

**DOWNTOWN DENVER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2020  
(Virtual Meeting)**

**Board Members Present:** Bahman Shafa, Austin Kane, Sandy Robinson, Jennifer Halliman DeLeon, David Kaufman, Jodi Janda, Jon Buerge

**Legal Advisor:** Ron Fano

**Staff:** Beth Moyski, Charlene Laus, Vince Martinez, Randy Thelen, Pamela Selden

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I. **Welcome**

- A. Bahman Shafa called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone attending the virtual meeting. Shafa asked for approval of the Minutes from the BID Board Meeting on June 4, 2020. Austin Kane made a motion to approve the Minutes and Jon Buerge seconded. The Minutes were passed by unanimous vote (taken via poll).

II. **Safety and Security**

- A. Police and Outreach reports (written)  
Cmdr. Aaron Sanchez and Sgt. Rebeterano presented the latest information and statistics (attached) from the Denver Police Department. Cmdr. Sanchez commented that a comparison of January to May 2019 with January to May 2020 is not a fair comparison due to the current unique situation, which have really been 4-5 months in a bubble. That said, Cmdr. Sanchez reported that assaults are up 42% over the past 3-year average and aggravated assaults with a firearm are up 33%. On the other end, forcible sexual assaults are down, likely since night clubs are down drastically due to COVID mandated closures.

As an alternative, Cmdr. Sanchez reviewed the statistics on a week to week basis, focusing on what is happening now. The occurrence of crimes of violence has spiked, increasing 42.2%. The 3 big issues are: a 41% increase of transient-on-transient assault; a 16% increase in family or domestic violence; and a 13.3% increase in aggravated assault attributed to protest activities. Cmdr. Sanchez noted that 42 of the 62 reported protest-related injuries were to police officers. Sanchez expressed a hope that May 2020 is an anomaly, noting how much transient-transient violence had increased and attributing it to the fact that encampments were not moved and instead grew larger the longer they remained in place. He also noted that Denver continues to do a phenomenal job offering services and protections to the homeless. Sanchez anticipates that once the new temporary safe outdoor spaces are up and running, DPD will be able to begin enforcing camping ban again. Sanchez expressed a need to enact mental health initiatives to help with the stress of self-isolating and the resulting increase in domestic violence. In response to the ongoing protest and riots, Sanchez stated that DPD continues to support 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights and their desire to protect peaceful protesters. However, there is a small fraction of anarchist groups that want nothing, but to cause havoc. The 30-50 people groups of factions are causing issues, such as blocking traffic. In the presence of violent protesters, DPD's need to protect the public and businesses becomes the focus. They anticipate protests to continue through the election, and then possibly continue through the inauguration. In response to a question, Sanchez stated that today's police presence remains comparable to the "average" or pre-COVID19/protest numbers. The police presence has not been reduced, only reallocated to other areas as a negative result of protests. Additionally, groups of police are targeted and therefore, they have been instructed to decrease visibility to avoid being a target. Currently, they are also not staffing Walk the Beat due to lack of funds. DPD is the focus of a lot of anger and is attempting to remain focused on re-building relationships.

B. **BID Security Metrics**

Beth Moyski reported that most of the Mall security safety statistics are starting to shift back down to the normal levels. The increase in vandalism could be related to protests or a response to heat, which tends to

happen in the summer. Outreach continues to be higher, more of an effort on the part of the Mall security due to our partner social outreach efforts still concentrated at the National Western/Coliseum temporary shelter.

### III. **Public Space and Mobility**

#### A. Update: 601 16<sup>th</sup> Street and the Activation Underway

Beth Moyski reported that there is currently no activation occurring at 601 16<sup>th</sup> Street. They are currently collaborating on plans for activation including moving the beer container from Skyline to the lot to help define and create a sense of place. They are also looking at moving more planters into the lot as well as tables and chairs and looking into the possibility of entertainers or buskers for the space.

#### B. **Mall Sidewalk Expansion Areas including Cafes and Sidewalk Sale Permitting Report**

Pamela Sellden gave an update on the plans to allow sidewalk cafes and restaurants to expand to outside areas such as sidewalks and the median in response to the distancing requirements from COVID19 mandates. To date, 11 restaurants have applied for and were approved to expand their sidewalk cafes. Of these, 7 could expand to the median only, 2 applied to expand to the sidewalk only and 1 had applied to expand to both the median and sidewalk. An additional restaurant opted to expand the size of their patio permanently, as was applied for and approved in February 2020. The restaurants are responsible for the safety and cleanliness of their own furnishings and ownership of the space permitted. Operations are discouraging the use of umbrellas in the median and are in the process of purchasing and installing sunshade sails as an alternative. One restaurant with limited options due to their location (Giordanos) was offered space in the 601 16<sup>th</sup> Street lot, which they declined due to the distance, stating that they were not in situation to afford to staff and maintain a remote location. Sellden reported that they were continuing to work with the City (DOTI) to find solutions and work within liquor license regulations.

