

AURORA BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
April 18, 2022

Board Members Present:

Mr. Walls, Ms. Horiuchi, Mr. Fryberger, Mr. Sarwal, Ms. Fender, Ms. Woodson and Mr. Boyd

Board Members Absent:

Excused Absence: Ms. Reding, Mr. Liles

Council Members Present: Mayor Mike Coffman

Staff Present: Elena Vasconez, Andrea Amonick and Leslie Epperson

Guest Present: Commander Wright, Trevor Vaughn

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Walls called the meeting to order at 11:04am.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Walls moved to approve March minutes.

Mr. Boyd seconded

None opposed.

Minutes approved.

BAB BUDGET

Currently at \$8217.00 (See attached.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

Mayor Mike Coffman

- Camping Ban - We've identified an alternate shelter option for the people that will be displaced by the ban from encampments - Resource Center on the Anschutz Medical Campus. We're redoing that old gymnasium that was part of the military, when it was an Army installation.
- The worst areas in Aurora are not actually under city control - the right of way along I-25. I'm going to call the governor about seeing what he can do to expand CDOT capacity in terms of their ability to clean up the area and we provide security oversight w/APD.
- Recruiting on APD, we are getting fully staffed with all of our specialized units. But as a result of understaffing, there's a lot of specialized units that are under-staffed. It's important for us to be able to have a fully functioning police department.

ACTION ITEM; no items this month.

Commander Steven Wright, Fire Commander - no updates this month.

ACTION ITEM; no items this month.

Trevor Vaughn - no updates this month.

ACTION ITEM; no items this month

Cultural Arts Study Proposal – BAB Member Fender

Mr. Walls explained that he met with Shannon and her councilmember, Councilmember Gardner and discussed the possibility of being more proactive; not necessarily waiting for the council members to refer something to members. Any issues that we recognize might be affecting the business community, we'd be more proactive and draft a memo and forwarded on to PED and city council. From that came the discussion with Shannon and Councilmember Gardner about the fact that Aurora doesn't currently have any sort of cultural arts district or specific venues promoted by the city of Aurora.

Ms. Fender gave a presentation regarding The City of Aurora doesn't have a center for entertainment, cultural education, gathering in the city, and residents must go to other surrounding cities to participate in these types of events. The hope is that the BAB would ask council to authorize a study into is this viable or not. And if so, where, and when and how much money would it take to do so.

Please see attached presentation.

Ms. Fender moved that the BAB draft a memorandum to the city council requesting a survey into funding and developing an Aurora entertainment and arts district.

Seconded by Ms. Horiuchi.

None opposed.

ACTION ITEM: Elena, Shannon, and Garrett will work on drafting a memorandum to city council. They will send to members by email for consideration/approval.

2021 Business Awards

Ms. Amonick, Ms. Vasconez and Mr. Walls met and discussed some of the issues with the Business Awards. We're thinking that there are too many issues to try and push for a change in the Business Awards this year. So, we would potentially talk about a greater community engagement event next year and start the planning for that this year. We were talking about the format for this year be much the same as it was last year with virtually cast on Aurora eight. It went over well last year and we doubled our participation in the event by doing it virtually and having it broadcast on Aurora 8. In person, for invited attendees, we would have them attend a screening that would be held at the municipal center, cocktail hour and a screening of the events for a hybrid event. And then we would show the broadcast or show the video of everything that Randy's team put together and broadcast on channel 8 and simulcast on the web.

So, we'll work with Julie's team with communications and get the nominations request in the Mays water bill.

Thoughts about those discussions? Are you okay with doing a virtual hybrid and discussing a screening event at the municipal center?

Ms. Vasconez asked the member to consider the need to move the date of the event to September.

Mr. Walls commented that we could let the schedule be governed by the closure of nominations.

Mr. Sarwal mentioned you would be looking at October because November and December are awful for events.

Mr. Walls the event has actually been held in December every year. I would think that anytime sort of October through December might be acceptable, obviously planning around the holidays. A viewing party at the AMC lobby with a cocktail hour and some light finger food, making it less of a banquet and more of just a viewing party would cap the event size to about 100 people? 150 people?

Ms. Vasconez responded 120 – 140

Ms. Fender worries about Covid re-emerging in fall.

Mr. Walls commented that this would be a good plan for that because we would still have the virtual part of the program and could cancel the viewing party.

Ms. Horiuchi asked if it would invite only

Mr. Walls responded that at the AMC lobby it would be more traditional invite only. We would encourage other members to do viewing parties, like councilmember Bergen did last year.

Ms. Horiuchi commented that when the winners are selected, a schedule can be put together. Some small businesses would host their own viewing parties and encourage people to come to their spaces for the celebration.

Ms. Vasconez responded – without the large round tables that we used for the sit-down dinner, there will be space to have more people and just have chairs for the viewing. So that will help us increase the number of people invited.

We were hoping that members and your council person would go and visit the winner in your ward. We could coordinate with channel eight to do a little footage and some pictures.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Vasconez to set a meeting w/City Manager.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Ms. Reding – CM Combs – Absent

.

Mr. Woodson – CM Medina – no updates

Mr. Sarwal – CM Lawson – I have not spoken to council woman Lawson in three, four weeks, but I had a meeting with her last month. And we are staying in touch on a regular basis, but nothing new to report at this time.

Mr. Boyd – CM Zvonek – the red tape reduction committee is this week; Wednesday, April 20 at 6pm. **CM Zvonek** is featured in the Denver Post. Mr. Boyd to email link for that article.

Ms. Pace – CM Juan Marcano – no updates

Mr. Fryberger- CM Murillo – No Contact. - tried to make an appointment with her. I noticed that Councilmember Maria's per her online message; ability to schedule an appointment isn't working. I'll just keep sending emails and doing what I can.

Ms. Horiuchi –CM Jurinsky – more community engagement – we'll be assisting in doing some APD community outreach – React - to do a tour on Havana Street.

Mr. Liles –CM Bergan – no updates.

Mr. Patel – CM Sundberg– No updates

Ms. Fender – CM Gardner – the diaper sales tax exemption did end up passing. So that would be the only thing that's that has to do with us.

Garrett Walls – Mayor Coffman – camping ban passed 6-5 and will move on to third reading.

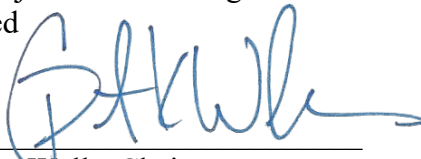
Shannon Fender (CM Gardner-At Large), Joel Boyd (CM Zvonek-At Large), and Sarah Woodson (CM Medina-Ward 3)

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. Staff will help to facilitate board members with new Council Members.

Mr. Walls moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40am.

Ms. Horiuchi seconded

APPROVED:



Garrett Walls, Chairperson