

AURORA BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 28, 2022

Board Members Present:

Garrett Walls, Chance Horiuchi, Bob Fryberger, Alok Sarwal, Carolyn Pace, Martin Liles, Hitesh Patel, Michele Reding, Sarah Woodson, Shannon Fender, and Joel Boyd

Board Members Absent: no absences recorded this month

Council Members Present: Mayor Mike Coffman

Staff Present: Elena Vasconez and Leslie Epperson

Guest Present: Commander Wright, Trevor Vaughn

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Walls called the meeting to order at 11:01am.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Walls moved to table January minutes until next month meeting.

BAB BUDGET

See attached.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

Mayor Mike Coffman

1. The camping ban requires that we provide an alternate shelter option before we abandon the encampment. We give them a notice of 72 hours before we abate the encampment. I think that it's both humane to the people living in these conditions that are unsanitary and unsafe, as well as fair to our residents, particularly for small businesses.
2. One of the things we're looking at, in addition to providing more shelter space for the homeless is to work with the state in taking over a 500 bed facility that was for young males who had altercations with the law but not serious enough to warrant their being in a correctional facility. It was run by a division of youth services under contract. It's a campus that has food service, classroom space, 500 facility beds but when we convert those four beds/rooms to 1 bed a room for adults there will probably be 125 Plus bed facility. It will be for the chronically homeless, that have drug and alcohol addiction. It is supported by the governor. So, the state will participate and eventually running it, but Aurora will participate as well. We can't have these homeless encampments popping up everywhere. We're going to have to deal with it and provide an alternate location for them.
3. We are staffing up the Aurora Police Department. We're running multiple academy classes and we have a nationwide recruiting program going for experienced officers. We have a retention bonus now to keep officers from leaving. I think a fully staffed Police Department is

extremely important. A fully staffed, patrolling, including staffed specialized units is absolutely critical to controlling crime in the city

Ms. Woodson – Where is the campus located?

Mayor Coffman – It's a beautiful campus, on East Quincy Avenue, as you go towards the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and the racetrack on east on Quincy.

Ms. Woodson – if the camping ban passes – what is the timeline

Mayor Coffman – about 60 days. There are 2 votes. Final vote is not tonight. Tonight 1st reading.

ACTION ITEM; no items this month.

Commander Steven Wright, Fire Commander

I have a meeting with the compliance engine company March 8. I'll go over kind of the who gets put on the vendor list issue and other things that were brought up by this group. I sent a one-page synopsis of the compliance and the, the issues surrounding that and what we're looking to accomplish (please see attached). This vendor just deals with fire protection systems compliance; fire alarm systems, fire sprinklers, standpipes fire pumps, commercial hoods, phone systems, and generators. Those all have annual tags and maintenance and inspections that need to be done, and this vendor group deals with those fire protection systems, keeps track of all the compliance issues with every commercial property in the city regarding those systems, when they're up for inspection, when they're due, then organizes them for us in a cloud database, and stays on top of their due date. They make their money by having a vendor list provided to work on those systems. This won't be anything officially considered for a couple months. I'm still doing my due diligence, and I'll report back in the March or April meeting.

ACTION ITEM; no items this month.

Trevor Vaughn

We will have two different divisions of finance that allows a little better focus. There will be a licensing division of finance; liquor license, marijuana license, regular business licensing, other supplemental licenses and Mr. Vaughn will head that and then tax will be broken off into a separate division which is being led by Jeff Edwards.

1. Update – the diaper sales tax exemption goes to study session next Monday.
2. The city used to require places like Walmart and Lowe's to get a license for their Christmas tree lots but since they're attached to a physical structure, the AFD determined that a license probably wasn't needed. So, we're proposing to council to eliminate that one, but Christmas tree lights will still be required to get a license.
3. In our text reminder emails that go out each month, we point people towards those tax and license classes and also to sign up for the email newsletter list that is more specific to businesses. We're going to do specific email list for liquor licensees and marijuana licensees for a newsletter like the one the state licensing agency sends out.

Mr. Walls asked for a report for business closures due to Covid.