#### C. **16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall Reconstruction Update**

Randy Thelen gave an updated on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall Reconstruction project, reporting that the first approval was obtained, allowing the \$80M DURA funds (the primary funding) to be formally transferred to the City for reconstruction. Only one member of the City Council had voted to have the funds go into the General Fund. If this had happened, it would have resulted in \$30M loss of the funds. Thelen then appealed to the Board to speak with the members of the City Council, voicing support and interest for public restrooms in the vicinity of the Mall, noting that several members of the City Council are making public restrooms an issue and a point of discussion. Currently there are only a few public restrooms available and only during the 8-5 hours. Thelen stated that a priority should be to first extend the hours of accessibility. Another priority would be to design the restrooms in a way to be appealing to woman and children. Thelen noted that the current public restrooms do not meet the woman and children approval. He noted that there was an urgency to address the issue since the committee was starting to finalize RFP plumbing requirements. Another issue is the need for more funds as currently the City only has \$80K budget for public restrooms. Citing Bryant Park (NYC) as a prime example of a 4-seasons public restroom with a high-level of design, Thelen noted the fact that it is staffed which both add to the appeal and set the standard of behavior. Thelen stated that the ideal location would be somewhere between Broadway and Skyline Park. A restroom would not be allowed on the Mall granite, but the intersections that bulbed out could allow space for a restroom, as well as allow it to be located adjacent to the Mall. A location close to the Mall and facing the Mall would not only make it more visible but would also be helpful for security. Currently, the talks are for a mobile modular unit, but Thelen would like to push for something more permanent. He also stated the need for something more of an attraction than mere a restroom. In response to a question regarding the possibility for a non-City staff, Thelen stated that he felt that would reduce the chance of the restroom being shut down and that perhaps staffing the restroom could be an opportunity for BID to take on the responsibility.

### IV. **Administration**

#### A. 2020 Projected Budget Review

Beth Moyski gave an update on the 2020 Projected Budget, reporting that Revenues from the payments of assessments remain in good shape. Reporting that the City was extending the temporary outdoor expansion program from the original end date of September 7, 2020 to October 31, 2020 and recommended that the BID do likewise on the Mall to help level the playing field. They had been able to adjust and hold back where possible while keeping the clean and safe programs intact. Moyski also reminded the Board that the current Operating Reserve account is sufficient to cover any deficit that could come up.

1. Resolution Setting Public Hearing for Budget Amendment for August 6, 2020, for Amendment to the 2019 Budget and Provision of Publication of Public Notice  
Beth Moyski reminded the Board that there had been changes in the enterprise line items of the 2019 Budget and any amendment to the budget requires a Public Hearing. Sandy Robinson moved to approve a Resolution Setting a Date, Time and Location for a Hearing on Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019, with the date and time being August 6, 2020 at 1:30 PM at the offices of the DDBID at 1515 Arapahoe Street, Tower 3, Suite 100, Denver, Colorado (or potentially to be held electronically due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with any applicable Public Health Orders). Jennifer Halliman DeLeon seconded and the Resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Initial Discussion re: 2021 BID Budget and Workplan

Beth Moyski presented an initial discussion regarding the 2021 BID Budget and Workplan (PowerPoint attached). Noting that the COVID19 mandate restrictions, Moyski stated that the annual BID Board Retreat would be dialed back significantly and proposed meeting one-on-one with each of the Board members to discuss the 2021 BID Budget and Workplan. Moyski would like to start these meetings in August to early September.

V. **Other Business**

A. Denver BID Council letter re: Proposed Sales Tax for Housing and Homeless Outreach

Beth Moyski reported that at a recent Denver BID Council (comprised of 12 Denver BID Directors) meeting City Council member Robin Kneich had presented a proposed sales tax to fund improved homeless support services and housing. The current proposal is a .25% sales tax which could generate \$37M in 2021 and focused on housing, shelter capacity and transformation and innovative projects. The Denver BID Council would like to include the DDBID signature on a letter to the Councilwoman urging the consideration of:

- 1) The cumulative impacts of another recent tax increases on small business;
- 2) Leveraging funds with another recent and similar tax initiative – Caring for Denver – which provide mental health support;
- 3) Consider reform of land use policies and RNO framework that have blocked past affordable housing efforts; and
- 4) Inclusion of a sunset clause to allow for review of current economic conditions and potential policy changes at the Federal and State levels.

Discussion included the fact that a City entity, Denver Housing Stability would be the recipient and how much of the funds would go to administrative costs and how much would actual pass through to programs. Moyski reported that if the City Council passes the tax proposal initiative, it then be on the November ballot for a vote. The proposed letter from the Denver BID Council does not support nor oppose but requests consideration of these 4 points.

B. **Maintenance and Operations** (Written Report)

A question was asked regarding a proposed timeframe for the removal of plywood. Although there is currently no proposed timeline yet, Vince Martinez reported that the vandalism occurring was mainly minor. Ongoing protests have been concentrated mainly from Tremont/Court to Lincoln. The Clean Team is still pulling their crews off the Mall at 10PM each night, however they remain fully staffed, concentrating more during the daytime hours. CSG looking into ways to welcome and celebrate gradual return to normal.

VI. **Public Comment and Announcements**

The DDP Annual Meeting will take place virtually on July 29, 2020. There is a meeting for public input regarding the renovation of Skyline park today 5-6:30.

A member of the public asked if DDP or the BID had a historian and if anyone was recording the current events, specifically the vandalism, the damage and removal of statues, the boarded up windows, the closing of business as well as a perspective of the changes. It was stated that BID security is tracking the events, but only within the BID boundaries. The City and State tracks the remainder of the area. The BID Eponics system also records many of the changes.

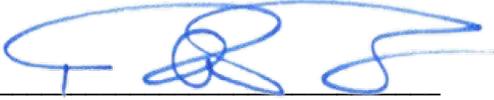
Another question was asked regarding the status of the proposed non-profit program for homeless support

that was presented several months ago and its relationship to the proposed sales tax increase. Beth Moyski stated that the proposed sales tax presented during this meeting is not related to the proposed non-profit program which would raise \$1M in funds. Beth Moyski stated she would check on the status of the non-profit effort.

VII. **Adjourn**

With no further business, Bahman Shafa adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 7 day of August, 2020.



Chair of the Board

Attest:

*Jennifer Hallinan DeLeon*  
Secretary