

AURORA BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 23, 2020

Board Members Present:

Garrett Walls, Nosh Tarachand, Martin Liles, Hitesh Patel, Bob Fryberger, Regina Edmondson, Carolyn Pace, Alok Sarwal

Board Members Absent:

Unexcused - Phillip Villard

Staff Present: Elena Vasconez, Leslie Epperson, Andrea Amonick

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:03 am by Mr. Walls.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Walls moved to approve minutes.

Mr. Patel seconded. All were in favor.

February 2020 Minutes Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Report from Andrea Amonick on the state of SBA loans

Ms. Amonick stated that funds have been released and applications are live on the website. Money is being released on a first come first served basis and covers all counties in Colorado. SBDC consultants are available to assist citizens if needed.

Ms. Vasconez gave out the website info – disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Ms. Vasconez also stated that the SBDC will be having webinars walking small business owners through the application process.

Ms. Amonick stated that the SBA just completed training for consultants and will have a weekly webinar for citizens. We will be posting information on the city website with updates and business resources. We will keep this information current.

For the first week, the SBDC will have an Online class every afternoon that will walk small businesses through the process: How to apply for the program. The City will be posting via social media and on the city website under – COVID19 website.

Recently posted on the city website is the most recent update from the governor.

The SBDC has started a morning coffee w/the director for citizen with questions.

Ms. Vasconez stated that the coffee launched today and will be occurring every day. Please register on the website; Aurora-SouthMetroSBDC.com under training and then workshops- Coffee with the director.

Mr. Walls stated we will send a follow up email with all the links for small business. Check out the City website – take a look at it. This will be the HUB for information regarding COVID. Send out to your council member so that they have the information.

Follow-up Action: Send your council members information with resources for small business.

Garrett introduced Carolyn Pace.

Ms. Pace is council member Juan Marcano’s representative. Mr. Walls asked Ms. Pace to introduce herself. Ms. Pace talked about her business and stated she has currently had to shut down her business because of COVID stay at home. She is going through the SBA application.

Mr. Walls asked her to go through the process for everyone.

Ms. Pace stated website is slow. Telephone hold time is long. SBA site and call in very overloaded.

Mr. Walls said that it is fortunate that we have this on the ground experience and BAB is eyes and ears for our council members. Reach out to Council Members and let them know about the page for business resources. BAB needs to keep information accurate and inform Council Members how to find the information through the city website.

Outcome: Board will keep Council Members informed of new information and where to find it.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Mr. Liles went with Council Member Francoise Bergan to a town hall meeting with local HOA; about 75 attendees. Mr. Liles attended meeting. This was right before everything with COVID, but they touched base on being proactive.

Mr. Tarachand talked with CM Curtis Gardner nothing in particular discussed except for sugary drinks – he is against it. Mr. Tarachand told him that if he needs any advice from BAB, we are happy to help.

Ms. Edmondson talked with CM Alison Hiltz who commented on the slow roll out from governor, how do businesses feel about shelter in place. What can the city do to work with governor for best solution for business owners.

Mr. Fryberger went to the last ward 1 town hall with CM Crystal Murillo at the end of February. The discussed the new police chief recruitment and RTD cutting services. It is very important, and some people had not heard about reappointment. CM Murillo still mulling over appointment.

Mr. Walls stated that he could follow up on that with Ms. Vasconez and Ms. Amonick.

Mr. Patel talked with Council Member Marsha Berzins; Aurora hotels hit hard. Small Business is asking for the city to temporarily waive taxes on tourism and lodging. Maybe BAB can send a letter for support of the hotel industry. Hospitality needs some kind of relief.

Outcome: Draft a letter to City Council in support of the hospitality industry

Nominations for BAB Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Walls nominated himself for chair. Mr. Walls stated that the Bylaws are specific on who can be nominated.

No other nominations.

No one opposed –Voted all in favor. Mr. Walls will remain as chair.

Nominations for Vice Chair – Nosh nominated Bob Fryberger.

Mr. Fryberger stated there is no guarantee that he will be reappointed and suggested Mr. Tarachand.

Mr. Fryberger and Mr. Walls nominated Nosh – Mr. Sarwal seconded.

Ms. Pace nominated Ms. Edmondson. Ms. Edmondson stated she appreciated it but did not have the capacity at this time. Declined.

No other nominations.

All in favor for Mr. Tarachand – no one opposed.

Congratulations to Mr. Tarachand. He is vice-chair.

Final comments

Ms. Pace commented that there was a need for items at the food bank and for PPE – Would the BAB be interested.

Mr. Sarwal is working with dept of public health discussing releasing a shipment of PPE for providers in Aurora - clinics. Have not released yet but working on it.

Mr. Walls Mr. Sarwal comes from health care industry. Not Federally qualified just a small community clinic. He would love to give direction to CM. Mr. Walls would like to start program with some of the restaurants to provide meals for people that need a meal. BAB is a key group of business resources.

Mr. Walls would like to get with the Bid and get somethings together for those that can't afford food. Get a program together in Aurora. Would like to get this group together to work on that.

Get feedback from your Council Member. Send emails. Reach out.

Ms. Vasconez told all that city staff would be working remotely but available. Reach out if you have questions. Also Ms. Vasconez is working on reaching out to the Spanish community.

Mr. Walls can make Uber Conference available to Board. Email or call him if you need it.

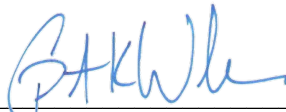
Follow up action: Get restaurants together to cook food for those in need. Get all extra PPE for first responders.

Mr. Walls moved to adjourn.

Mr. Tarachand seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32am

APPROVED:



Garrett Walls, Chairperson