



TRIANGLE
GOLDEN TRIANGLE
CREATIVE DISTRICT

**Golden Triangle Creative District
May 6, 2021 Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
3:00-5:00 PM – Video Conference**

BOARD ATTENDEES:

Kristy Bassuener, Lisa Beauchamp, April Chase, Pete Dikeou, David Eichler, Rachel Fewell, Jennifer Gance, Marlow Hoffman, Tracy Kontrelos, Eric Lazzari, Laura Liska, John Mosley, Liz Orr, David Pietsch, Sonia Rae, Brent Snyder, Sean Walsh, Byron Zick

NOT PRESENT:

Aaron Bajorek, Kate Barton, Sydney Malone, Steve Strunk

GTCD STAFF:

Jennifer Larsen

GUESTS:

DP District 6 Officers and Sergeants, Lisa Thomason (GTCD grant writer), approximately 20-25 community members

Welcome/Call to Order (B. Zick)

- B. Zick called the meeting to order at 3:01PM
- Welcome Board members and guests
- Approval of April 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - o MOTION: Approve minutes (K. Bassuener/S. Rae)
 - o Minutes approved unanimously

GTCD Budget Update (J. Gance)

- Current financials, see Board packet
- CNDC is doing a system migration. Waiting on full financials – will catch up next month.

GTCD Membership Update (L. Beauchamp/T. Kontrelos)

- Integrating everything with Wild Apricot
- Looking for new members to join the committee. Meet once monthly. Participate in outside tasks, 2 hours monthly. Additional assignments if people have more time.
- New and existing member information will be rolling out soon with training on how to use platform. Time frame – first session within two months.

COLORCON 2021 (B. Zick for S. Malone)

- Location NW area of GT, around 13th & Elati
- Working through permissions with public area of property
- Excited to have an in-person event
- Artist selection committee forming. Call for artists to go out next week.

Zoning Update (B. Zick)

- Public comment period has ended for Zoning document, Design Standards & Guidelines public comment period is still open, see:
<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Departments/Community-Planning-and-Development/Denver-Zoning-Code/Text-Amendments/Golden-Triangle-Zoning-and-Design>
- Discussion w/city officials regarding Urban Design committee is scheduled. Phone call with Denver planners, Urban Design Co-Chairs, B. Zick, Anne Lindsey, other long time neighborhood stakeholders, etc. Meeting one day next week. (L. Liska)
- Full May Urban Design committee meeting with two presentations

Task Force on Homelessness (L. Beauchamp/S. Walsh)

- April meeting included a brief community forum. Thank you to those on the call for attending.
- Encouraging neighbors to voice their opinions at City Council meetings. Task Force is assisting with sign-ups. S. Walsh is providing guidance for participation.
- Three people interested thus far, attended 4/26, 5/3, and a third person is interested in speaking at an upcoming meeting
- If just one person from GT speaks during each meeting, this is effective
- Belvedere resident shared his experience with other building residents (L. Liska)
- S. Walsh available to help anyone individually

Executive Committee Nominations and Elections (B. Zick)

- Secretary – Call for Nominations and Election
- Sonia Rae nominated (B. Zick/L. Beauchamp)
- Other nominations? None.
 - o MOTION: To approve Sonia Rae as Secretary on the GTCD Executive Committee
 - o Motion is approved unanimously

Grant Writer Coordination (B. Zick)

- Availability of a Board member to coordinate w/grant writer? Time commitment 2-4 hours/month.
- If interested, contact B. Zick or S. Malone
- Grant writer is a real professional and a joy to work with (S. Rae)

Committee Reports (All)

