



Board Meeting MINUTES

June 16, 2026, 8:30 AM at H.T. Grill (indoor wine room), 1701 S Catalina Ave

CALL TO ORDER **8:34 AM**

I. ROLL CALL

Greg Gomez, Cris Bennett, Ralph Russomano, Mike Ward, Lisa Babros, Lauren Bass, Greg Gomez, Jeff Ginsburg, Peter Olpe, Alexandra Soto, Victoria Tap, Kathleen Fisher, Lynda Habash, Lori Ford (Gum Tree), Michael Klein & Andrea Delap (Public Works), Athens Services (Melissa, Arturo)

II. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2026 meeting (Secretary) (**attachments item #1**)

Motion to Approve by Greg Gomez, 2nd by Jeff Ginsburg. All in Favor-APPROVED

2. Receive & file

- a. Financial report (**attachments item #2**)

Motion to Approve by Jeff Ginsburg, 2nd by Lauren Bass. All in Favor-APPROVED

III. GUESTS

1. Redondo Beach Police Dept (Kyle Lofstrom)
2. Redondo Beach Public Works, Deputy Director (Mike Klein)

Mike Klein from Public Works introduced representatives from Athens (Alex, Melissa, and Arturo) to discuss upcoming solid waste rate changes affecting the Riviera Village Association, which includes local businesses and property owners. Andrea Delap from Public Works will also join to provide further details on these adjustments, which have been extensively reviewed by the city council.

Additionally, plans are underway to secure funding for replacing worn street string lights

3. Athens Disposal (Andrea Delap)

Alex Hahn from Athens explains that state bill SB 1383 mandates a transition to a three-bin waste system (trash, recycling, and organics) for all cities. The primary goal is to divert food waste from landfills to reduce methane gas emissions and extend landfill capacity. He also reassures stakeholders that Athens' recycling facilities are high-tech and effective, and confirms that food scraps should now be placed in green organic bins. Redondo Beach is currently undergoing a routine triennial state waste audit, where officials observed successful food recovery and green bin usage at local businesses. Due to updated CalRecycle standards, the city must now shift from back-end sorting to mandatory source-separated recycling and trash for all businesses.

Public Works praised Athens' contract performance and their solid waste manager, noting that current recycling adjustments are state-mandated.

(attachments #1)

4. Gum Tree (Lori Ford)

Lori and her husband own Gum Tree in Hermosa beach and Manhattan Beach. The Riviera Village Gum Tree store opens July 8, 2026.

5. Nike After Dark Tour (Owen R. Strong Event Consultant Break On Through Productions) **(attachments #3)**

The Nike After Dark Tour, a sold-out women's half marathon expecting 12,000 runners, is scheduled for the 24th, running through Redondo, Hermosa, and Torrance, including a stretch on South Catalina Avenue. Organizers are currently engaging local businesses to discuss partnership opportunities and potential event impacts. Businesses interested in integration should contact Sage, while inquiries regarding operational details like road closures should be directed to Caroline.

IV. UPDATES

1. Farmers Market **(attachments item #4)**

2. Social media (Kathleen Fisher)

Social media following is up significantly, with 19,601 Instagram (23% growth) and 13,645 Facebook followers (27% growth). While Facebook engagement often comes from non-residents enjoying local nostalgia, current ad campaigns are actively promoting the summer festival, farmers' market, and general village dining and shopping to drive website traffic.

3. Lamp post banners (Kathleen Fisher)

There's a permit into Mike and Mona Lisa for them to be installed Tuesday, June 23, 2026. Cody Bennett, Chris's kid is going to be the shadow vehicle for \$200

4. Parklets (Cris Bennett)

City Council Successful meeting - secured a 5-year extension, addressing City Council concerns regarding parking availability and crosswalk traffic. Chris is coordinating bulb replacement and repairs for dining decks, including finalizing outstanding repair and billing issues for El Posto.

