

Golden Urban Renewal Authority

City of Golden, Colorado

Business Meeting

March 23, 2009

The Golden Urban Renewal Authority of the City of Golden, County of Jefferson, State of Colorado, met on the above date in the City of Golden Council Chambers at 911 – 10th Street, Golden, Colorado, at the hour of 6:30 p.m. Commissioners present were:

Philip Baker	Lyndall McLetchie	Paul Imse (via phone)	Ted Bickart	Annette Lyttle
A.J. Johnston				

Mark Heller and Janis McBurney were also present. Steve Taylor was absent.

Approval of Minutes -

Johnston called for a motion to approve the business meeting minutes of March 9, 2009. **Lyttle MOVED to approve the business meeting minutes. Baker SECONDED.** Lyttle noted a punctuation error. With regard to the grant request from Blue Canyon Bar & Grill, Imse requested that his original motion be amended and that the language “10% of their capital improvement budget” be removed. **All Commissioners present agreed as amended.**

Public Comment – none

Reports of Committees/Matters for the Authority

Finance Committee – Heller apprised the Board of the audit status.

Human Resources Committee – none

Communications Committee – none

Development and Operations – Discussion/action regarding 13th Street Arch, possible award of bid - Heller summarized the bid summaries and comparisons on options 1 and 2, and apprised the board of his reference check findings. A discussion was held. **Imse MOVED that we engage TC² to proceed with option 2. Bickart SECONDED. All Commissioners present agreed. Bickart MOVED to authorize Heller to draw from the loan in an amount sufficient to manage the project. Lyttle SECONDED. All Commissioners present agreed.** Baker suggested getting a brass plaque for the arch. Heller will research and report back to the Board.

Other Business – Discussion/action regarding Clear Creek Books support – Craig Morgan, owner of Clear Creek Books, appeared and requested assistance with e-commerce and marketing. A discussion was held. **Imse MOVED to fund Clear Creek Books up to \$1,000 for website design including utilization of Yahoo for up to twelve months. Baker SECONDED. All Commissioners present, except Bickart, agreed.** Note: Bickart abstained from the vote because he has been personally assisting Morgan.

Discussion/action regarding gift card and buy local campaign ideas – Heller summarized the memos contained in the packet from John Hageman and Steve Glueck. He advised that EDComm is ready to pursue a shop local campaign, and that he is ready to pursue such a campaign as well. He explained that they would like to do it in two phases, with one element possibly being a gift card program. A discussion was held and ideas exchanged. Heller stated that we will attempt to focus on the benefits and reasons to shop local. He noted that we hope to enlist Barb Warden to be the web host of this effort.

Discussion regarding concerns of community garden on Lot 2 - . Given recent comments from the community suggesting that a community garden be placed on Lot 2, (south side of the Gateway Garage), a discussion was held. Imse expressed concern that if a community garden was permitted, when the time comes for redevelopment of the lot, there may be significant problems. Besides the fact that the lot is covered with asphalt, Heller expressed concern in that there are trace amounts of PCE in the soil. Lyttle commented that that fact alone is the very best reason for not putting in a community garden on that site.

Commissioners Concerns – Baker gave an update on the highlights from the EDComm meeting last week.

McLetchie stated that she attended the Vision 2030 kick-off event, and felt that it went quite well.

Lyttle mentioned that after a very dismal winter, her business is finally picking up. She noted that although business is not picking up for everyone she speaks with in Golden, it is for some of the merchants.

Johnston commented that The Golden Informer would also be a great way to get the buy local campaign going.

Staff Report – Heller gave a brief summary on the Jefferson County 2009 Business Education Series, contained in the packet.

He pointed out a thank-you letter received from The American Alpine Club on behalf of the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum for GURA's \$15,000 donation.

He advised the Board of a couple of sponsorship opportunities - the first being the Rotary Club of Golden for an upcoming ethics and business luncheon, and the second being the Colorado Renewable Energy Society Annual Conference which will be coming to Golden on the CSM campus in August. After discussion, the Board decided to authorize Heller to proceed with the Colorado Renewable Energy Society Annual Conference sponsorship at the minimum level.

He announced that a tentative date of April 15 has been set for a meeting between the American Alpine Club, the Colorado Mountain Club and Outward Bound to brainstorm ways to better integrate the center with the community, and that he will attend if available.

Heller also announced that the Mayor is trying to organize a retail summit wherein a select group of people would begin to brainstorm on ways to respond to the recession in terms of retail in Golden.

He apprised the Board of the status of the DBSI bankruptcy including the fact that the U.S. Bankruptcy Court has authorized the Receiver to take custody of the property. Heller will attempt to meet with the Receiver in the near future.

Heller commented that Glenn Moore, Golden Police Department Community Resource Officer, is organizing the Downtown Golden Residents Association, and asked the Board if he should be a designee to this association. The Board indicated that they would like Heller to be a designee; however, if unavailable, a Board member will try to step in.

Heller gave a cinema update and advised of the research being conducted. Johnston stated that this is something to be pursued at full force, considering this is one of the things that Vision 2030 has come up with.

With regard to the streetlight pole banner photo contest, Heller noted that he wrote a press release, and that he will be picking up the prize cameras from Pentax on Thursday.

Heller advised that some of the downtown merchants are circulating an idea to close Washington Avenue from 11th Street to 13th Street over the weekends – Friday morning through Saturday night – May through October. He noted that GURA would probably not take a position on this matter.

Heller reported that he has been directed by the City Manager to hold off with the blight study RFP for the Golden Point, (Bowling Alley Point), area until we can provide City Council a comprehensive memo on what all of the redevelopment options are. He noted that he is working with Steve Glueck on this matter.

McBurney advised the Board that the spring sidewalk power washing has been set for April 19, weather permitting. She also noted that the downtown post office now closes at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment – Sharon Wheatley advised that with regard to the shop local campaign, she has been actively working with the marketing committee and CCT to bring about awareness of shopping local. She shared a variety of ideas with the Board, including putting together a folder of information and marketing ideas for new merchants, as often times they are either too busy, too shy, or just don't know where to reach out.

Adjourn -

There being no further business, Johnston called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Bickart MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Lytle SECONDED. All Commissioners present agreed.** Johnston adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mark Heller
Executive Director

A.J. Johnston
Chair

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