



**Golden Triangle Creative District
August 6, 2020 Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
3PM – Video Conference**

BOARD ATTENDEES:

Aaron Bajorek, Kate Barton, Kristy Bassuener, Jeannene Bragg, April Chase, David Eichler, Rachel Fewell, Marlow Hoffman, Sydney Ilg, Tracy Kontrellos, Stephanie Kroll, Eric Lazzari, Laura Liska, John Mosley, Liz Orr, Walter Simon, Brent Snyder, Byron Zick

NOT PRESENT:

Pete Dikeou, Sonia Rae, Mark Shaker

GTCD STAFF:

Jennifer Larsen

GUESTS:

GT Residents – Lisa Beauchamp-Fields, Greg Hilbert, M Johnson, Jane Wallace

Welcome/Call to Order (B. Snyder)

- B. Snyder called the meeting to order at 3:06PM
- Welcome guests
- Approval of July 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - o MOTION: Approve minutes (B. Snyder/B.Zick)
 - o Minutes approved unanimously

Remembering Rhonda Knop (B. Snyder)

- GTCD Board member, Rhonda Knop passed away last Tuesday, July 28
- Brent has known Rhonda and husband, Tim over 35 years. She lost her battle with cancer. Rhonda was an important person in the neighborhood, and her wonderful and fun personality, friendly attitude, and optimism will be greatly missed.

GTCD Budget and Membership Update (A. Chase / B. Snyder)

- Current financials:
 - o At the end of June there was \$148K in the operating account, same as last month. The only expenses were small purchases for supplies.
 - o Received \$3,400 in membership in June
- Current membership:
 - o Received a total of \$1,100 in memberships in July
- J. Bragg has offered to co-chair the Membership committee. Request for a membership co-chair to serve with J. Bragg – with Rhonda's passing there is no current chair. This is a critical role for our viability as an organization. B. Snyder agreed to assist with co-chair position for now.

- For membership outreach, L. Orr suggested every board member take three members (people you know) and make a personal pitch. Personal connections work best and are more effective in getting people to pay dues. B. Snyder and J. Bragg will work together on list for Board follow up.

COLORCON 2020 (A. Chase / S. Ilg)

- The fundraiser may not be a viable option this year – COLORCON will have a fundraising component.
- Libby (auctioneer) can work with us for live auction
- Handbid can give a discounted rate for a small event
- Large art piece (painting) is still available from the fundraiser last year
- Perhaps artists can sell their own work at the event and share proceeds with us
- Board is in favor of tying a fundraiser to COLORCON. Best to leverage what we can with a known situation. A fundraiser can always be added back later, depending on situation with COVID.
- Volunteers needed – Byron will distribute a Google spreadsheet for people to sign up. A lot of man power is required to make this event work safely.

Temporary Safe Outdoor Spaces (TSOS) for People Experiencing Homelessness and encampments in neighborhood (B. Zick)

- Mayor Hancock is supporting TSOS to be located in various sites throughout Denver. Specific sites close to the GT are being considered as of July 30, include:
 - o The covered parking lot at 720 Grant St.
 - o The parking lot at 799 Logan St.
 - o Zeckendorf Plaza Park at 601 Lincoln.
 - o The parking lot at 1221-1255 Sherman St
- The first site considered near the Denver Coliseum is off the table

Security Issues (B. Snyder / J. Bragg)

