



**Uptown Whittier Improvement Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602
HYBRID TELECONFERENCE MEETING
Thursday, May 12, 2022, 8:30 a.m.**

Current Lists of UWIA Board Members: Frank Rinaldi (President), Melinda Pina (Vice-President), Jim Dunkelman (Treasurer), Katie Galvin-Surbatovic (Secretary)/Ben Pongetti/Brian Saeki, Ginny Ball, Roland Fargo, David Gonzalez, Stephen Ortiz/Irene McCallister, Milt Pate, and Steven Rodriguez

Present: Ginny Ball, Roland Fargo, Katie Galvin-Surbatovic, David Gonzalez, Stephen Ortiz, Melinda Pina, Frank Rinaldi, and Steven Rodriguez

Absent: Jim Dunkelman and Milt Pate

Guests: Octavio Martinez and Brian Saeki

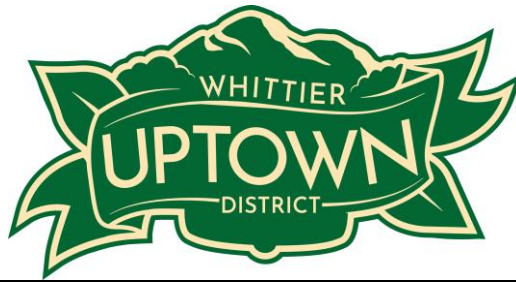
**Consultant/
Staff:** Brent Haskell and Stephanie Shamp – GM Properties Inc.

MINUTES:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Action Taken?</i>
1. Call to Order	Frank Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.	1. No Action Taken
2. Roll Call	Brent Haskell took roll call.	2. No Action Taken
3. Public Comment	No public comments were received via email. Frank Rinaldi acknowledged District	3. No Action Taken

UPTOWN WHITTIER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

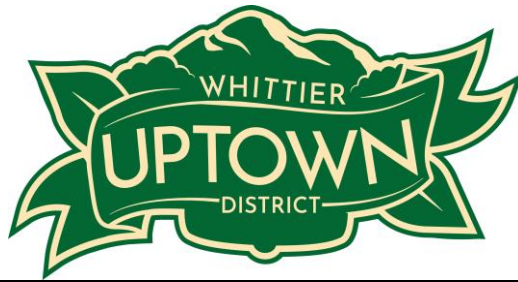
c/o GM Properties Inc. ■ 13305 Penn Street ■ Suite 200 ■ Whittier, CA 90602
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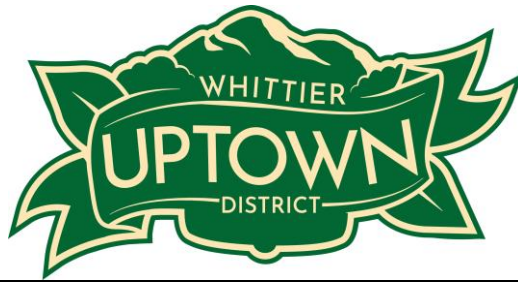
	<p>2 Councilman Octavio Martinez was present. Octavio and UWIA are willing to have an open and honest relationship, and look forward to working together.</p>	
<p>4. Approval of the April 14, 2022 UWIA Board Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>Corrections need to be made as follows: Item 7., pdf page 6. David Gonzalez stated the Police Department is <i>participating in</i> the process.</p>	<p>4. David Gonzalez Motioned to Approve the April 14, 2022 UWIA Board Meeting Minutes as corrected. Ginny Ball 2nd. Brent Haskell Took Roll Call. All in favor. Motion Passes.</p>
<p>5. District Manager RFP Update: Task Force – Ginny Ball, Milt Pate, and Melinda Pina</p>	<p>There is no update. The Task Force is working together to rectify the written document. To go out month-end.</p>	<p>5. No Action Taken</p>
<p>6. Board to Review and Discuss the Attached Ambassador Program Guideline and Advise of Any Changes Prior to the Sidewalk Operations Committee Creating the RFP and Posting</p>	<p>Steven Rodriguez thanked the task force for their work in creating the document. Since the inception of the Ambassador program the UWIA’s ideas of what the program should be have changed. When the contract was up the Ambassadors were clearly defined but the posting documentation was not clear. The task force set up the RFP guideline and cleaned it up for the Board’s review for RFP posting. Frank Rinaldi thanked the committee and the task force. The Ambassador process has been long. UWIA wanted and put the program together with input from Whittier PD, Brian Saeki, David Gonzalez, Cynthia Valenzuela, and Justin Tipton. WUA has stated they do not have resources to contribute financially.</p>	<p>6. No Action Taken</p>



