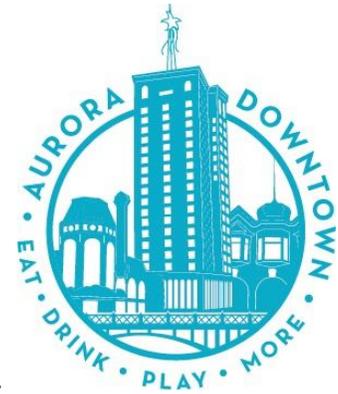


MINUTES

BOARD MEETING



Date: August 20, 2020

Time: 8:03 a.m. to 9:29 a.m.

Facilitator: Kim Woodin

Location: Virtual Meeting & 1 E. Benton

1) The chair called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and roll was called

Board Members Present: Emily Beaupre, Cort Carlson, Shannon Cameron, Kim Caponi, Karen Christensen, Brian Failing, Tim Frederick, Kim Granholm, Bart Grometer, Shannon Gutierrez, Jessica Linder-Gallo, Kori Kasper, Mike Mancuso, Miriam Meza-Gotto, Jon Monsma, Gina Salamone, Jesus Sanchez, Roger Schnorr, Jason Sunderland, Kristine Walker

Board Members Absent: Scot Bode

2) The chair asked those members present if there were any conflicts of interest

Board members present did not disclose any existing or perceived conflicts of interest with items on the agenda.

3) Approval of the Minutes

Karen Christensen motioned to approve the minutes; Cort Carlson seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

4) FOIA/OMA/City of Aurora Agreement

Based on feedback from the last meeting with the city attorney regarding our agreement, board members expressed concern they would have voted differently with our FOIA and OMA decision if they knew the city would not be helping us with FOIA requests. The board does not have the resources to voluntarily subject itself to these guidelines. The board will act in good faith and follow OMA guidelines as best we can but is not a requirement of the organization. Our tax status (501C4) does not require us to legally respond to FOIA's when presented. However, the board will respond as if we are legally responsible and will provide a timely response with the information requested along with a letter that states our status and that we are providing the information of our free will.

Shannon Cameron motioned that Aurora Downtown is not subject to OMA since it is not a public body; Jessica Linder-Gallo seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Karen Christensen motioned that Aurora Downtown is not subject to FOIA due to our tax status; Jon Monsma seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Bart Grometer motioned to approve the agreement with the city of Aurora as presented; Jason Sunderland seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

5) Treasurer's Report

Roger Schnorr reported current spending at \$96,000. This is lower than normal due to current circumstances. We have not received any indication from the city that our budget will be adjusted, so we will proceed as originally budgeted. We will continue to operate on reserves until we receive our first installment from the city.

6) Sign Discussion

Gina Salamone described the process that started last year with the Streetscape committee to design signage for the downtown area. Several meetings were held with the city due to the sign ordinance, as well as consulting with Jen Evans from Aurora Public Art. The final approval from city council is needed before work can begin. Nicole Mullins and Alfredo Castil spoke to express their concerns about equity regarding the sign process. A letter from Javi Terrazas was read. Kim Woodin expressed that the board is already taking these comments into consideration and working on improving best practices for future projects. She recommended the board proceed with the project since it is near completion and implement changes for any future projects. Jen Evans also explained the approval process for Aurora Public Art.

7) Standing Committee Reports

Governance - Shannon Cameron reported that she went around to local businesses to seek out board nominations. The deadline for nominations is August 24th. Only one nomination has been received at this time (Mike Mancuso).

Marketing - Cort reported that the new Mask Up signs have been placed downtown to encourage safety. The committee is working on signage along the Fox River Trail to attract people to the downtown area. A booklet on how to open a business specific to downtown is in the works. They are also providing street musicians to increase foot traffic downtown.

8) Special Committee Reports

Business Attraction & Retention - Brian Failing reported that the committee will be issuing a check to the first of the 5 grant recipients. Cottonseed Creative Exchange has installed their new awning.

Events - Jason Sunderland reported that Wednesdays at the Plaza has been a success this year. Alley Art Fest is also coming up. September's First Friday will be live.

Streetscape - Gina Salamone provided an update on the all ages music park that will be installed in Mundy Park. The committee received quotes from two companies and agreed to go with the company that included labor in their price. Gina met with the city and they will provide maintenance and assistance with that area. *Jason Sunderland motioned to approve the payment of \$11,578.80 to Larson Equipment & Furniture for the music park; Shannon Gutierrez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.*

9) Manager's Report

Marissa Amoni thanked the speakers who joined the meeting and indicated there is always room for growth within our organization. She encouraged community members to share their concerns and work together to make us a stronger downtown. An update was provided on events and we will continue to follow Phase 4 guidelines as we move forward. The Tuesday educational series has been helpful to businesses and the recordings are available upon request. Marissa asked the committee chairs to consider offering additional grants to help businesses in the upcoming months.

10) City of Aurora Update

Kim Woodin and Marissa have reached out to the city regarding the new TIF districts. A speaker will be available at the next meeting to explain this in greater detail.

11) Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

12) Upcoming Meetings

See the Aurora Downtown website calendar for a list of committee meetings. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20th at 8:00 a.m.

13) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 am.