeting. It was discussed that there was an initial hearing that has tentatively been scheduled for the 12th and then there will be another hearing on the 26th. The petition period ends on the 28th.

C. Financial Report & Expenditures/Revenue – Zac Haffner

- Review, explanation, and discussion of January financial reports.

Zac Hafner informed the group that the numbers that were not in for this report include Santa Crawl and New Year's Eve. We are waiting on these numbers to come in before they can be finalized.

D. Special Events Report – Alexis Hill

- Review, explanation, and discussion of previous and upcoming special events as they apply to the Downtown Police Special Assessment District.

Mr. Landrus inquired what the next special event was. Ms. Hill informed the group that the next big event is the marathon. After this, the calendar becomes very full. All the special events are listed on the city website by accessing the link for special events under the search bar. Mr. Gallaway inquired how the bridge closing would affect special events downtown. Mr. Gallaway requested a presentation on the traffic flow plan for pedestrians and vehicles during the 18 months of events when the bridge is closed. Ms. Hill informed the group that they had been working with the promoters for more than a year to reroute things like Hot August Nights. They are looking at a two lane cruise on Virginia Street. To be really creative they have moved events out to California Avenue. They have changed a lot of events so that people can still get downtown and get around. They are looking to coordinate with the different departments to make sure that people can get on the freeway and can get downtown. Ms. Hill has been working with the Engineering Department to create a map. The area most affected will be Plaza Park and 1st Street. Mr. Gallaway wanted to know if 1st and Virginia would ever be closed so that information could be given to the Palladio residents. Chairman Clifton requested that this be brought up under Other Business.

V. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT – Council Member Jenny Brekhus

- Update and discussion of actions taken or being considered by City Council.
(The Council Liaison Report may be taken out of order.)

Council Member Brekhus informed the group that she was watching the bridge progress closely. They seem to be going through some federal progress that is slowing things down. She did tour the Bowling Stadium the other day. The \$2.00 surcharge tax went on last legislative session. A lot of money is being spent on the Bowling Stadium. It is a facility that the city owns and payments are made out of the General Fund. We have a long term agreement with the bowlers to keep coming back. The ice rink was thought to be a success because it gives back money to the City's General Fund. On a dollar per dollar basis of public investment it activates downtown more than anything. Discussions are underway to determine what happens when the bridge gets done this year or in two years when we are in construction. She has been working with the task force that the City Council established on graffiti. They will be coming back to Council with a recommendation prior to the budget so discussion can be held on the amount of resources and level of priority. Downtown gets hit pretty hard with graffiti due to the vacant buildings. This is some of the downtown related focus she has had over the last month.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and possible recommendations to City Council relating to the next step in the process involving the increasing or decreasing tax district assessments, expansion of the tax district, increasing of business licensing fees for alcohol, and specifically, where the money should be spent, and any potential changes in the level or kind of service being provided in the tax district. *[On-going item]*
 - Council Member Jenny Brekhus and/or Steve Hardesty

Chairman Clifton informed the group that he heard that Mr. Hardesty has enough signatures and this will definitely go through. It was inquired if Council Member Brekhus had heard from any of her constituents as to being for or against this. She has not heard anything. Her Ward is a little down and to the west. There are a few urban homesteaders who are buying homes and raising kids by the Lakemill Lodge and on the other side of Arlington there are some low slung lawyer offices that are getting included in the expansion. It was thought that there might be calls from these two groups but there hasn't been. Mr. Gallaway informed the group that he saw an email from Mr. Hardesty that stated that he had 56 positive responses from people outside of the district. Council Member Brekhus informed the group that the big businesses coming into the district would be baseball, Basin Street, and the healthcare system that went non-profit. Sergeant Dye informed the group that in anticipation of the expansion and wanting the DET to maintain effectiveness they have tasked out looking at some Enduro Motorcycles. Other agencies use them. They are smaller. Officer Denney informed the group that they have spent time looking at other agencies predominantly in northern and middle California. It has been proposed to look for electric motorcycles. Officer Denney will schedule a day to go to California to meet with some of these agencies using these motorcycles to find out the effectiveness, range, durability, and cost of electric bikes. If we could get 2-4 of these it would enhance the ability to move around the district and still maintain the quiet, stealthy enforcement option. The new electric motorcycles are impressive. We are looking at the police package where they will do 95 mph. Because the Enduro is a dual sport, they can go on stairs and yet they would be quiet so as not to disturb the residents. They are looking for some grants or local entities that might want to participate in providing these. Chairman Clifton informed the group that we will continue to monitor the progress of the expansion.

2. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and possible recommendations to City Council regarding parking meters in the downtown corridor. *[On-going item]*
 - Council Member Jenny Brekhus

Council Member Brekhus informed the group that parking meters were up and working. We have not taken delivery on these yet though. Mr. Hafner informed the group that the meters have arrived and will take 3-4 weeks for installation. There are still decisions to be made as to where the old coin operated meters will be put. Council Member Brekhus informed the group that we were not able to pre-pay these and we had to go to the state to get approval to take on a medium term debt. Mr. Hafner informed the group that a new citation system was being considered. We still have one that we are using but we are looking to upgrade or replace what we have now. It was thought that these would be installed by March 1st. A press release will go out. Mr. Hafner informed the group that the medium term obligation was at 0%. This item will be kept on the agenda for updates.

3. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and potential recommendations to the Director of the Office of Communications and Community Engagement (OCCE) for the City of Reno regarding options for improving the perception of the downtown area. *[On-going item]*

Chairman Clifton informed the group that the two motels that were mentioned in the news for the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Level 2 were not talked about. Sergeant Dye informed the group that there are a series of criteria to get your CPTED Level 1 you have to have grounds that are

well lit, the bushes trimmed to where people can't hide in them, and visibility through the windows. Level 2 is more involved with a bigger checklist. Officer Bassett worked with the In Town and Lido Motels to get these done. It is very rare to give out a Level 2. This is the first time in downtown that this has happened. Sergeant Thompson informed the group that the goal of the MIT is to get more hotels involved in crime-free and get certification. Lisa Mann informed the group that Helen Laub had been recognized and videos were taken during this event. Ms. Mann would like this put on the next agenda to show the Committee. Ms. Mann informed the group that she also noted down to do press releases for Virginia Street Bridge once traffic flow is known and also on the parking meters to take back to OCCE. Mr. Landrus informed the group that he was aware that there had been a lot of real estate purchases downtown. We need to do something to get this out to the public forum so that people are aware of what is going on downtown. There are a lot of positives. Downtown is really coming back to life in an aggressive way. Council Member Brekhus thought something on the foot patrol would go over as well. It gives a sense of comfort. Chairman Clifton inquired if the Council got updates on these things. RAD does these types of updates to some extent. Mr. Gallaway informed the group that the Reno Gazette Journal (RGJ) has been doing a good job on Sundays on this topic. Maybe a compilation of these things linked to the City's website. Council Member Brekhus noted that they have really retooled the paper with revitalization and local issues. There is also a blogger who tracks and prints out all the good. He scans the building permit records. His site is RE Reno. He posted last night that he estimates that \$5 million has been spent on the post office so far before tenant improvements. Sometimes the RGJ picks up on this blog as well. Chairman Clifton inquired if the group would like to have someone from RAD come in and do a presentation. This will be put on the agenda.

4. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and potential recommendations to the City Council regarding possible changes to the committee bylaws.