Motion by Cris Bennett to demolish the Redondo Beach Brewing Company parklet deck (estimated cost \$3,000–\$4,000), contingent on receiving written city approval that removing the structure preserves the RVA's flexible allocation of 47 parking spaces. **2nd by Greg Gomez All in Favor–APPROVED**

5. Plants (Greg Gomez)

6. Events Director (Kim Judy)

a. Merchant Mixer **no date or location yet, per Victoria**

b. Dine Around Riviera Village (Ralph Russomano, Kim Judy)

The recent Dine Around Riviera Village event was a resounding success, drawing significant foot traffic and generating strong positive sentiment among local retailers. While operations ran smoothly on the day, the planning committee identified critical areas for improvement, including the need for centralized project

management software, better tracking of sponsor collections, and higher ticket pricing to enhance value. Given the event's popularity, members are eager to formalize it as a biannual fixture, though they suggest eliminating the unpopular raffle and streamlining communication processes to better leverage the heavy front-facing efforts currently shouldered by the RVA.

c. Summer Festival (Mike Ward)

Mike Ward presented logistics for the upcoming summer festival, highlighting improved power solutions for vendors and confirmed musical acts. He committed to circulating site maps and street closure schedules to the board shortly. Additionally, members recognized this as Mike's final meeting, marking the end of his thirty-year tenure on the board

Lynda Habash updated the board on holiday preparations, confirming she has secured the Halloween Stroll carousel for \$6,750. She is leading the village holiday lighting project, having already engaged two contractors and actively seeking a third for competitive bidding. Despite a tight \$15,000–\$20,000 budget for the ambitious "whimsical" installation, she is coordinating all necessary city permits and scheduling, while generously donating her services to the RVA.

V. DISCUSSION & VOTING ITEMS

1. Parklets Permit extension

a. May 19 City Council Public Hearing (**attachments #5**)

Following a five-year extension for the parklet program, the group identified the current volunteer-led management model as unsustainable due to chronic non-payment by participating businesses. To address this, members plan to revisit their operating guidelines and formally request that the city take over billing responsibilities or implement stronger enforcement mechanisms, such as business license suspension, to ensure compliance. The board aims to agendize this for a future meeting, emphasizing that the current collection process has become an unmanageable burden for the association.

2. RVA Board Elections 2024-2026

a. Welcome Board members, July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028

b. Executive Board Internal Election

Members identified that current administrative duties, such as manual billing and check deposits, are too labor-intensive for volunteers and must be modernized through improved systems or dedicated administrative support. The board encouraged new members to participate actively and committed to using this time to reorganize volunteer roles, ensuring a more sustainable and effective management structure for the association. **Motion by Allen Sanford to delay executive elections by one month to better recruit candidates and address concerns regarding the treasurer's unsustainable workload, 2nd by Greg Gomez All in Favor-APPROVED**

KHA seeks to pause the project to conduct a study that incorporates public input. By backing this effort, the RVA aims to push for a more effective community outcome while strengthening a strategic alliance to amplify their collective voice on future advocacy issues, such as parking. **Motion by Allen Sanford** for the RVA to support the King Harbor Association (KHA) in opposing the city's current \$10 million Seaside Lagoon renovation, which critics argue merely adds a concrete bottom instead of reimagining the park as a vibrant destination, **2nd by Greg Gomez All in Favor-APPROVED**

3. Beautification
 - a. Bistro lights

VI. **ONGOING ITEMS**

1. Digital directory touch screen (Jeff Ginsburg)
2. Retractable Bollards
3. RVA entry sign PCH; clean or replace
4. Beautification \$30k Project
5. Make more formal, a program focusing on Riviera Village sidewalk beautification
6. Permanent Parklets
7. Morgan Moore Memorial: \$1,125 in prepaid acct.

VII. **CITY LEADERSHIP UPDATES** (City Council Member Brad Waller)

The RVA is actively preparing for the upcoming City Council budget meeting, focusing on several key community issues:

Event Subsidies: Members expressed concern regarding proposed per-mile fees for local events, noting they could threaten established traditions like the St. Patrick's Day run. The association advocates for "grandfathering" long-term local events rather than implementing new, potentially unsustainable fee structures.

Infrastructure: The group seeks confirmation that funding for essential street string light repairs is included in the current budget.

Holiday Parking: RVA leaders strongly support a free holiday parking program. Discussions emphasized learning from successful models in neighboring cities (Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach), specifically regarding effective ways to cover meters, such as using specialized vinyl stickers or custom bags.

Advocacy: Attendees stressed the importance of RVA representation at the City Council meeting to ensure these business-critical concerns are voiced directly.

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Non-agenda items up to 3 minutes per individual)

IX. **ADJOURNMENT 10:15 AM**

1. Next BID meeting (June 16, 2026)