



**Golden Triangle Creative District  
October 1, 2020 Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
3PM – Video Conference**

**BOARD ATTENDEES:**

Aaron Bajorek, Kate Barton, Kristy Bassuener, Lisa Beauchamp, April Chase, Pete Dikeou, David Eichler, Rachel Fewell, Marlow Hoffman, Sydney Ilg, Tracy Kontrelos, Laura Liska, John Mosley, Liz Orr, Sonia Rae, Brent Snyder, Byron Zick

**NOT PRESENT:**

Jeannene Bragg, Stephanie Kroll, Eric Lazzari, Liz Zukowski (CM Hinds)

**GTCD STAFF:**

Jennifer Larsen

**GUESTS:**

Sebastian Andrews (Climate Action Denver), Dom Barrera (YES on 2B campaign), Jennifer Byrnes (Shift Workspaces), Jennifer Gance (Resident), Loren Hansen (Denver Internet Initiative), Audrey Henderson (The Wonder Academy), Robin Kniech (City Council, CP At Large), Theron Makley (Climate Action Denver), David Pardo, Dean Sobel (Clyfford Still Museum), Tara Tull (Climate Action Denver), Sean Walsh (Resident)

**Welcome/Call to Order (B. Zick)**

- B. Zick called the meeting to order at 3:01PM
- Welcome guests
- Approval of September 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - o MOTION: Approve minutes (L. Orr/B. Snyder)
  - o Minutes approved unanimously

**Homelessness Resolution Tax (Robin Kniech, Denver City Council At-Large)**

Presentation on the Homelessness Resolution Tax, a proposal on the Nov ballot introduced by City Council that asks Denver voters to approve a 0.25 cent sales and use tax to support individuals experiencing homelessness. (Proposition 2B)

- 4,171 people experiencing homelessness in Denver. Not all are visible. Some are individuals as part of families with children, and people fleeing domestic violence who reside in shelters
- COVID-19 caused the loss of 1,200 beds due to social distancing.
- Homelessness Resolution Tax:
  - o .25% sales tax
  - o Will cost about \$5/month to the average household
  - o Visitors to Denver help pay a portion
  - o Food, medicine, fuel and feminine hygiene are tax exempt
- Key Funding Areas:

- Housing – building housing, expanding rental assistance
- Shelter – expanding number of beds, improve access to underserved, 24-hour shelters and drop-in day services
- Services – behavior health, substance misuse, street outreach, tiny homes, other
- Denver’s Department of Housing Stability (HOST) will receive and administer funds. City Council approves annual budgets and 3-5 year strategic plans.
- Supportive Housing Works – 80% retention rate

**Q&A Session (CP Robin Kniech / Dom Barrera)**

- Q: What is the impact of COVID-19 on the homeless population?  
A: Homeless population increases with increase in unemployment. Homeless population has also become more visible due to health and safety recommendations – leaving encampments in place, social distancing in shelters, etc.
- Q: If this tax gets passed can the tax rate be changed administratively or does it need to be put on another ballot?  
A: Tax rate adjustment must go on the ballot if there is a proposed increase, but not for a decrease.
- Q: When you refer to 500-600 new units of "shelters and housing" in catalytic projects? What are these?  
A: These are “housing units”, 4-6 types of projects are being considered.
- Q: Are these catalytic projects in early stages of planning so that when these funds are available the project could start right away?  
A: Some are ready to go, others require a permit and are in the design stage.
- Q: Are there limitations to how many people can live in one housing unit?  
A: Denver is currently one of the most restrictive cities – only two unrelated adults can occupy a single-family residence.
- Q: How do the affordable housing linkage fees get used?  
A: They help to increase housing and keep people housed.

