**LDA Meeting Minutes**

**January 23, 2023**

**Meeting Via Zoom**

Attending: Dorothy Okamoto, Vincent Phua, Jain Williams, Joanne Wong-Lam, and Zinzi Zareef (Board Members)

Executive Director: Daniel Swafford

Guests: Officer Aaron Johnson (CRO), Amy Liebowitz (Laurel resident), Alysia (Marquardt Property Mgmt.)

**Call to Order**: Jain Williams

Welcome and Introductions

Review of Agenda

Approve December Minutes: Motion made to approve by Jain, seconded by Zinzi, all in favor.

1. **New Councilmember Janani Ramachandram** and Iris Merriouns

* Traffic Calming – Bond measure passed so hope to get some low cost ways to slow traffic like striping streets.
* Small Business support, including permitting.
* Events and cultural programming grants – ongoing
* Safety Ambassador program – would like to continue in conjunction with CRO
* Business Attraction – council support to build out district.
* Starting a community advisory council – taking applications until 1/31/23.

2. **LDA Business**:

* Ambassador Pilot: 1) Stop Waste - Received first disbursement, need to discuss next best steps. 2) Safety holiday program report: Dec. 14 – Jan 15 – went well. Hope to show the value of the program. Have data/feedback to use for future programs.
* 2022 Annual Report – almost complete. Do we want to consider an adjustment of 3-5% for 2024? Renewal for BID coming in 2025.
* CIP MacArthur – SLOW Laurel Traffic Calming project request - ongoing and an area to collaborate with councilmember’s office.
* Mural Tour/public art update – Mural at Cornerstone complete.
* Trash Can refresh update – New refurbished trash can is located in front of Planet Fitness.

3**. Laurel Security**: Officer Johnson, CRO

* Will have an additional officer, for a total of two officers for District 4.
* On 1/5/23 felony assault at Giant Burger. Warrant for arrest for Justin. Suspected of sleeping in an apartment laundry room on Maybelle and Masterson, near Fist of Flour.
* Allan, a transient, has become more aggressive. He broke a window a few weeks ago, damaged planters, and is menacing business owners and pedestrians.
* A camper RV on Masterson and Maybelle reported with suspected drug dealing and hygiene/health violations.
  + Daniel to email info to Officer Johnson. Call drug hotline to log complaints in order to build a case.

4**. Events and Promotions:**

* Laurel Lunar New Year – Sat., Feb. 4th 11 AM – 3 PM Kick off at REMax parking lot.
* ‘Live in the Laurel 2023’ – Last Saturday April to October.
* Marketing: Valentine’s shopping, dining, service guide

5. **Business Attraction and Land Use Updates**

* Return of the City of Oakland Façade Grant Program – applications through 1/31/23
* Update from Vincent – experiencing permitting backlog since April 2022 and soil clean up issues from former Shell station.

6. **Open Forum** – Richard Santana stepped down from Board.

Next meeting Monday, February 27, 2023, 6-8 PM via Zoom