

# **AURORA BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD**

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
February 22, 2021

## **Board Members Present:**

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

## **Board Members Absent:**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Mike Coffman, CM Alison Coombs.

**Staff Present:** Elena Vasconez, Leslie Epperson, Karen Hancock and Andrea Amonick

**Guest Present:** Commander Steven Wright, Trevor Vaughn, Kevin Hougen, Sarah Martin, Tom Henley

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Walls moved approval of January minutes to March meeting

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **Mayor Mike Coffman**

Mayor Coffman said that he has a passion for small business. He had a small business in 1983. He understands the challenges. The pandemic has brought forth new challenges. Mayor Coffman is concerned about the hospitality industry. The city has used the cares act dollars for small businesses to help as many as possible. He would like to be more involved with this board. This organization is important.

## **Council Member Coombs:**

Council Member Coombs stated the following:

There is an initiative for a Town hall for the business community.

There is an initiative for a small business fund available from the city to support the small businesses in Aurora.

Next month bring forth an initiative for a marijuana social consumption lounges or restaurants.

There is a homelessness initiative. It will support folks experiencing homelessness and the business community that has to deal with it. We are talking with a group that has been involved in trash cleanup in Denver. We are working with the homeless community for appropriate solutions.

There will be Green initiatives - Sustainability. Actual plans and goals.

We are talking about youth violence prevention and funds for LGBTQ

Regarding the minimum wage initiative – waiting for Feds.

## **IFC – Commander Wright**

Commander Wright began attending these meetings to introduce to the BAB a project for 2021: Adoption of new fire code and fee schedule.

We would like to discuss residential fire sprinkler systems.

The new rule would require developers to have residential fire sprinklers in new construction homes. Certain size homes – We would meet with the board once a month for board thoughts. More details to come. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021.

Mr. Walls – do we have anything from Aurora Water.

Commander Wright – The Infrastructure is there. Tap fees are not nearly as cumbersome. Water capability is there.

Mr. Walls – how will process work.

Commander Wright – Developers would be approached. Cross Creek is ahead of the game regarding this. Other places require this. No outreach has occurred yet.

The building department has a subsection with building safety and will help with this.

It is the intent of the AFD to pursue this. If it is not feasible, we won't pursue. Obvious life safety benefit. Multifamily is already required. We would add detached single-family homes.

### **Trevor Vaughn, Manager of Tax and Licensing**

CM Gardner asked to extend the cap fee program to June. There is 1 company that is not in compliance. Still checking on it for enforcement. One company grumbled that it wasn't constitutional. The State bill proposed making a requirement that there is a written agreement between the company and the restaurant regarding the app.

Economic nexus – the city is still working on getting set up with the state portal. The city will remove small seller exemption in the summer.

Working with public health orders and inspections for the 5-star program. State continues to move the goal post on the program; Impacts all the counties in the state. It has not been a tangible benefit for the businesses. Tri-County is not happy with it.

Ms. Redding – do businesses want to leave 5-star program?

Mr. Vaughn – they are able to leave the program if they want. They just need to ask to be removed. Sales tax exemption on the feminine hygiene is in study session and the healthy kids ordinance is postponed to summer.

Ms. Pace – too bad for the 5-star program. The state is introducing a bill to get rid of Styrofoam containers. At what point does the state talk with the city regarding these bills.

Mr. Vaughn – 3 council members meet to decide whether to take action on state involvement. The CO municipal league is the go-to as far as the city's position on things.

### **Xcel Energy presentation - Introduction by Karen Hancock**

Karen Hancock – This is an opportunity to participate in a program that Xcel is offering. The City council unanimously approved.

Xcel is offering opportunities for our businesses.

Sarah Martin – Aurora lead community facilitator partners in energy.

See power point attached to agenda.

Mr. Walls will send out Brainstorm strategy list.

Ms. Hancock – We are helping Xcel with the data for the climate action plan that CM Coombs was talking about.

Ms. Martin – The program will increase program participation, heating rebates, lighting rebates thus lowering cost. Resource conversation. Switching to renewables. For Businesses, Efficiency for savings. Green house gas inventory. By 2025 to reduce our energy consumption by using renewable energy. We made our goals.

Mr. Walls – asked members if they would like to be involved. Ms. Pace and Ms. Edmondson volunteered.

