



BOARD MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

July 26, 2023

Art Pick Council Chambers, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

Board Members Present

Cynthia Zdilor, Chair
Peggy Barnhart
Julie Bjork
Richard Cardullo (virtual)
Luz Maria Negrón Bermo

Museum Staff Present

Robyn Peterson, Museum Director
Ann Lovell, Manager of Operations
Toni Kinsman, Sr. Office Specialist
Rachael Ruga, Office Specialist

Board Members Absent

Todd Carpenter
Rich Gardner
Sharon Tennell, Vice-Chair
Lovelyn Razzouk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Board Chair Cynthia Zdilor. Board Member Cardullo joined the meeting virtually under the SB 2449 “Just Cause” definition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. You are invited to participate by phone at (669) 900-6833 and enter Meeting ID: 926 9699 1265 to comment on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Museum of Riverside Board. Press *9 to be placed in the queue to speak when the agenda item is called. Individuals in the queue will be prompted to unmute by pressing *6 to speak - Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

One eComment was received online by the 1:00 p.m. deadline from Beverly Arias to give appreciation for those involved in the exhibit at the Casa Blanca Library.

There were no callers for public comment.

There were no in person comment cards received in Council Chambers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Minutes – May 24, 2023

The minutes were received and filed without corrections.

Motion: Board Member Negrón Bermo
Second: Board Member Bjork
Abstain: Board Member Barnhart
Ayes: Board Members Zdilor, Bjork, Cardullo, Negrón Bermo

3. Record the absence of Board Member Peggy Barnhart from the May 24, 2023, regular Board meeting as excused.

A motion was approved to record the absence as excused due to illness.

Motion: Board Member Bjork
Second: Board Member Cardullo
Abstain: Board Member Barnhart
Ayes: Board Members Zdilor, Bjork, Cardullo, Negrón Bermo

4. Record the absence of Board Member Rich Gardner from the May 24, 2023, regular Board meeting as unexcused.

A motion was approved to record the absence as unexcused due to no notice.

Motion: Board Member Cardullo
Second: Board Member Bjork
Ayes: All

PRESENTATIONS

5. Annual review of the Code of Ethics and Conduct

Deputy City Attorney Ruthann Salera gave the presentation to the Board on updates and took questions.

No Board recommendations were submitted for the City Clerk’s deadline. This report was received and filed.

6. Receive and file a presentation from the Museum of Riverside Office Specialist

Rachael Ruga gave a presentation on her position at the Museum. This report was received and filed.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

No discussion items

COMMUNICATIONS

7. Harada House Foundation (HHF) – quarterly update

Due to technical difficulties, Lauren Bricker was unable to give the HHF update.

8. Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) – quarterly update

RMA President Robin Whittington reported that two years ago the RMA approached RUSD about renaming an elementary school in honor of the Harada family, and they are pleased to announce the RUSD school board voted unanimously to re-name Highland Elementary School to Harada Elementary School. The RMA has created an investment endowment fund with Charles Schwab, which is restricted for the support of Harada House. The fund is open for donor contributions. September 23, 2023, will be the RMA’s 60th anniversary of its non-profit status; a celebration dinner is being planned. Eight park benches have been purchased for the Heritage House gardens, to be installed once the path project is complete. A future goal of the RMA is to renovate the catering kitchen to current standards.

9. Director's Update regarding the main museum renovation, historic houses, collections, exhibitions and programs, staffing, advisory teams, volunteer and support opportunities, marketing, and communications.

Since the report upload deadline, Director Peterson reported the Museum is moving along schedule for the capital construction projects. The main museum renovation is in the CD (construction design) phase with the architectural design process on track for the end of 2023. The Museum will go to the City's Cultural Heritage Board in August for both main museum and Harada Interpretive Center projects for certificates of appropriateness. The Museum expects to go to contract with an exhibition design firm in the fall. Staff are visiting award-winning museum sites for renovation inspiration. On Thursday, November 2, the Museum will hold the last Open Lobby event before construction fencing is installed. The Heritage House path project is currently delayed, causing staff to seek an alternate venue for the September 29th Moon Festival; the temporary location will be announced as soon as confirmed. August 4th speaker series Nights with the Museum will feature Douglas Long and the Riverside elephant rampage. New Curator of History Laura Fisher will begin August 4th. A selection was made for the Curator of Natural History, with a name being announced once a start date is determined by HR.

10. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, and meetings attended by Museum of Riverside Board members

No discussion.

11. Items for future Museum of Riverside Board consideration as requested by members of the Board. Only items that fall within the powers and duties of the Museum of Riverside as set forth in the City Charter and/or the Riverside Municipal Code will be agendaized for future discussion.

No agenda items currently.

Board member Negrón Bermo asked about individual Board business cards. The City Manager/ City Clerk Office has a new procedure to streamline communication and will be printing one business card for each Board/ Commission with their specific contact information for the Museum of Riverside Board (phone 1-951-826-8982 / email MRB@riversideca.gov).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

The Museum of Riverside Board regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. has been cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Art Pick City Council Chambers