

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
RiNo BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

HELD:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., Collegiate Peaks Bank RiNo

ATTENDANCE:

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the RiNo Business Improvement District, City and County of Denver, Colorado was called and held as shown above and in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado, with the following directors present and acting:

Diana Merkel
Rachel Rabun
Jevon Taylor
Tom Kiler
Carla Mestas
Obe Ariss

Also, in attendance were Charity Von Guinness, John Deffenbaugh, Dori Suess, and Marian Pulford with RiNo Art District.

Director Levi Johnsen and Director Adam Larkey were absent.

CALL TO ORDER:

Director Merkel noted for the record that a quorum was present, and on behalf of the Board, called the meeting to order.

ICEBREAKER:

Director Merkel led the board in an icebreaker question.

THE CARING FOR DENVER FOUNDATION:

Mr. Lorez Meinhold – Executive Director, Caring for Denver presented The Caring For Denver Foundation to the board. Here are few key points.

- .25% sales tax increase in 2018, started 2019. Address mental health and substance issue needs.
- Goal is to support orgs that are doing good work around Denver. Director Kiler: “How do you get people to keep coming back for help if they are transient or dealing with a lot of issues, how do you build trust?” Mr. Lorez: “It is challenging, we try to go upstream,

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support young people, people on the edge of homelessness. Embed support in homeless serving agencies. Providing supports, temporary housing, helps people be more open to help when they are in that place. STAR program helps make a connection multiple times.”

- Youth grants- young people review the grants, if they wouldn't use it they won't fund.
- Do not fund workforce development, but would embed mental health services in the workforce development of other orgs. Circles of Change - youth who have touched justice system. Don't fund housing, workforce development, etc directly.
- Director Taylor asked what does embedding services look like?” Mr. Lorez: LCSWs on staff, help developing curriculum, facilitate relationships rather than telling people how to create services. Many sizes fits all approach.
- Director Merkel wanted to know if there are other programs similar to CHOW for musicians. Yes, Colorado artists in recovery, D3 arts, Youth on Record- now part owners of Underground Music Showcase, Lincoln Park , Platteforum

LARIMER STREET – 2900 BLOCK UPDATE:

Committed to keeping block closed, what can the design look like, how do we have a long term permit with the city.

Worked with [REDACTED] for a semi-permanent layout for the street.

- Main change is that emergency vehicle access is straight down the middle.
- Could be a 5 year pilot, then if it is successful it will be a permanent closure.

[REDACTED] has been acting as the block leader. Closure was an absolute lifeline in 2020, and the other 10 f&b businesses on that block. Took the lead, helped organize all the other businesses on the block. [REDACTED] put a lot of money in to make a habitable place, a lot of the other neighbors decided not to because of the 90 day permit renewal, seemed uncertain.

Guaranteeing a year helped people spend more money.

Need a bigger tree canopy, that would help the whole block feel more established. Has been beneficial for non f&b businesses as well. Redbull is a tenant.

Director Kiler asked about the difference between the permits Larimer Square has vs. what we have. The main difference is that we are not within the boundaries of Downtown Denver Partnership's advocacy.

[REDACTED]

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Director Kiler also wants to know if the adjacent blocks are supportive. [REDACTED] says mixed, different responses out loud and behind closed doors. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Concerns have dissipated over time.

Director Kiler: are there other areas in the district where we can do a road diet, taking away parking spots, doing something similar at the VOA site. This is something to have a community wide discussion about. What ways are there to team up as a neighborhood.

Director Merkel: design plans are about \$115,000, do we have to wait until we have all of it? \$60,000 is raised so far, can we get started?

- No contribution from west side of the block.
- There will have to be a study within the next year, will need to talk about the funding for the study in the near future.

Director Mestas: there are 18 different candidates for mayor right now, we should start thinking about where politically our connections and within city council we will get support from mayoral candidates and city council candidates.

- Start going to the city council meetings. There will be residents of the neighborhoods at city council meetings and RNO meetings, would be good to get support there.

CONSENT AGENDA - MINUTES AND FINANCIALS:

The minutes from the September 28th meeting as well as the September 2022 financials were reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting and approved unanimously by vote.

ARTPARK – INTERSTATE BUILDING UPDATE:

Director Kiler asked about a timeline for CoCuA opening.

Director Mestas raised the issue of accessibility to the mezzanine level in the Interstate Building. Ms. Von Guinness and Ms. Pulford will look into funding for a lift.

Director Mestas says if Focus Points is struggling financially can the BID provide financial support. Can they come present a funding need to the BID board. Mr. Deffenbaugh states that we are providing support because the space is provided at cost, but we can of course do both.

OTHER BUSINESS:

[Chicano Mural Project](#)- History Colorado is doing a preservation project/ exhibition on Wednesday the 30th.

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Hiring for Alex's position- role has changed slightly, curatorial decisions will not sit with RiNo, we will have a public art committee and the community will decide who gets the walls. Will announce the hire next week. Have hired Ms. Hasti Soltani.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

The foregoing minutes constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the above-referenced meeting and was approved by the Board of Directors of the RiNo Business Improvement District.

Secretary to the Board