- Executive Committee (B. Zick)
 - o Making efforts to jump-start Community Affairs (CA) Committee and GTBN
 - o CA on went on a hiatus last fall. Would like to jump-start with a more permanent advocacy component, and also resume outreach to condo buildings/HOA boards.
 - o GTBN also on hold last year. Networking components important to neighborhood businesses.
 - o What about former CA tasks – Third Thursday Happy Hours, Holiday Party, Litter League – will these continue? (L. Liska)
 - o All these items are part of current conversations with David Price, who has been the committee lead for a number of years. Would like all these efforts to continue, with Board support to current leadership. Waiting for response from CA committee.
- Events Committee (A. Chase)
 - o COLORCON team – A. Chase, S. Malone and J. Larsen
 - o May add fundraising component to COLORCON as planning continues
 - o Talking with people in the community about venues for fundraiser in October – 11th Ave Hostel, Gallery 1261, with main focus on McNichols Building. Arts & Venues is coming

- o out of 13 months of no revenue, so being mindful of that and considering a Wednesday evening, instead of Thursday. Free up Thursday as a preferred date for another group.
 - o Theme – a lot of options at McNichols. Considering an art theme with a lot of activations that can spread people throughout space. Needing assistance with planning components now. Who can assist? Events are more work now with restrictions.
 - o Will be repeating some of the processes already established
 - o At McNichols can make money off alcohol sales
 - o Can we get event planner assistance this year? Do we have budget for this? (E. Lazzari)
 - o Agreed, good idea! Should be a priority. Discuss budget with J. Gance and EC.
 - o April to suggest ballpark cost for an event planner, to potentially bring to the board in the June meeting
- Governance Committee (L. Beauchamp/J. Mosley)
 - o Onboarding of new Board members
- Membership Committee (T. Kontrelos/L. Beauchamp)
 - o See above
- Neighborhood Improvements Committee (S. Malone)
 - o Charlie Hunt & S. Malone co-leading committee. S. Malone needs to step down, new co-chair needed.
- Urban Design (L. Liska)
 - o Two presenters for May 13th UD meeting: developments at 899 N Broadway, and at the corner of 12th and Delaware
- Public Events Liaison (R. Fewell)
 - Waiting on the COVID restrictions dial for event planning
 - Clyfford Still film event tonight, short films by MSU film students. No summer concerts for this year. (S. Rae)
 - Black Love Mural Festival returns to Civic Center Park. Art will be installed late May, scattered throughout park – 40+ black artists. Opens May 30 runs through August. Sundays in the park picnic activations. (E. Lazzari)
 - Conservancy programming coming back, probably early June. Food trucks, fitness, expanding from 2019. Also, will have multiple volunteer opportunities available through the summer as we are launching Civic Center Sparkles. Initially, Monday mornings for groups of 5-10 people. We hope to expand size of groups and frequency as the summer goes on. (E. Lazzari)
 - Received notice for A Taste of Puerto Rico event June 13 in Civic Center Park (J. Mosley)
 - MLB All Star event may bring some things to the park, July 9-13 (July 13-game day).

Staff Report (J. Larsen)

- I just completed our third quarter CCI report for the time period of Jan-March 2021. I uploaded this report to the Board folder on the Google Drive, so you can review that document for our updates when you have time. Thank you to the Executive Committee and to Kristy for helping me pull the report content together.
- Our Creative District re-certification application is due to CCI on June 3rd. As I mentioned at an earlier Board meeting, Creative Districts are certified for 5 years, so now that we're at that point we need to apply again. I anticipate the application will look much like our original application, so I will be reaching out soon to the Executive Committee and maybe some additional Board members who played a part in completing our original application.
- I'm working with specific Board members to expand the content provided on the GTCD website. The first new page was added this week, this is an Urban Design Committee Guide which talks about the role of the committee, what information needs to be addressed in a presentation to the committee and a listing of what was presented at recent meetings. Thanks to Byron, the Urban Design team and Westword for working with me to get that live. This page can be found under the "About" tab in the navigation area.

- The Neighborhood Improvements Committee will be working on a resource page, and I will be putting together a page with detailed information about our committees.