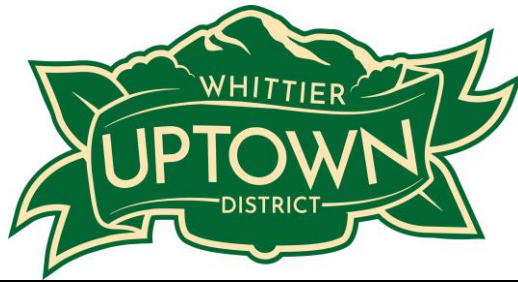
	<p>David Gonzalez added the WUA’s financial resources are not on the table. UWIA brought up a business watch several times with WUA. It is an important step to compliment the ambassador program. Melinda stated it shows collaboration Melinda discussed recent break-ins at her property. Melinda talked about her and other property owners on her street work together setting up camera angels and by doing so were able to tracking the suspect. With a business watch maybe streamline the process with a central contact and ability to upload video to a portal. Frank discussed an incident with his property and after speaking with the Chief of Police about his experience the process has changed. The response time has improved and new system with the businesses is working very well right now. Frank stated will review the Ambassador Program Guideline as a Board, make any recommended changes to have the Sidewalk Operations Committee or task force make and then present to the Executive Committee for review prior to final Board review and preparation of the RFP. Brent Haskell stated the next Sidewalk Operations Committee meeting is before the next Executive Committee meeting so that should work. The review of the Ambassador Program Guideline and approval to send to the Executive Committee will be added as an action item to the next Sidewalk Operations Committee agenda.</p>	
<p>7. Committee Tasks:</p>		



