

**DOWNTOWN DENVER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Bahman Shafa, Austin Kane, Sandy Robinson, Jennifer Halliman DeLeon, David Kaufman, Jodi Janda (proposed Board Member)

**Board Members Not Present:** Jon Berge

**Legal Advisor:** Ron Fano

**Staff:** Beth Moyski, Tami Door, Vince Martinez, Steve Shireman, Emily Tucker, Sharon Alton, Adam Perkins, Ariany Young, Pamela Sellden

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**I. Welcome**

Bahman Shafa welcomed everyone and called meeting to order. Due to the Stay-at-Home order the meeting was held virtually, Bahman Shafa requested approval of the BID Board Meeting minutes dated April 2, 2020. Sandy Robinson moved to approve the minutes with no changes and Jennifer Halliman DeLeon seconded. The minutes from the April 2, 2020 BID Board Meeting passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

**II. Safety and Security**

**A. Police and Outreach reports (written) – DPD COVID-19 Response**

Sgt David Albi and Lt. Rebeterano. Sgt. David Albi reviewed the latest crime statistics, reporting that in a year to year comparison, larcenies were down in March, where they had been up from January and February. Sgt. Albi attributed the improvement to the use of high visibility patrols (HVP) and undercover units, which enabled DPD to catch crimes in progress. The number of simple assaults went up. This statistic includes Civic Center and accounts for many homeless on homeless assaults. Auto thefts also went up largely due to people being home more and Sgt. Albi reminded the Board that DPD has clubs (anti-theft devices) available. He felt that the increased patrols will help to reduce the incidents, although there seems to be no pattern or specific areas being targeted. As for COVID-19, DPD is working on education and advisement of the public's use of masks. Business are advised to ask the public to wear them and, if they refuse, ask them to leave. If there are issues, that is when you should call DPD and report it as trespassing. Albi reminded everyone that masks are not requiring if an individual is just out walking around. Albi reported that trespassing reports are up, largely due to education of the public to call and report. Business watch signs are available, which state that the location is participating in the business watch program and cooperating with DPD by reporting crimes and prosecuting. Lt. Rebeterano reported that DPD's protocol is evolving with crisis and adjusting to the future needs by preparing for the time when bars, etc. will re-open. He asked that everyone remind businesses to check on their properties, even when they are closed, to be sure they are secure, including the vents. He stated that the community has been very supportive especially along the Mall. Rebeterano also reported that incidents of suicide and altercation as a reaction to isolation are increasing.

**B. Update on SAP – COVID-19**

Steve Shireman reported that the security team is still operating as usual under the stay home orders. PPE is being worn by officers and they are sanitizing equipment at shift changes and every 4 hours. There were 8300 ambassador contacts in the previous month, up from 6015 last year, as well as 3378 assistance requests compared to 2973 for the same month in 2019. Likewise, business contacts for the previous month were 2398 compared to 335 in 2019. This increase is due to an extra effort on behalf of the officers to be in contact with businesses which, because fewer are open, can amount to multiple contacts with the same business in a day. The security team is making sure everyone knows they are still out there and hope to make people feel safe. Outreach contacts in the previous month amounted to 5368 compared to 758 for the same time period in 2019. This increase is due to the fact that the increased demand in for services in the homeless facilities has prevented their outreach groups from getting out as much. The security team has been contacting the same individuals several times each day, often by different officers. There also has been an increase in transients arriving from outside of the city and from out of town for the summer who are often service resistant. Safety contacts increased to 15772 the previous month compared to 6441 for the same time period in 2019, as well as trespassing to 2113 compared to 570 in 2019. This increased contact has

been a good opportunity for educating the public and the officers have exceeded expectations. Their morale has been good and the support from DPD has been excellent. The goal of the security team is to make sure everyone is feeling safe so that when people come back the feeling is good. Feedback has been very positive to date.

### III. **Updates re: COVID-19**

#### A. 2020 Projected Budget Review

Beth Moyski reported that the proposed 2020 budget was originally tight and conservative, and the new projected budget is even more so. The continued goals for clean, safe, vibrant remain essential. Moyski reported that she is confident assessments will be paid. The mayor of Denver extended the property tax due date to end of June and waived late penalties. The projected \$1,182,000 revenue (non-property revenue) should not be a loss. The budgeted items related to the Mall cluster permit will no doubt result in a loss of revenue. Businesses have closed or scaled back and Moyski felt it best to plan for worse case. The BID is currently giving a 50% break on vendors, sidewalk cafes. (Those restaurants and vendors that paid annually will get a credit for 2021.) Banners are mainly related to conventions and special events of which many cancelled or rescheduled for next year. Moyski stated that they would be looking at expenditures to find areas where they could reduce costs. Bank expense will be reduced. It will likely necessary to re-think the BID Board retreat this year. Map expenses will be cut by 50%, however the production of BID 10-year document and 2019 annual report will need to be kept. Marketing to indicate that Downtown is open will need to be added. Programs such as Winter in the City, Your Keys to the City (pianos), the New Year's Eve DJ's will all need to be reconsidered. They are also looking at reducing the Safety budget by \$150,000, which represents the amount of surplus that was experienced last year. The Pedestrian Environment budget will likely be reduced by \$30K including such items as landscaping (cancelling Fall pansies), replacement tables and chairs, banner installations. Beth will report monthly on the status of the Budget. Tami Door expressed that times of cuts is about strengthening programs, not just eliminating programs. Sandy Robinson pointed out that the Mayor's moratorium on property tax applied to the April one-time payment and asked if it would affect the second payment for property's that had elected to pay taxes in 2 installments. Beth said she would find out the answer to that.