Board Members: New/Old Business

- Denver Pride Fest virtual again this year, June 26-27. Not doing a parade but are doing “Pride Hubs” – see <https://denverpride.org/hubs/>. Is there community interest in doing a Pride Hub in the Golden Triangle? Contact Kristy if interested. (K. Bassuener)
- Would like to think about when we can start meeting again in person. (B. Zick)
- Civic Center Conservancy is doing first in-person Board meeting in June. Consider small group, spread out, hybrid options. (E.Lazarri)
- DAM still pretty strict, currently no indoor meetings. (K. Bassuener)
- Potential locations – Rooftop patio at the ART hotel. There are some residences that also have great indoor-outdoor spaces that might be comfortable in the warmer months. (K. Bassuener)
- Maybe an outdoor meeting in June or July. Contact B. Zick if not comfortable with a July in-person meeting. (B. Zick)
- Starting to see June in person events, small groups, outdoors. Need to consider options for people not comfortable meeting indoors. (A. Chase)

Adjourn (S. Rae/L. Beauchamp)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM

**Golden Triangle Creative District
Community Forum
Video Conference via Zoom Meetings
May 6, 2021 | 4:00-5:00PM**

Community Forum (B. Zick)

- Welcome Golden Triangle Neighbors and Guests
- This is the first in a series of quarterly community forums, in response to feedback from our recent membership survey
- Board Members and Guests to indicate a question or comment in the chat window, and will be called upon in order. Please limit comments and questions to < 2 minutes.

Guest Speakers – DPD Crime Prevention Team and Community Liaison Officers

- Community Resource Officer Teresa Gillian
- Community Resource Officer Austen Munson
- Community Outreach Officer Cassandra Ulrich (not available)
- Community Outreach Officer Officer Kevan Tisby (not available)
- Sergeant Mark Blakesley
- Sergeant David Albi (not available)

Guest Speaker Comments (Officer Gillian,

- Excited about this quarterly meeting. District 6 hosts a monthly community meeting on the third Thursday of every month.
- Crime statistics for this area (611):
 - 10% decrease in violent crimes
 - 42% increase in property crime. Theft from motor vehicles, vehicles being stolen. Clubs available at District headquarters for cars in District 6. Good crime prevention device if you can't park in a secured area. Don't leave anything valuable in cars, anything can be stolen and resold.

- 13% decrease in domestic crime
- 43% decrease in traffic accidents
- 9.9% decrease in citizen-initiated calls
- Hotspots are Civic Center Park, the jail (violent crime), detox center, 13th & Speer
- For context, citywide 3.5% decrease in violent crimes, 53% increase in property crimes (theft, break ins, criminal mischief/graffiti), 32% increase in total crimes, 3% increase in domestic crimes, 24% decrease in traffic accidents, 8.2% increase in citizen calls

Q&A Sessions

- Q: GT resident near Broadway & 9th. In past year has seen a huge amount of open heroin and meth use. Has witnessed seven “illegal drug camps” in the neighborhood in that time. Property owner and business owner here for 25 years, now considering leaving. Why does it take so long for the illegal tent camps to be removed? Why aren’t police being more responsive around laws regarding littering, public urination & defecation? Why do the police not respond to 911 calls of public heroin and meth use in the Golden Triangle? I was once told by 911 dispatch that the police have more important things to deal with in Denver. (T. Hildebrandt)
- A: It does take a lot of time. It’s a whole process to move a large camp (8-10 tents). Daily meetings with Mayor’s office, DP, Dept of Health & Environmental Services. Legally they have to go through a set of steps before a camp can be moved (based on 2020 lawsuit ruling). Dept of Health & Environmental Services surveys sites for health, encumbrance, safety issues. If site determined a hazard, post 7-day notice on each tent. Understand it’s a slow process. GT sites – Cherokee & Speer, Delaware & Speer, Colfax & Speer – will be posted on May 24 for clean up on May 31. If delayed, due to weather or otherwise, site has to be reposted. Officers need to observe public nuisance behaviors to cite people. Illegal drug use needs to be witnessed. Narcotics team doing undercover buys. Police can’t search tents, have to get a search warrant. (Sergeant Blakesley)
If you can provide specific dates and location called from, I can talk with dispatch to make sure misinformation is addressed. Heroin, meth and crack use is a misdemeanor, not jailable. Can issue a ticket. Helpful tool is an extra patrol request which can be addressed between calls for service – requests stay in the system for about two weeks. Email for request form, Teresa.gillian@denvergov.org (Officer Gillian)
- Q: Police have been responsive, grateful. Suggestions on how to challenge legality of court order regarding encampment enforcement actions? Inherent threat to everyone, including homeless. (A. Satterwhite)
- A: Talk to City Attorney’s Office, someone involved in lawsuit. District 6 has STAR van for mental health crisis, out every day. Early Intervention Team goes out to offer services. Many in encampments are there because they want to be there, resource resistant. (Sergeant Blakesley)
- Q: Thank you to officers. Can you help people understand why the camping ban can’t be enforced? (L. Beauchamp)
- A: Camping ban is in effect, it’s still illegal to camp in Denver. Enforcing is a time consuming challenge. Officer training bulletin is 6-7 pages. Three-step process: 1) Offered services and given a verbal warning, 2) Offered services and given a written warning, 3) Issue citation. Have to give a reasonable amount of time to comply after each step – actively packing up is complying. People are not being jailed for violation. Crimes associated with encampments can be jailable – trespassing, public nuisance, drug use actively observed. Can take witness statements, signed complaints. Officers also look for outstanding felony warrants when they make contact. Request officer contact when you call. Once dispatch calls are in the queue they can only be cleared out with a responding service call (sometimes hours later) or cleared out by a supervisor. (Sergeant Blakesley)