**Climate Action Denver Ballot Initiative (Sebastian Andrews)**

Presentation on the Nov ballot initiative that asks Denver voters to approve a 0.25 cent sales tax increase to provides resources needed to help realize the City’s climate action plans. (Proposition 2A)

- Climate crisis is in our backyard – recent events (wildfires) have been made worse.
- City task force was formed to address issue for Denver
  - People of all backgrounds part of group
  - 106 page report with 336 specific solutions prepared – all members in agreement
  - Cost of not acting, over \$120 billion
  - Cost of presented solutions, \$3 billion
- Food, water, fuel, medical supplies, and feminine hygiene products are exempted from tax
- Tax will assure proposals are well funded
- Funds will go towards:
  - Clean, safe and reliable transportation choices
  - Upgrades to the energy efficiency of homes, offices and industry
  - Increased investments in renewable energy technology
  - Adaptation and resiliency programs, and more
- Management and oversight to be handled by a diverse group. 1-year and 3-year reporting required.

**Q&A Session (Sebastian Andrews / Theron Makley)**

- Q: Could you identify the positive economic impacts?  
A: Green jobs, upgrades to infrastructure, renewable energy investments

- Q: Have you done polling on this yet?  
A: Polling shows a favorable rating of 64% with a large swing component we hope to influence.
- Q: Why is fuel and other carbon creators specifically not included in the tax?  
A: One reason to exempt certain household items is to be sure not to negatively impact low-income households. Also, Denver attracts a lot of tourism each year which spreads the cost of the tax to a broad base of people. Advisory committee members also included representatives from the fossil fuel industry.
- Q: Why was the office of Climate Action Denver formed?  
A: Previously (2013) the city had a Sustainability Director. However a more powerful entity was needed to address climate change. The office was created under the mayor's leadership.
- Q: How does the sales tax increase change Denver's place in affordability?  
A: Denver's place in affordability remains among the lowest in cities of our size.

### **GTCD Budget and Membership Update (A. Chase)**

- Current financials:
  - o Operating account approximately \$118K at end of August
  - o See internal budget docs for last two months
  - o Simple budget – slow year, but close to 2020 goals
  - o Nearing our membership goals having secured \$15.5K of \$26.7K budgeted for "Founding Partner" membership and \$35K of \$39K for other memberships
  - o Some line items have not been touched
  - o Adjusted budget – \$95K income, \$86K expenses
  - o Consider moving the fundraiser to April 2021 to help recapture funds
  - o Colorcon 2021, propose adding a fundraising component
- Current membership:
  - o Received \$2500 in membership in August – Denver Art Museum (\$200/\$4800 in kind) Civic Center Conservancy (\$300), Mountain West Institute (\$300), Cook Street School of Culinary Art (\$300), Gallery 1261 (\$100), Abend Gallery (\$100), Skin in the City (\$100), Evans Partners LLC (\$100), Pure (\$1000)

### **Task Force on Homelessness (S. Ilg)**

Looking for volunteers for a temporary 6-12 month task force regarding homelessness. Meetings would occur once per month at minimum and several have volunteered thus far. Five slots are available.

- The task force will address/administer the three initial action items we identified in our recent letter to the community, including: information tracking, HOA outreach, and elected official outreach.
- Voted to develop task force and we need volunteers – diverse and passionate group
- Commitment is a couple hours monthly to continue effort already begun. Communicate with officials, don't have to be a Board member
- Volunteers should contact Sydney – L. Beauchamp and K Barton volunteered, T. Kontrelos suggested a contact of hers
- A couple of residents have also expressed interest in volunteering

### **Board Volunteer Needs – Call for Nominations (K. Bassuener)**

- Governance Chair
  - o Recruitment of Board members
  - o Run election
  - o Review bylaws, adopt Board policies
  - o L. Beauchamp volunteered
- Membership Co-Chair
  - o Work with J. Bragg
  - o Recruit and renew, process invoices

- L. Beauchamp volunteered to co-chair with Jeannene
- Good Neighbor Agreements
  - Focused on process for neighborhood complaints
  - Legal or contract skills
  - L. Liska volunteered and would like to partner with someone with legal background
- Finance Co-treasurer
  - Jennifer Gance has agreed to take this role – Thank You!