#### B. Maintenance Activity

Vince Martinez reported that Operations had been emphasizing the disinfection of high-touch items. The Clean Team has gone to a 20-hour service schedule with overnight trash service hours reallocated to daytime. The team is wearing PPE, plus disinfecting any shared equipment. Reporting equipment has proven to be useful to improve service and tracking where needs are. The team has also been able to ramp up services due to the lack of people, concentrating on such things as graffiti abatement – which they have been able to offer to properties, especially those with reduced staff. Other added services being offered include biohazard and abatement, bulk item removal. Martinez reviewed accomplishments of the Clean Team efforts including that they had started offering complimentary alley and sidewalk and patio power-washing. The team has also been able to address trip hazards, start on annual painting and repairs to Halo cameras. Tree health program as also able to get a head-start and by mid-June projects will have been initiated, such as tree maintenance and watering. The Clean Team will also initiate a concentrated sidewalk gum removal effort, having identified 4 areas that they will be targeting. Implementation of geo-tag reporting and dispatch systems is also well underway. Martinez was asked if the team was only concentrating on the Mall or including the entire BID Area in their efforts. Although not as visible due to the concentration, he reassured them that they still have technicians in the zones off-mall also doing maintenance and clean-up, including disinfecting high touch surfaces. Geo-tags help track the needs, especially in these outer areas, but a direct conversation with property managers/owners would be a good way to get an idea of services as they occur.

### IV. **Public Space and Mobility**

#### A. Mall Sidewalk Cafés – COVID-19 Summer 2020

Emily Tucker reported on a proposed plan to help restaurants and retailers to get back online. On average, businesses are reporting a 76% year over year decline in business. 85% of these businesses cannot access PPP funds. Anticipating that once the COVID-19 restrictions start to lift, restaurants will have to operate at only a percentage of the existing licensed capacity. Tucker presented a proposal that would allow restaurants to utilize outdoor square footage, enabling them to serve additional customers under social distancing scenario. Other cities are looking at similar proposals. Such proposals would allow us in the last couple months of the restriction to support restaurants by adjusting the rules. Tucker indicated a desire to continue with additional adjustments as restaurants re-open for in-restaurant dining through the end of summer or September 7<sup>th</sup>. The City has been supportive of these proposals and they are moving forward with a working group to implement proposals in the BID, but especially on the Mall. The proposal would include relaxing design guidelines. The Mall Use Committee will review proposals weekly rather than monthly to expedite the process and pricing will be discounted at a rate similar to the current 50% discount. Protocols, as well as temporary agreements and guidelines will all need to be considered. Restaurants would need to apply for revisions of their alcohol licenses as well. The requirement for enclosures really applies only to the food services. Retailers would be an easier and therefore faster approval process. Questions regarding pricing, length of time, temporary signage and standardization will all need to be addressed. As for time period, they

would like to match the City's proposal of a program through Labor Day. Tucker indicated that this would offer some relief to restaurants, many of whom have not had much success accessing PPP. She is hoping the second program may be more accessible. Tucker pointed out that none of the proposed changes have been approved yet, and that the BID would be best to match the City's guidelines, which should be out next week.

**B. Mall Activation – Summer 2020**

Sharon Alton reported that the Downtown Experience group is currently looking for ways to bring public spaces back to life after restrictions begin to ease and that the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall presents a unique opportunity to welcome people downtown safely. Large groups in the city are willing to partner with other outside areas to create opportunities for passive activation. Alton indicated that they wanted to present a positive voice with resilient block themes and present each block as a venue. For example: Learn block could partner with DPL or schools. Create block could partner with Cherry Creek Arts Festival and have mobile art displays. Dance could partner with Wunderbound. Each block would have set themes and could include sturdy art installations related to the theme. They would like to utilize ground clings with positive messaging regarding social distancing, as well as large soap dispensers/art installation bringing attention to hand washing stations. Alton hopes to engage property owners – retailers – empty storefronts -- to highlight positive message. Another idea would allow the Mall to spill into Skyline Park. This would also be an opportunity for sponsor involvement and partnerships. The budget for Skyline is currently shifting and they would therefore aim for low budget items. David Kauffman asked about the possibility of local music and artists, creating opportunities for smaller events and performances.

**V. Other Business**

A. Maintenance and Operations (Written Report)

B. Monthly Update and Core Priorities (Written Report) – to be distributed at a later date

**VI. Public Comment and Announcements**

Beth Moyski announced an upcoming webinar DDP was presenting on Revitalizing the Economy.

A member of the public stated that she felt that an aim to be uplifting was good. She also asked about the installation of 5G in the BID.

**VII. Adjourn**

With no further business, Bahman Shafa adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 10 day of June, 2020.



Chair of the Board

Attest:



Secretary