- Q: What's the difference in circumstance for call 311 vs 911? (B. Zick)
- A: 311 sharing information, use this as a resource if a crime is not actively happening. Use 911 if a crime is actively happening or if an emergency. (Sergeant Blakesley)

- Q: HOA building has experienced break ins and attempted break ins. HOA Board considering spending \$10-12K for security cameras near access doors. Does this help stop crime from happening? Do you catch people with camera footage? (P. Capps)
- A: Cameras are great for after the fact. Anything you can do to help prevent crimes would be the better choice. Cameras are a slight deterrent. Put signs up regarding security cameras. Good lighting is a good a first step. Make sure access is secured. Cameras do help catch people. Officers get to know repeat offenders. Share photos with team. (Officer Munson)

- Q: Can you discuss the Crime Prevention Team? (B. Zick)
- A: District 6 has added a new team, Community Outreach Team – one of the teams Sergeant Blakesley oversees. Two officers for our area – extension of community office – 70-80% enforcement/20-30% community engagement. Attend a lot of meetings to get to know community members and learn what the problems are, allowing them to be more proactive. (Officer Gillian)
 Goal of Community Outreach Team – attend meetings, get to know residents, listen to concerns. District 6 has several specialized teams. Act on information and share information. (Sergeant Blakesley)
 Spin off from 1980s “Weed and Seed” program. More boots on the ground in a proactive way. Great help to community team. (Officer Gillian)

- Q: Can you discuss an involuntary mental health hold? (A. Pohlmann)
- A: An officer can put someone on an M1 if a danger to themselves or others, or they can't care for themselves. Transport to Denver Health. Emergency hold generally for three days. Work with clinicians or STAR van – paramedic and social worker. STAR has never called for police back up, they do a great job in the District. Dispatched through 911 communication center. Will distribute flyer to GTCD. (Officer Gillian)

- Q: It seems that the only way to prevent the illegal drug camps is the hog wire fences that have gone up all over the Golden Triangle. Are these going to now be permanent in the GT? (T. Hildebrandt)
- A: Any property owner who want to put up temporary fencing needs to go through a DOTI permitting process. Can send links. Small fee required (\$50-\$100), with quick turnaround. District 6 will not be enforcing violations (installing fencing without a permit). (Officer Gillian/ Sergeant Blakesley)
 Partnering with others, like the Denver Dream Center, who works with individuals coming out of prison, getting them into halfway houses. Help rebuild community and healthy habits. (Officer Gillian)
 311 calls regarding homeless encampments will now be going to the Office of Housing Stability (HOST), instead of to Denver Police. On 311 calls be specific with how you want call to be directed, what department. (Officer Gillian)

Adjourn (B.Zick)

Meeting adjourned at 5:01PM