It was inquired if it was recommended to change both the bylaws and the ordinance. Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that we had not talked about changing the ordinances yet but at the last meeting we talked about making modifications to the bylaws. Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that on Page 1 of the Bylaws under Article 3, we had language in the bylaws that mirrored language in the ordinance about committee membership and as discussed at the last meeting, ordinances always prevail over a bylaw. This language was removed from the bylaws and language was inserted stating "Please see Reno Municipal Code Section 2.06.110 for Committee membership requirements." Deputy City Attorney Bony explained how to read the modified bylaws with the strikeouts. We will remove everything within the bylaws up until the last paragraph where it talks about appointments to fill incomplete terms and how that will work. This was the only take away from the last meeting. Also, some housekeeping was done to talk about that the new amendments were approved by the Committee on this date with a signature line should Council approve them to have the Mayor sign off on the adopted bylaws. Mr. Gallaway made a motion that the changes be approved by the Committee and recommended to Council for ratification. Vice Chairman Bennett seconded. Chairman Clifton asked for discussion. There was none. There being no opposition, the motion passed. Deputy City Attorney Bony will put this on the March 26 Council Agenda.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. (For Possible Action): Update, discussion, and potential recommendations to the City Council regarding possible changes to the Reno Municipal Code (RMC) Sec. 2.06.110 as it relates to the Downtown Police Special Assessment District Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gallaway informed the Committee that in the minutes you will note the advisory committee size. If we are discussing the makeup, do we add another person or keep it the same? Mr. Gallaway informed the group that we were looking to Council Member Brekhus for advisement. Right now there are 5 people from the Downtown Security Directors. We could take 1 or 2 off. It was thought that we need 2 more people who represent business and property owners. Council Member Brekhus inquired if the Downtown Security Directors was an actual group. This was confirmed. It was inquired what the membership eligibility was. Chairman Clifton informed the group that they did not have bylaws but that a member could be any type of security director. It is a subgroup of the larger Northern Nevada Security Directors Association but it only includes those in the downtown corridor. Chairman Clifton suggested that we wait on the numbers until the expansion is ratified so that we could include everyone in the district and let the Council decide what best represents that entire district. Mr. Gallaway thought that if we left it open that Council could appoint they could appoint whoever they want. It was suggested to still have 2 from police management, the Chair from the Downtown Security Directors, 2 Downtown Security Director members, 1 person from RAD, and then representatives from the business owners or residents. Council Member Brekhus thought that if this was referenced in the ordinance it could be tied to "4 representatives of unlimited gaming license owners" and this would capture the group. It was noted that it was a good point to consider St. Mary's or baseball as members. It is atypical that staff be a member of Boards and Commissions because they come anyway since they are staffed to the Commission. The group thought that without staff there would be trouble with a quorum. Chairman Clifton suggested that the Council decide who the membership is but there be equal representation of the properties within the district. Deputy City Attorney Bony informed the group that this could be stated but that he was unsure of the history as to why the slots were originally filled this way. Deputy City Attorney Bony recommended from an operational and legal standpoint that we bring back the proposed changes to the next meeting and talk about them then. We do need to take a vote and make sure that everyone on this body is okay with the proposal that we would then give to Council Member Brekhus to carry forward to Council. It was discussed that the district may be changing in the near future. A housekeeping matter would be to correct the names of the Downtown Security Directors Association and the Downtown Improvement Association. It was confirmed that the Downtown Security Directors Association exists but that the Downtown Improvement Association is now the Regional Alliance for Downtown (RAD). Mr. Gallaway noted that it might make sense to eliminate the names of these groups. Deputy City Attorney Bony recommended continuation of this item to the next meeting to see where it takes us. Mr. Gallaway inquired if the size now was good. If you get too big it can be harder to obtain quorum. Council Member Brekhus inquired if the Downtown Security Directors Association was all gaming. It was confirmed that at this point, this was true but not because they were exclusive. This item will be continued.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Identification of agenda items for March 19, 2014, meeting.
(This item is for identification of agenda items and there will be no action taken until such items are listed on future agenda as an action item.)

Mr. Gallaway requested that we have an item regarding the traffic flow for pedestrians and vehicles while the bridge construction is underway. It was discussed who the right person might be to make this presentation. Mr. Gallaway was specifically concerned about any closure affecting 1st and Virginia. Council Member Brekhus informed the group that a crane working on the old post office closed down a stretch of Virginia for a couple of days.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION

Noon, March 19, 2014, at 1 E. 1st Street, (City Hall) 7th Floor, Caucus Room, Reno, NV 89501.

Chairman Clifton informed the group of the next meeting date.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – This item is for general public comment.

Chairman Clifton inquired if there was public comment. There was no public comment.

Chairman Clifton inquired if there were any announcements. Mr. Daughetee informed the group that today would be his last meeting as he is retiring. Chairman Clifton informed the group that Harrah's had a new commander who would be putting in his application soon. Council Member Brekhus suggested someone from Gold Dust West as a member. Chairman Clifton will inquire if they are interested in joining.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. (For possible Action)

Greg Landrus made the motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Bennett seconded. There being no opposition, the meeting was adjourned.