- Recent incident at Walker Fine Art – a man came in asking for water and to use the bathroom and attempted to steal a laptop. Seeing more people coming into the neighborhood impacting businesses. The gallery has to keep more staff on hand, have locked doors and installed a doorbell for visitors. Spoke to other businesses in neighborhood, which are also being impacted.
- Board discussion/suggestions:
 - o Curious Theatre is closed, with no staff around. Camping around building becoming a major issue – DPD moves people out, but they return. Curious is interested in hiring security patrols together with other neighborhood businesses to share the cost. Businesses can also submit additional patrol request forms to DPD at no cost.
 - o Can't let camps continue to grow – we'll be under siege. We can't be afraid to walk in the neighborhood. How should we address as a community?
 - o Suggest we hold a Town Hall with CM Hinds to give him a view of how people are being impacted.
 - o Residential buildings are being broken into. Police come, but problems continue. Public health and safety concerns growing – we can't tolerate what's going on.
 - o Need to interact with those living in homeless encampments, they are our (temporary) neighbors. Ask them to move on.
 - o The GTCD needs to take a position that we will not tolerate this level of dysfunction. District has limited resources as a volunteer organization. What are the series of steps? The Board needs to come up with a plan.
 - o CM Hinds holds a Friday live Facebook meeting – he is dealing with these issues throughout District 10. Registering complaint with the Mayor's office may be a first step.
 - o Waiting on first site for temporary safe outdoor space – no place to move people
 - o Drug/alcohol use being reported to city/police. Safe outdoor spaces will be patrolled, and drug/alcohol use restricted. May be a problem for getting people to move there.

- This should be our primary focus at this time – we need to organize a fight to solve this. Suggest we have a small group conversation about how to move forward.
- MOTION: The GTCD commits to forming a subcommittee/task force to formulate a position and determine potential action we can take in the Golden Triangle. (B. Zick/S. Ilg) Motion passes. Task force will report back to GTCD Board at next monthly meeting.
- Civic Center Conservancy formed a similar sub-committee recently, seeking to connect with others, including Denver Downtown Partnership (DDP).
- Can extra security message be sent to community?

Board Volunteering (B. Zick)

- With reduced commitments on urban design, neighborhood improvements, events, etc., we need board members to flex into other roles. Few people are doing a lot of work at the moment.
 - COLORCON – volunteer needs spreadsheet to come
 - Membership co-chair w/ J. Bragg needed – B. Snyder will assist for the time being.
 - Finance – A. Chase needs an assistant and someone to transition treasurer responsibilities to prior to 2021.
 - GTBN Board liaison needed – S. Ilg can fill in temporarily. The GTBN core team will be down to two leaders by the end of the year – one retiring, one having a baby in October. The GTBN group may not be sustainable if we can't add volunteer leaders.
 - Community Affairs Board liaison needed – L. Orr volunteered
 - We need contacts for Board candidates in the right areas. All Board members should reach out to people in their networks. A. Chase to follow up with Jennifer Gance – Jennifer has a finance background and is interested in being a GTCD volunteer. J. Larsen to follow up with Lisa Beauchamp-Fields – Lisa would like to assist where she is needed.
 - Board members can be appointed apart from the annual meeting. K. Bassuener suggested we develop a clear Board policy on how we add Board members between annual meetings.

CCI Grant (S. Ilg / W. Simon)

- Ads were all placed on July 31st – they are live this week into next week
- Trash cans wrapped – to be installed on Tuesday, August 11
- COLORCON funds paid out to cover artist stipends
- CCI report to be completed by the end of the month

Grant Writer Update (S. Ilg)

- Grant writer has submitted a lot of grant application, two this week, and Gates grant next
- Created folder to track grant process
- Volunteer needed to review documents, about 1 hr/week. K. Bassuener, J. Bragg and M. Hoffman offered to help.
- Lisa is doing great work for us!
- Grants applied for include requests for additional staffing and neighborhood improvements
- Folder accessible by end of next week – to go in the GTCD General Documents folder

Zoning Position Statement (B. Snyder / B. Zick)

- DDP requested we take a pause on zoning earlier this year. They are supportive of things we support.
- B. Snyder has had a number of conversations with developers. The pause due to COVID has given us an opportunity to take a leadership role. B. Snyder, B. Zick and K. Bassuener worked together on position statement.
- Board comment – position language is difficult to understand, need layperson language.
- Position covers the needs of neighborhood and supports the neighborhood plan. A few months ago the GTCD asked city staff to put zoning process on pause. Other players – DDP, lobbying

group – are not fully representative of the neighborhood. Our asset is we're able to have a strong voice. Time to weigh in on process to include a heightened position.

