

DOWNTOWN GRAND JUNCTION BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018
131 N 6TH STREET
7:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Duncan Rowley (Chair), Jason Farrington, Dan Meyer, Phyllis Norris, Doug Simons Jr., Vance Wagner

ABSENT: Tom LaCroix, Jodi Coleman-Niernberg

STAFF: Vonda Bauer, Caitlyn Love, Brandon Stam, Taylor Kidd

CITY STAFF: John Shaver was absent.

GUESTS: Diane Schwenke (President and CEO Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce), Jamie Lumis (Greater Downtown Sports Commission), Tammy Anderson (General Manager of Holiday Inn & Suites)

CALL TO ORDER: Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Brandon introduced Maria Rainsdon and Josh Niernberg. They were selected to serve on the DDA/BID Board with terms expiring in June of 2022. The new members were appointed at the August 1, 2018 City Council meeting and will receive their Certificates of Appointment at the August 15, 2018 City Council Meeting.

Maria is the General Manager of the Two Rivers Convention Center, the Avalon Theatre and oversees the larger scaled ticketed events at the Las Colonias Amphitheater.

Josh is the owner of restaurants Bin 707 Foodbar and Taco Party.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting of July 12, 2018

Vance made a motion to approve the July 12, 2018 minutes; Doug seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

LODGING TAX PRESENTATION

Diane Schwenke, (President and CEO of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce) gave a lodging tax presentation. Diane explained that the City of Grand Junction will be asking voters for a lodging tax increase from 4% to 6% in order to expand its investment in key economic development initiatives in the community. The lodging tax ballot initiative will be placed on the November ballot. The increased dollars may be distributed in support of the following:

- 1.25% to Visit Grand Junction to enhance destination marketing
- 1% to Grand Junction Regional Air Service Alliance for marketing, supporting and additional direct flights to and from Grand Junction Regional Airport
- .75% to Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission for marketing, promoting and sponsoring sporting events

Diane Schwenke asked the Board if they would be interested in endorsing the measure and make a contribution to the campaign to help educate voters.

Jamie Lumis (Greater Downtown Sports Commission) stated that Downtown is a big supporter of Epic Rides (Grand Junction Off-Road) and understands the benefits of these types of events. The money from the lodging tax would help support events like Grand Junction Off-Road as well as develop new events.

Tammy Anderson (General Manager of Holiday Inn & Suites) expressed that we want tourists to come to Grand Junction and air services brings business in. Tammy has been in the hotel industry for over 20 years and has never had a group refuse to do business due to lodging tax. The lodging tax hasn't been increased in 30 years in Grand Junction. She stated that Grand Junction is beginning to be branded as a destination.

Vance made a motion for the BID to endorse the lodging tax increase. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND POSITION ELECTIONS

Phyllis made a motion to nominate Duncan to be Board Chairman. Vance seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Duncan made a motion to nominate Doug to be Board Vice-Chairman. Dan seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

BOARD RETREAT

The Board Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29th, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Enstrom Candies, Inc. located at 701 Colorado Avenue. Lunch will be provided.

UPDATES

Brandon explained that Twisted Turtle's Outdoor Dining Lease Agreement will be up for renewal in September, however, there have been issues regarding the cleanliness of the outdoor patio area and surrounding areas of the Twisted Turtle location. Several Downtown business owners have contacted Brandon regarding their concerns with the renewal of Twisted Turtle's Outdoor Dining Lease and liquor license. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13th with Greg Caton (City Manager), John Shaver (City Attorney), Wanda Winkelmann (City Clerk) and Brandon Stam (Downtown Director) to discuss these issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Phyllis made a motion to adjourn; Jason seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 a.m.