

# MINUTES

## BOARD MEETING



Date: March 18, 2021  
Facilitator: Kim Woodin, Chair

Time: 8:04 a.m. to 9:05 a.m.  
Location: Virtual Meeting

### 1) The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. and attendance was taken

**Board Members Present:** Scot Bode, Kim Caponi, Cort Carlson, Karen Christensen, Brian Failing, Bart Grometer, Shannon Gutierrez, Miriam Meza-Gotto, Jon Monsma, Andrea Pikschor, Raquel Rodriguez, Gina Salamone, Jesus Sanchez, Roger Schnorr, Jason Sunderland, Yvonne Toney-Thompson, Penelope Torres, Kristine Walker, Kim Woodin

**Board Members Absent:** Kori Kasper, Jessica Linder-Gallo

### 2) Approval of the Minutes

*Roger Schorr motioned to approve the minutes from the last annual meeting; Bart Grometer seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.*

### 3) Treasurer's Report

Roger Schnorr reported annual spending at approximately \$35,000 which is on track for the year. Revenue from the city of Aurora will arrive in two installments of \$125,000. The first installment will be received in July 2021 and the second installment in November 2021. A Zoom meeting was held with Roger, Travis Andry from Old Second National Bank, Kim Woodin, and Marissa Amoni to go over financials and upcoming meeting dates for Aurora Downtown. Travis will be taking over Roger's position as board treasurer when he retires on April 8th. Kim Woodin thanked Roger for his many years of service on the board.

### 4) Manager's Report

Kim Woodin pointed out that the Manager's Report section of the agenda now includes the goals set for the manager. See the meeting packet for a full report.

### 5) New Business

#### a. Welcome Andrea Pikschor (Paramount)

Kim Woodin introduced Andrea Pikschor as the new standing director representing Aurora Area Civic Center Authority. Andrea is the Programs Manager at Paramount School of the Arts and will be replacing Shannon Cameron who accepted a new role at Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry.

#### b. Slate of Officers Change

*Jason Sunderland motioned to appoint Travis Andry as the new 2021 treasurer for Aurora Downtown; Gina Salamone seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.*

*Jason Sunderland motioned to appoint Roger Schnorr as director emeritus for Aurora Downtown; Brian Failing seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.*

### 6) Raise for AD Manager

This topic was tabled for discussion in closed session following the regular board meeting.

**7) Old Business**

Kim announced the new board member orientation is being planned and more information will follow.

**8) Standing Committee Reports**

**Governance** - If anyone is interested in taking over the role of Governance Chair, please contact Kim.

**Marketing** - Cort Carlson reported the marketing committee will be promoting Womens' History month. Street banners will be updated/added on LaSalle Street, River Street, and Water Street Plaza. The website for Aurora Downtown is continuing to be reviewed and updated.

**9) Special Committee Reports**

**Business Attraction & Retention** - Brian Failing announced the BAR Grant applications are posted on social media and have been emailed to all downtown businesses. Applications are due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a review of the Fox Walk Design guidelines for business owners on Monday, April 12th at 11:00 am via Zoom. The CIP letter will be presented next month to review by the board and approve.

**Events** - Jason Sunderland announced the Egg Hunt on the Island Scavenger Hunt is going on until the beginning of April. Pictures with the Easter Bunny moved from Millenium Plaza to Branch Gardens due to permit issues. First Friday will be held on April 2nd. Summer events are pending permit approval from the city. Marissa Amoni mentioned they are working on bringing outdoor movies to the Fire Museum and Sci-Tech. Wednesdays at the Plaza is hoping to return this summer with social distancing precautions.

**Streetscape** - Gina Salamone reported the Streetscape panel selected Laura Lynne and Catalina Diaz from the RFP's submitted to design the mural at Mangkuk Restaurant, 210 E. Galena. The flower planting date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19th. If anyone has any ideas for holiday decorations or the Leland star, contact Gina.

**By-Law Review** - No updates. A copy of the by-law suggestions will be presented to our attorney.

**10) Bryan Gay/Invest Aurora Updates**

Bryan presented an overview of Invest Aurora. He highlighted their Finish Line Grant projects, available properties for sale in the downtown area, and John C. Dunham Revolving Loan Fund developments.

**11) City of Aurora Update**

No update. Kim and Marissa will be meeting with the mayor's office on a monthly basis.

**12) Public Comment**

**a. Chupacabra Kitchen** - Maria & Peter introduced their new restaurant, Chupacabra Kitchen. They are excited to be downtown featuring Puerto Rican infused cuisine. They invited everyone to check it out at 31 N. Broadway.

**13) 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, April 15, 2021 via Zoom at 8:00 a.m. Email [marissa@auroradowntown.org](mailto:marissa@auroradowntown.org) by April 14th at 5 p.m. for the link to join the meeting.

**14) Adjournment**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. The board went into closed session to discuss personnel topics.