

AURORA BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 21, 2020

Board Members Present:

Garrett Walls, Regina Edmondson, Carolyn Pace, Chance Horiuchi, Hitesh Patel, Michele Redding, Bob Fryberger, Nosh Tarachand, Alok Sarwal

Board Members Absent:

excused - Martin Liles

None opposed to excused absence for Mr. Liles.

Staff Present: Elena Vasconez, Leslie Epperson and Andrea Amonick

Guest Present: Steven Wright, Trevor Vaughn

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:02 am by Garrett Walls

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Walls –Approval of September

Mr. Patel moved to approve minutes

Ms Horiuchi seconded

Ms. Redding abstained to vote – was not present for the meeting

None opposed – September minutes approved.

October Minutes

Mr. Walls moved to approve October minutes

Mr. Patel moved to approve minutes

Ms. Horiuchi seconded

None opposed – October minutes approved

Ms. Redding abstained to vote – was not present for the meeting

No quorum meeting was held in November 2020, only a sub-committee for the Business Recognition Awards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IFC – Commander Wright

The Aurora Fire Department has never had a fee schedule or fee program for life and life safety inspections. They are hoping to roll this out, first quarter of 2021.

The city has moved to a different software platform for administrative city functions, called Excella. The city used to be on a program called Amanda. Currently, the mobile the function of Excella is not functioning correctly for the Fire Department. It is a vendor issue, and it is anticipated to be fixed and operational first quarter of 2021.

Mr. Walls – How does this fee schedule differ from what you've historically charged for inspections?

Who takes on permitting role?

Commander Wright – certain permits FD has to work with – life safety qualified permits or temporary use permits; ex; large tents. Other permit fees go through the clerk’s office.

Mr. Walls – how does this get pushed out to the public.

Commander Wright – when they apply for permit – it gets explained or when an inspector comes out for an inspection.

The non-compliance reinspection fee at the very bottom (\$55 \$150) is all we ever did and that continues. Occupancy types are put into a certain inspection cycle; Some are every year; some are every three years.

Ms. Horiuchi – temporary use permits with the outdoor expansion – is it per tent? or per visit?

Commander Wright – Restaurant tents are not big enough for this to apply; like 30 by 30 type stuff. We’re talking about the very large tents with a lot of possible people underneath them.

This is a snapshot of fees for internal use. We are going out and inspecting these to make sure they’re heated safely. Gas heaters are not allowed in tent.

Chance – Could you put out a fact sheet or FYI sheet of the dos and don’ts for the restaurant owners. I can share information.

Commander Wright – will reach out to Public Safety officer to put out something to the public.

Update on AER Aurora Small Business Grant 2nd round

Ms. Amonick – AER round 2 started in June of 2020. It was specifically to provide things like PPE, new materials and systems for reopening after being closed for COVID. I believe \$5 million was set aside for-profit entities for their recovery.

1 million dollars was added for nonprofits –. Nonprofits were not allowed in the first round.

The city is still cutting checks for this portion of the program.

There was a total of 600 businesses eligible for this grant. 400 businesses turned in paperwork.

We have expended 4.9 million dollars so far. We are still working on a few businesses.

AER 3 – Aurora economic resiliency program.

This program was intended specifically for businesses to get them through the year for things like rent payments for businesses behind in the rent to get them current. The program was administered by 3rd party. 5 million was available for the program. New businesses and smaller businesses that had not received grants before were given first priority. This program is still on going.

Because restaurants and the food industry are still experiencing difficulties and closures through Tri-County, the Aurora City Council would like to do a program specifically focused on restaurants who have not thus far received assistance. More information to come out after the 1st of the year. City council wants to do a specific program for restaurants. After the 1st of the year. But the goal is to get money to people who haven’t had an opportunity to participate.

Ms. Vasconez – added that this also includes caterer, bars and distilleries.

Ms. Horiuchi – some people reached out regarding the application process being challenging for some business owners. Will the business owners have to re-apply?

Ms. Amonick – The business owners will have to reapply. The Goal to keep those businesses. There will be a date when you opened by which you have to have been opened. The city wants businesses to be successful. And if they only didn’t pay taxes during Covid – then they should re-apply. They need to prove that paying the taxes was a hardship w/Covid.

Mr. Walls – wanted to know when is the use it or lose it date for the money being set aside for this program?

Ms. Amonick responded; program income; if I apply for it and then I offset costs, I'm recapitalizing my funds. Those funds still have to be used for the same eligibility requirements. The issue is not the timing.

Business Award Presentation suggestions

Ms. Vasconez reported that applications are open till 12-31-2020. We have 39 nominations for 18 businesses.

Trevor Vaughn has checked the businesses for licenses and taxes. All business but 2 are ok and good to go.

Staff is will start interviewing the nominees today. The interviews will be recorded.

For the businesses that are selected, Channel 8 will be able to make 4 videos. We will have a basket of goodies to be delivered to the selected businesses for the event.

Channel 8 will stream the event.

For January, Mr. Walls will have all the information gathered and then create a digital voting process to be emailed to the board.

We would like the event to take place mid-March or April.

Ms. Pace commented we should try the food on the nominee list.

Mr. Tarachand asked where the list is of nominees.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Mr. Patel – CM Marcia Berzins – concern the amount of homeless and how to deal with it.

Ms. Pace – CM Juan Marcano - putting forth discussions about rent, relief of rent

Ms. Horiuchi –CM Gruber – impact of rent control; collect data to report to city council. How to best used funds to provide training and skills – workforce initiatives.

Mr. Liles – CM Bergan – Mr. Liles did not attend meeting

Mr. Tarachand – CM Gardner – no updates

Ms. Edmondson –CM Hiltz – no updates

Mr. Sarwal - CM Angela Lawson.- Covid testing, health and wellness – 1st phase for getting vaccines – Vaccine delivery – big push for vaccines, need a big event

Mr. Fryberger - CM Murillo, - no updates – still trying to reach out to her.

Michelle Reding –CM Combs. – reached out several weeks ago – no response

Outcome: BAB members will continue to reach out to their Council Members and keep them up to date. Please stay in touch and maintain the connection

Trevor Vaughn, Manager Tax & Licensing

Dec 16th 3rd party delivery fee went into effect. Providers are complying with the ordinance.

Denver passed their lodgers modification measure. This encourages Aurora to go forward.

There is a second reading of the Economic nexus ordinance. The city wouldn't implement the economic nexus until we complete integration with the State system which is probably around Feb.2021.

Small business seller's exemption potentially to be removed in July. There will be a 90-day notification when that goes into effect. There will be some education. And there are the quarterly classes through SBDC and also in Spanish.

The city has been enforcing the public health orders. There have been more violations recently. So we go out and check. The Education approach is first. We have sent out a dozen violations. Some locations were having parties.

Arapahoe county is getting their 5-star application into the state. It is a 10-day revue. Then live inspections. So when they permitted, we will be ready to go. Adams county is not looking good. There numbers are not looking good.

Ms. Horiuchi – followed up w/APD – restrictions change weekly and they haven't put anything out.

Help Kitchen – to improve and help restaurants

Carolyn Pace – is hiring for her company – parttime to fulltime.

4 terms expiring. Terms are confusing – not tracked from date your council person was appointed

Garrett Walls,

Carolyn Pace

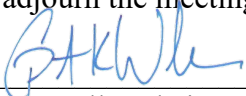
Michele Reding

Nosh Tarachand

Mr. Walls and city staff will send out reminders to council members

Mr. Walls moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 pm.

APPROVED:



Garrett Walls, Chairperson