Ms. Horiuchi – the Havana bid is already involved.

Ms. Walls will send out document to all the members. Present to workshop on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Patel is building a new hotel. Haven't heard anything from Aurora. What can Aurora do with Xcel on this? Some kind of tax rebates.

Tom Henley – put email address in chat for Mr. Hitesh. Solar program rebates. Design function that identifies where savings can occur

Mr. Patel – happy to participate.

Ms. Hancock would like photos from Mr. Patel's build.

### **Kevin Hougen** –

Update from Chamber – partnership with Arapahoe/Douglas works – hiring – grant from department of labor.

A few chambers are having challenges. The Denver Tech Center Chamber has closed. The Aurora Chamber extended invitation to those companies to join Aurora Chamber.

### **Business Awards Update** – Elena Vasconez

Moving forward with plans for the event to take place Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Channel 8 will help with this event. This will be a pre-recorded event.

We will need to deliver award and baskets before the event.

Channel 8 will produce 4 videos for the top winners: Wine Experience; Winchell's Donuts 6; Legends of Aurora; Envision Eyecare.

HM will not have a video but will be recognized during the event. - Village Exchange Center; Create cooking school

Excited about having a coming event before the award ceremony. Prepare a drink, have some music, chat with others.

You all will be receiving an invite.

Ideas for the baskets – Xcel bag with led light bulbs, beer from drydock with a mix variety, charcuterie board from Ms. Edmondson.

Ideas for keynote speakers – from Ms. Pace - restaurant Chook Chef

Ms. Vasconez suggested wine or hors d'oeuvres.

### **Vaccination Event**

1<sup>st</sup> vaccination event is this Saturday, 2-27

Mr. Sarwal – 400 vaccine doses will be at the Stampede. We will still honor the guidelines from the governor. We are bringing in minority leaders and 6 different language interpreters. Citizens will receive a time for the vaccination. There will be nurses and they will be provided with an appointment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. CDPH will be there for support.

Mr. Walls – Ms. Horiuchi has been instrumental in getting this together. This could potentially turn into a regular event with 2000 people. Working with LIFT to get a ride for free.

Ms. Edmondson – Excited to hear about the event and want to extend reminder to volunteer space and include space for people with color.

Mr. Walls will get with Ms. Edmondson – NAACP and the Asian Pacific are a part of this event.

Mr. Tarachand – volunteer for Saturday

Mr. Sarwal – wants this to be a model. We are including everyone. Equal access for everyone. This event will help with that disparity.

Ms. Pace – asked about the website.

Mr. Walls – is working on that – soon.

### **Business Community Townhall**

Mr. Walls – We would like to create a business owners townhall with the business owners of Aurora. If there are ordinances that come up that will be discussed. But to make city council members aware of the difficulties that business owners are experiencing. Mom and pop shops really struggling and especially during Covid. Townhall for members of the Aurora business community. Run like a ward meeting. Q&A, topic discussed. To happen quarterly. Would like to have Aurora PD to talk with business community regarding crime. Target first event for March through May. SBDC will be instrumental with this. Rely on SBDC for programming.

Mr. Tarachand – Good idea. Run with it.

Election next month.

### **COUNCIL CONTACTS**

Mr. Patel – CM Marcia Berzins – no updates

Ms. Pace – CM Juan Marcano – no updates

Ms. Horiuchi –CM Gruber – no updates

Mr. Liles – CM Bergan – exchanged emails – new rec center just broke ground, new school being built

Mr. Tarachand – CM Gardner – re: feminine hygiene products – happy with results

Ms. Edmondson –CM Hiltz – there is frustration over door dash increased fees.

Mr. Sarwal - CM Angela Lawson. - vaccines, a big event wants to be included and vaccinate the homeless community

Mr. Fryberger - CM Murillo, - no updates

Michelle Reding –CM Combs. –no updates

Garrett Walls – Mayor Coffman -

*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

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

*Garrett Walls,*

*Carolyn Pace*

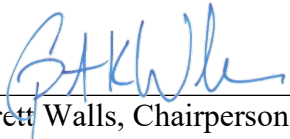
*Michele Reding*

*Nosh Tarachand*

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

Mr. Walls moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:25pm.

Mr. Tarachand seconded

APPROVED:   
Garrett Walls, Chairperson