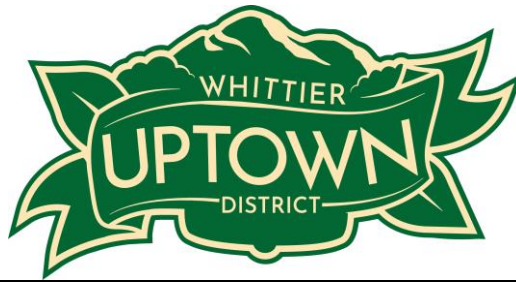
<p>a.1. Executive Committee Update – Frank Rinaldi</p>	<p>a.1. Frank Rinaldi stated the meeting between Frank, Melinda, Council Member Warner, Brian, and Council Member Dutra went into specifics on monies spent by the UWIA with the aid of a flip chart. Mr. Dutra had the UWIA bylaws and discussed specifics on monies to be spent. Lighting was mentioned as being in the bylaws. Ms. Warner did not have much to say at the meeting. UWIA reminded Council the property owners did not want to continue the Greenleaf Promenade. Mr. Dutra was unaware that the previous District 2 Councilmember was not active with the UWIA. Brian stated the meeting was contentious but calmed down after some explanations and the lack of participation by the former District 2 Councilmember was discussed. Melinda was surprised at the lack of knowledge the Councilmembers had about what the UWIA does. Melinda was disheartened at the disparaging words by Council at a prior City Council meeting spoken in a public forum. As a property owner contributing money and volunteering to do the work, Melinda found it insulting and hurtful. Wished UWIA was brought into the meeting when determining what was needed. Only UWIA’s wallet was invited and then the UWIA was accused of being uncollaborative, Being told how to spend money is not collaboration. Brian stated at the beginning it came across as uncollaborative. Does not want to belabor the issue. Mr. Bouchot asked to see the UWIA budget. It's arbitrary – everyone knows the City is on the UWIA. Money</p>	<p>a.1. No Action Taken</p>
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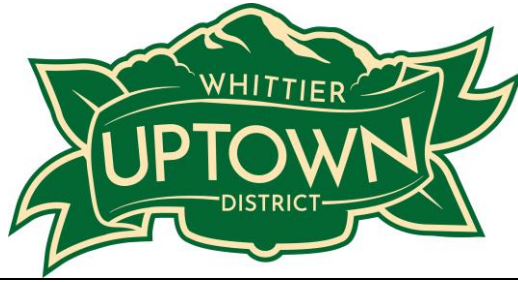
	<p>came up and the discussion on how to spend the money and how it will be funded. Melinda stated the problem at the Council meeting was how it was said and at no point did anyone try to stop or correct the comments made. Frank stated he got three things out of the meeting. 1) Council was not there to listen but to tell 2) UWIA was being called a by a different name, and 3) Not being recognized like any other organization which goes back to Council not knowing who the UWIA is or maybe the information is not getting filtered up to Council. Melinda opened the floor. Stephen Ortiz stated he is disappointed. Stephen wanted to be in attendance and participate in the discussion with Council. Melinda stated she and Frank talked with District 2 candidates and after the election invited Octavio Martinez to start off on the right foot. Stephen Ortiz asked if the minutes are being read at the Council meeting. Frank stated Council gets lots of information so whatever they receive is minimized. Brian stated staff is not holding any information from anybody. Best to have a conversation next Tuesday. There is a budget and expense meeting as part of the discussion. Best to work with Octavio and try to schedule quarterly meetings. Katie Galvin-Surbatovic stated there is an annual presentation. This is the right time to discuss the StreetScape. Brian stated the Aleco reports were presented but stopped. Melinda stated UWIA needs to attend and report at council meetings. Katie stated to also</p>	
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	<p>share with the business owners and the community. Time to come forward and setup together. Melinda stated more concerned about doing the work, not the accolades. Katie wants to move forward with new ideas and getting back to a place helpful to the group. Frank stated the City asked UWIA to pay for half of the costs associated with the promenade cleaning, lighting and security. The City decided to keep Greenleaf Promenade open for nine months. Further discussion on communication, the Council meeting, and the Greenleaf Promenade. Brian asked how to get past this. Melinda stated public acknowledgment and working together moving forward. Frank stated ready to move forward and compromise. Frank asked if UWIA needs to participate with City requests. Melinda wants to Survey on 1/3 payment. Frank stated not an action item so only attempting to see where the board members stand to provide guidance to the Sidewalk Operations Committee:</p> <p>Five - Yes Two - No</p> <p>Frank stated the majority of the Board is in favor. Since it is not an action Item it is to be sent back to the Sidewalk Committee and to come out of the Sidewalk budget if approved by the Committee. Report back to the Board.</p>	
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a.2. Finance Report – Jim Dunkelman	a.2.	a.2. Tabled
c. Contractor Update	Frank Rinaldi went through the following items and opened the floor for discussion:	
1. Edna Becerra – Social Media Overview	See Attached Written Report.	1. No Action Taken
2. Coastal Landscape Services – Tyson Smith	See Attached Written Report.	2. No Action Taken
d.1.-2. District Identity Committee Update: Andrew Pina		d.1.-2. Tabled
e.1.-2. Sidewalk Operations Committee Update: Steven Rodriguez	Steven Rodriguez stated Coastal is coordinating with the City. Frank instructed Coastal to pull out of Greenleaf and move onto other streets in the district, such as Bright Avenue and Comstock Avenue. Do more work and detail there. Brent Haskell stated Tyson commented heated water for pressure washing is not being used by the City vendor so the gum may not be getting removed. Katie to walk the area with Frank.	e.1.-2. No Action Taken
f. 1.-2. Land Use and Project Review Committee Update: Frank Rinaldi	Frank Rinaldi stated Ben Pongetti is informative and updated UWIA on the new development for consideration of 52 residential units at Milton Avenue and Philadelphia Street.	f.1.-2. No Action Taken
8. Other Board Items	Melinda Pina asked if the Board is going to attend the State of the City on Thursday,	8. No Action Taken



	<p>May 26th. UWIA is to buy a table and contact Brent Haskell for attendance. At the meeting four volunteered plus one in attendance but not for UWIA. Brent to send out an email to confirm interest.</p>	
<p>9. Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting will be on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Whittier Community Center located at 7630 Washington Avenue or possibly via hybrid teleconference.</p>	<p>9. No Action Taken</p>
<p>10. Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.</p>	<p>10. No Action Taken</p>

Minutes were taken by Brent Haskell and Stephanie Shamp, GM Properties