



**DOWNTOWN  
LONG BEACH  
ALLIANCE**

Debra Johnson, Chair  
Alan Burks, Vice Chair  
  
Griselda Suarez  
Sara Hickman  
Traci De La Torre  
John Waldron  
Dianne T McNinch  
Tokotah Ashcraft  
Jorge Mujica  
  
DLBA Staff:  
Broc Coward, COO

## **PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Monday, December 17, 2018  
4:00 PM  
DLBA Conference Room  
100 W Broadway, Suite 120  
Long Beach, CA 90802**

**Voting Present:** Griselda Suarez, Sara Hickman, John Waldron, Alan Burks, Dianne T. Mc Ninch, Jorge Mujica, Tokotah Ashcraft

**Voting Absent:** Debra Johnson, Traci De La Torre,

**DLBA Staff:** Broc Coward, Cherisse Evans

**Guests:** Christopher Koontz, Brian Polivka, Jim Goodin

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Alan Burks, Vice Chair

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

2. **ACTION:** Approve minutes from [November 19](#) Public Realm Committee meeting. **1st: Mc Ninch. 2nd: Ashcraft. None opposed, Burks abstains. Motion carries.**

3. Discussion of Victory & Santa Cruz Park Design Standards

a. Guest Speaker: Christopher Koontz, AICP, City of Long Beach Planning Bureau Manager, Department of Development Services

- Koontz explained that the public's expectations/definition of what a park is has changed over the years, therefore the Design Guidelines will be reviewed in 2020. Currently there are three projects underway adjacent to Victory Park:
  1. The Breakers conversion with the Victory Park portion being held to State of California water use standards
  2. 100 E. Ocean- American Life reconstruction with Victory Park replanting using a lower water plant palate
  3. Thrifty Oil recently purchased Salvation Army and will be undergoing major re-landscaping
- The goals of these Victory Park projects are to:
  1. Make the space more active and engaging for users
  2. Lower irrigation and water demands
  3. Find a creative way to signal the past but in a current, more relevant way
- Santa Cruz Park—Phase I of the Golden Shore project is being looked at now (no park involved). Phase II will involve reconfiguring the park.
- Koontz plans to return to the committee throughout 2019 to gather feedback

- Question regarding the maintenance of these park areas and Koontz answered that currently, individual property owners are responsible for maintaining the park space in front of their buildings, but the city will be looking at other options.
- Question about exploring more options of “activation” such as vendors (ie. Coffee carts, outdoor dining, parklets). Koontz says that is part of revisiting the guidelines, determining what types of activation the guidelines should include. The Loop was used as a pilot to help determine if having vendors in parks is a direction that the city should consider.
- Another question about having temporary pop-up art studios in the park. Koontz mentioned that with that there are issues to consider such as insurance etc.
- Question about whether the guidelines will include plans for change/improvement with the Olympics in mind. Koontz says it will depend on funding.

4. Discussion of Projects and Design Standards for Downtown Courts and Ways  
[Pine Avenue Alleys Presentation](#)

Guest Speaker: Brian Polivka, City of Long Beach Capital Project Coordinator, Department of Public Works

- Polivka stated his department has hired an urban design firm to come up with plans to revitalize multiple alleyways along Pine Avenue. The presentation shows the concepts for specific locations which include lighting, artwork and landscape.
- Question regarding who is responsible for upkeep. Lighting the city maintains. Artwork/painting the property owner maintains.
- Opportunities for DLBA/Public Realm committee to contribute might include help with funding, permitting, installations.
- Burks suggested having the working groups meet between now and the end of the year to get some ideas together for finalizing goals. All committee members can participate.
- Hickman made a suggestion that this working group consider choosing the sidewalk decal installation as their project. Helping support the roll-out of this project that Studio III has taken on as well as meeting with local retailers to gather feedback about the program’s effectiveness. Will continue to discuss this as an option.

5. Old Business:

Discuss results of survey/gather feedback from members about the permanent meeting day. Will bring results to Chair Debra Johnson, confirm a day and report back to the committee.

6. New Business

7. Public Comment (three minutes on all non-agenda items)

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM

**NEXT PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE MEETING:**

**TBD in January**

**DLBA Conference Room**

**100 W Broadway, Suite 120**

**Long Beach, CA 90802**

***Mission: Cultivate, preserve and promote a healthy, safe and prosperous Downtown.***

All meetings held by the Downtown Long Beach Alliance shall be conducted in compliance with the Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950 et seq., and its requirement that public commissions, boards, councils, and public agencies conduct business openly.

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