



GOLDEN URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

Memorandum

To: GURA Board of Commissioners
From: Mark Heller, Executive Director
Date: April 6, 2009
RE: Meeting Memo for April 13, 2009 Meeting

This memo will assist in the discussion of the following agenda items:

IVa. Photo Contest

Thirteen Golden residents and/or workers submitted photos for the contest. The art subcommittee has selected some of the artists and photos, and will announce the selections at the 4/13 Board meeting.

While these entries will be terrific additions to the look and feel of downtown, we picked only eight photos that had acceptable resolution and excellent composition. We knew at the beginning that the high technical requirements of this project would reduce our choices, and this is what happened. To obtain the full complement of twenty-five photos, we will ask those who submitted originally to review their files or take new images of specific compositions. If those do not produce what we need, we will purchase additional photos from stock agencies or obtain photos from other sources to round out the installation as previously discussed. We still should be able to maintain our goal of completing installation by June 12.

As a side note, the City of Denver has recently launched a public photo contest. A good idea spreads quickly.

IVb. PV on Gateway Garage

The Board had requested more information on a potential installation of photovoltaic panels on the Gateway garage sufficient to offset just the power demands of the garage. The quote included in the packet shows that this would still be an expensive proposition. I am meeting with a Golden-based solar company, Solar Power, Inc., to get a second opinion. I am researching ways to reduce the power demands, which could in turn reduce the PV installation, and will report back with my findings.

VI1. Support for Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum (RMQM)

As the attached email from RMQM Executive Director Ohlschwager indicates, the RMQM is facing a budget shortfall relating to the delays in the renovations of the new space, including delays to the store front. GURA's \$12,000 matching grant to Scott McDougal for the renovation of his "Image Designers" building prompted discussion between RMQM and Mr. McDougal regarding RMQM's move. While not conceived of as a grant to RMQM, the façade support is functioning as such. To address its budget crunch, RMQM is interested to know whether GURA would provide grant support to assist the museum with other elements of the build-out for the new space, such as signage (approx. \$1,000) or display walls to hang quilts.

VI2. Support for Congress of New Urbanism Denver Annual Conference

At the last GURA meeting, I updated the Board about me giving a tour of Golden to planners from across the country who will be attending the annual conference of The Congress of New Urbanism (CNU) in Denver this summer. This organization has been advocating pedestrian-oriented development on a neighborhood scale for many years – exactly the kind of redevelopment that GURA promotes in downtown Golden. Colorado planners and architects are attempting to form a Colorado Chapter of CNU in advance of the annual conference, and are in dire need of funding.

VI3. Retail Summit

Mayor Smith is convening an initial brainstorming session with about a dozen community leaders regarding the retail economy in Golden. I will attend, or AJ if I am unable. The Mayor has asked GURA to forward its ideas on this matter through me or AJ to this session. I have already forwarded GURA's Business Attraction & Retention strategy matrix as well as the recent spate of memos on the topic. This agenda item will allow additional discussion.

VIII Staff Report

1. "Golden Point": On April 16, City Council will discuss the various options for encouraging and/or regulating redevelopment of the area around the bowling alley and high school. A copy of the memo on point submitted by Steve Glueck is included in the packet.
2. Shop local update: GURA, EDComm, and the Chamber continue to research and brainstorm regarding a shop local campaign.
3. Cinema update: Staff continues to research this concept. We are developing a business plan and pro forma. Using 2007 studies from the Motion Picture Association of America (the industry trade group) and extrapolating for the Golden region's demographics, the concept of a community cinema looks as promising from a business standpoint as it does from our intuition. The American Mountaineering Center continues to work on resolving certain non-profit tax regulations. After the business plan has been completed and the tax issues are resolved, the next critical step is to form a volunteer organization that could run this venture over a long term. Without such an organization, this concept will not survive.
4. The bridge over Highway 58 is scheduled to be complete this summer. I am working with Dan Hartman on designs for the digital community bulletin board and speed signs.