Mr. Vaughn – you can look at the annual trends following it month by month. I don't know that you get to see a lot in the data unless something big happens. If a specific industry was impacted, you know, with businesses that report sales tax monthly, we catch up with them a little bit quicker. But with service-based businesses, usually if they don't file, there's perhaps a long lag even two to three years before we even know that the business is closed. I would suggest looking at it maybe on that yearly basis data point.

Review By-laws

We are required to review the bylaws every two years. Anybody have any concerns or want to propose any changes to the bylaws? Seeing nothing, we're going to do an affirmative vote.

Mr. Walls moves to approve

Ms. Reding moves to second

No objections – bylaws approved.

2021 Business Awards

Mr. Walls proposed the idea of hosting our business recognition awards with the community instead of just invited dignitaries. The suggestion was to combine it potentially with a co-sponsor, like the Havana Business Improvement District and do a concert and a dinner and a community event, kind of like a barbecue or something like that, so that members of the community can attend with our award ceremony interspersed throughout that concert.

We were thinking about doing an outdoor concert in the park. This is an event where alcohol is served and years past. Thank you so much, Michelle, dry dock has been an amazing sponsor in providing great craft beer for the event, and we hope to continue that this year. But that brings up a unique challenge having this in a park with alcohol. There are obviously a ton of issues; temporary liquor licensing, fencing off the park, security, and ID checking when we talk about having this in the general community. We're thinking that it might make sense to combine this with a Havana BID concert that's hosted at the Stampede during the summer. The Havana BID usually does four or five concerts per summer. One advantage of potentially having it at the Stampede would be that the Stampede already has security and bar staff, and already hold a liquor license.

Mr. Sarwal supports being in the community.

Mr. Boyd suggested Aurora Town Center – We have great events in our parking lot. We've had shows, we've had concerts, we've had carnivals, and we've had events where capacity indoors where we hit 500 at the Fieldhouse grand opening. If we want to consider that space and move things around, we are certainly open to it. It's just a matter of logistics and permitting to kind of get everything lined up ahead of time. We're certainly happy to make the effort and see if it works. We'd be happy to host.

Ms. Horiuchi has concerns about alcohol and security at the Town Center.

She also mentioned that it was close to the city building and was large enough for families who may want to participate.

Mr. Walls suggested August or September for the event.

Ms. Horiuchi stated there were 3 suggestions for a place to hold the event: Stampede, Town Center or the City great lawn.

Mr. Walls showed the budget numbers from past years and the current budget amount.

(Please see attached reports)

Ms. Vasconez stated that the award categories from last year are:
Innovation and Creativity during Covid.
Resiliency Award
Community Impact
Small Small Business Award
2 honorable mentions that were called essential award

Mr. Walls suggested we added a manufacturing award.
Ms. Horiuchi suggested we add sustainability award
It was suggested to add a diversity, equity and inclusion award

There was discussion regarding the food served. With the amount of money in the budget, it could not be a catered per plate event. Suggestions were Jersey Mike's or pizza or hoagie night from several different sub restaurants. We could ask our attendees to purchase their own food at the street tacos or the empanadas and that could help alleviate some of the costs if held at the Stampede.

ACTION ITEM; look for emails from Elena for this thread about for the awards. The goal will be to send the city manager an email with some suggestions, outlining possible dates and all of that by next Friday. Set up time to meet with City Manager about the new direction of the award ceremony. Ms. Vasconez

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Ms. Reding –CM Combs – No contact

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Mr. Woodson – CM Medina – Have chatted, nothing specific, will contact monthly

Mr. Sarwal – CM Lawson – communicated via email but nothing to report, set up a zoom call

Mr. Boyd – CM Zvonek – Red tape initiative and the camping ban

Ms. Pace – CM Juan Marcano – talked about waste management and city staff about recycling

Bob Fryberger- CM Murillo – No Contact - will make an appointment with her.

Ms. Horiuchi –CM Jurinsky – attended her town hall, public safety and APD – link not ready for safety grant

Mr. Liles –CM Bergan – left before meeting ending.

Mr. Patel – CM Sundberg– No Contact

Ms. Fender – CM Gardner –No Update

Garrett Walls – Mayor Coffman – updates at meeting

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 12:29pm.
Mr. Sarwal seconded

APPROVED:



Garrett Walls, Chairperson