### **Committee Reports (All)**

- Executive Committee (B. Zick)
  - Revision of bylaws still pending
  - W. Simon resigned from Board/Governance Committee
  - B. Snyder will step down from EC and will remain on Board, continue with zoning
  - EC is now at four members. Byron doesn't have the bandwidth to be chair on his own, so EC will continue as four members until February 2021. Will add members to EC after GTCD Annual Meeting.
- Community Affairs Committee (L. Orr)
  - See Nancy Cole's memo on good neighbor agreements
  - Committee would like to address property owner responsibilities with a flyer or in the GTCD newsletter. Neighborhood parking strip areas are being neglected. Unattractive areas invite others to gather. CA committee will work with Neighborhood Improvement committee to move this forward.
  - Amazing response to trash bag distribution to homeless. Many bags filled up and more are requested. Need a place to put filled bags.
  - Litter League meeting every Saturday at 8:30-9:30 am at Broadway Market through end of October. More volunteers needed.
- Events Committee (A. Chase)
  - No updates other than what has been discussed
- Golden Triangle Business Network (S. Ilg)
  - Friday, October 2 meeting cancelled
- Governance Committee
  - Discussed previously
- Membership Committee (J. Bragg)
  - No update
- Neighborhood Improvements Committee (S. Ilg)
  - Tree planting – working on property management agreements
  - Details – initial plan is for two trees on 12<sup>th</sup> and three trees on 10<sup>th</sup>, between Acoma and Cherokee. Locust, \$1K per tree. City is strict on plantings, must be in existing grass strips and locations must be approved by Forestry.
  - Next committee meeting is Oct 21, resuming normal schedule
- Public Events Liaison (R. Fewell)
  - Haven't been meeting, no big community events planned
  - Waiting on large group gatherings to be approved
- Urban Design (L. Liska)
  - New committee co-chair, Chris Parezo with Civitas, Inc.
  - Davis Partnership Architects presented at September meeting on property at SE corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and Acoma St. Response favorable, elements matched those of neighboring buildings.
  - No October meeting, email to come. Mill Creek may present at November meeting.
  - Thanks to Laura and Chris for co-chairing committee – design and neighborhood interests covered. Anne Lindsey stepping down from chair position and committee, but will remain on available for questions as needed. (B. Zick)

### **Staff Report (J. Larsen)**

- A small team of Board members worked together to craft and send out thank you cards, emails and letters to all Colorcon volunteers, sponsors, artists, musicians and to CNDC. Thank you to Sydney, Kristy, Tracy and Sonia for your efforts!
- Letter to the community regarding homelessness in the Golden Triangle approved during the September Board meeting was delivered Sept 10. Sixteen responses from community members. All but one was positive, and people were generally grateful that the Board had taken a stance. All responses compiled into a single Word document for sharing.
- Board Terms expiring at the end of January 2021: 9 members (April, Kristy, Sydney, Jeannene, Tracy, Eric, Laura, Sonia, Brent). Please consider whether or not you can extend your term by one or two years and let me know in the next few weeks.

### **New/Old Business**

- Thoughts on an outdoor in-person meeting? Most are interested if weather and technical challenges permit. (B. Zick)
- What are the current limitations on number of people? (L. Orr) Not sure, will research before proceeding with any plans. (B. Zick)
- Will the Board take a position on initiatives discussed? (K. Barton) No. GTCD bylaws prevent board from taking a position on political issues. (B. Zick)

### **Guest Comments (3 minute comments max.)**

- Denver Internet Initiative representative (Loren Hansen)
  - o Proposition 2H will let Denver to opt out of a state law that does not allow cities to build their own Internet infrastructure. If this passes a third option could be added for Internet service.
  - o Internet issues have become apparent throughout COVID, and 20% of residents don't have access to Internet.
  - o Web address for more information – <https://dii2020.org/>
  - o Prop 2H would allow Denver to explore best approaches for services.

### **Adjourn (B. Zick)**

Motion to adjourn (B. Zick/B. Snyder)

Meeting adjourned at 4:22PM