- Board comments requested by Thursday, August 13.
- We need to represent the neighborhood by speaking for all parts of the neighborhood. We're in agreements with some of the other voices with our position, including DDP
- FAR language reads "developer" rather than "neighborhood". May need to reorder and lead with our priorities.

Committee Reports (All)

- Executive Committee (B. Snyder)
 - o Bylaws update – K. Bassuener requested and received sample bylaws from CNDC and other RNOs we can utilize for revising GTCD bylaws
 - o COLORCON – request for Board volunteers to form an art review committee for selecting artists for COLORCON next year. J. Mosley, W. Simon, M. Hoffman, S. Rae, T. Kontrelos volunteered.
- Community Affairs Committee
 - o L. Orr volunteered to be Board liaison for the committee
- Events Committee (S. Kroll)
 - o No additional updates
- Golden Triangle Business Network
 - o S. Ilg temporary Board liaison – need permanent Board liaison
 - o Valuable, but not sustainable with the loss of two core leaders by the end of the year
 - o Other consistent members don't have extra time to take on a leadership role
- Governance Committee (W. Simon)
 - o Recruiting Board members whose terms are expiring to extend terms
 - o Bylaws rewrite – need a small committee of 2-3 people to look at models and cut and paste to work for current situation
 - o Board recruitment – currently we just do this annually, which makes it hard to plug people in. We should be continuously reaching out. Personal contact is important – Board members need to reach out to people they know. Need help finding other members.
- Membership Committee (J. Bragg – Need additional Board assistance)
 - o Executive committee has decided to remove the Founding Partner membership level moving forward. Membership brochures will be revised and reprinted without this membership category.
- Neighborhood Improvements Committee (S. Ilg)
 - o Charlie Hunt and S. Ilg will meet to discuss restarting committee meetings
- Public Events Liaison (R. Fewell)
 - o No public events to report
- Urban Design (L. Liska)
 - o Next meeting is August 13. The committee will review plans for 990 Bannock, a LMC project

Staff Report (J. Larsen)

- We received a donation of \$250 in Rhonda's honor from CNDC today
- I have been building a folder for GTCD materials on the admin Google drive. The intention is to have a central location for Board members to access important and current information. Things like Board meeting handouts, CNDC documents, committee information, bylaws and other helpful documents will be stored here. I'll be sharing the link to this folder to everyone early next week.

New/Old Business

- Civic Center Park Updates – E. Lazzari
 - o Civic Center Moves is back in the park with in-person yoga classes. The Black Mural Festival continues through the weekend, Civic Center Eats is returning next week for lunch and dinner on Wednesdays and Thursdays, through mid-October
 - o Performance community – Five nights of activation are planned for the Greek Theatre, including comedy, music, and dance. Looking for funding.
 - o The Conservancy is discussing winter ideas. Focus on outdoor activities, which are healthy and more welcoming.
 - o Health and safety – State of Colorado oversees Lincoln/Veteran’s Park. It’s state land with loose regulation. The Conservancy is discussing taking the park under their scope of responsibility. Clean up still happening.
 - o Civic Center Park needs people – come out!
 - o The Conservancy received a \$4M grant from Bond Fund to cover Greek Theatre renovation as an outdoor performance space. Central promenade will also be addressed, adding water and electricity.
- Denver Complete Streets Guidelines – B. Zick
 - o First draft out for public review and accepting comments:
<https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/transportation-infrastructure/programs-services/complete-streets.html>
- Central Library Updates – R. Fewell
 - o The Library is providing outdoor access to holds pick up and laptop/internet access on Broadway in front of the Central Library.
 - o The Library's social worker team has been the primary team in the city providing outreach to people experiencing homelessness for the past few months.

Board Member Outdoor Happy Hour at Leven Deli (today 5:30-7 pm)

Adjourn (B. Snyder)

Motion to adjourn (B. Synder/S. Ilg)

Meeting adjourned at 4:51PM