

DOWNTOWN GRAND JUNCTION BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019
131 N 6TH STREET
7:30 A.M.

PRESENT: Duncan Rowley (Chair), Jason Farrington, Dan Meyer, Josh Niernberg, Phyllis Norris, Maria Rainsdon, Vance Wagner

ABSENT: Doug Simons Jr., Tom LaCroix

STAFF: Vonda Bauer, Caitlyn Love, Rykel Menor, Brandon Stam

CITY STAFF: John Shaver (City Attorney), Greg Caton (City Manager), Jodi Romero (Finance Director), Rob Schoeber (Parks & Recreation Director), Ken Watkins (Fire Chief), Trent Prall (Public Works Director), Doug Shoemaker (Police Chief), Wesley Engbarth (Captain-Grand Junction Fire Department)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Meeting of January 10, 2019

Jason made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10th, 2019 meeting. Phyllis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Prior to the meeting Brandon sent the Board a memo requesting a budget amendment in the amount \$3,855 that will go towards additional increases for Caitlyn and Rykel based upon their performance reviews. Brandon previously discussed with the City of Grand Junction Human Resources department to include Rykel & Caitlyn's position in the City of Grand Junction's classification system.

Duncan stated that Brandon has not had a performance review since he was hired over two years ago. Brandon's performance review was previously sent out to the Board members as well as a memorandum from Duncan and Doug recommending that Brandon receive a 7.5% increase in salary.

There was Board discussion regarding the 7.5% increase. Greg Caton also explained that City of Grand Junction employees will receive a 3.5% increase across the Board and that the City does not have a merit based system. Brandon noted that the amount was included in the approved budget for 2019.

Duncan indicated that the organization changed in April and went back to one Director instead of two Directors. At that time Brandon took on additional responsibilities and roles, however, his salary was not adjusted to be in line with how other DDA and BID Directors are compensated.

The consensus of the Board was to table the discussion and have an executive session at the next meeting regarding Brandon's salary and performance review.

Jason recommended that a motion to amend the budget for the additional staff funding should be approved.

Maria made a motion to amend the budget for \$3,855 to award Rykel and Caitlyn increases in their salaries. Josh seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

SALES TAX PRESENTATION

Phyllis explained that she is a City of Grand Junction Councilmember and also has two children that work for the City of Grand Junction Police Department. She indicated that public safety is the number one service that cities provide. The DDA has worked with the public safety and the first responders and has provided funding to pay for two additional police officers for Downtown. Phyllis expressed her opinion stating that additional police officers, fire stations and fire personnel need to be added. There have been studies showing how many officers are needed and how much time they should be spending in the community. The City of Grand Junction is at 10%. The recommendation for the national average is 37%. The City of Grand Junction would have to add 18 officers to get to the national average. Phyllis also stated that Ballot Measure 2A would be beneficial to help fund road projects such as the 29 Road Interchange and widening of 24 Road.

City Manager Greg Caton stated that staff was here to answer questions and are not advocating for or against any ballot measures. Staff was here to inform and educate.

Police Chief Shoemaker explained that the 10% and 37% of time is considered proactive time for officers. Studies show that 37% of an officer's day should be devoted to proactive efforts such as traffic enforcement in areas where there is high numbers of crashes, going into the schools to build relationships, or walking Downtown to check with store owners to talk about crime prevention efforts. Those types of occurrences are not called by 911 or by dispatch. The rest of an officer's time should be responding to calls and preparing reports. Additional officers would allow the Police Department to do more proactive patrol and crime prevention through environmental design.

Wesley Engbarth is a Captain at Fire Station 4 and is representing a committee called Answering the Call. The committee consists of off-duty police officers, fire fighters, and medical responders that work on their time off to campaign for Ballot Measure 2B. Wesley explained the importance of Ballot Measure 2B and discussed the following:

- Answering the Call – The committee was formed hoping that the community would hear our call for financial assistance to help expand the response capabilities in the community.
- What does a community get if 2B passes? – Three new fire stations that would be fully staffed, would also include a fire engine and ambulance at each station.
- Why do we need it to pass? – The Redlands Fire Station was the last fire station added in 2004. The call volume has increased from 7,700 to 17,000 per year and no additional personnel or fire stations have been added which effects our efficiency and personal safety.
- If the measure doesn't pass? – They have not identified any specifics at this time, however, there are not enough resources currently to handle two large scale incidences at the same time. They rely on other agencies for assistance.
- What does it cost? - Ballot measure 2B - .50% sales and use tax increase on discretionary spending items.

Brandon asked if Ballot Measure 2B passes would the funding that the DDA has allocated for the Downtown police officers change and would this effect the money allocated for the Ambassador Program. Jodi replied that the funding is intended to be on top of existing funding, therefore, it is not replacing funding and shifting it. It would be additional funding for expansion of the services.

Duncan stated that there may be a request for a resolution from the Board in support of Ballot Measures 2A and 2B. Two resolutions will be drafted and considered at the February 28th Board meeting.

UPDATES

Restaurant Week will be from March 1 – March 10. Nineteen restaurants will be participating this year which is an increase from fifteen from last year.

The date for the new bus service is scheduled to launch on March 21st. The group, which consists of City of Grand Junction, Downtown Grand Junction, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction Airport, and the Horizon BID, chose the final design concept. Details are being discussed for marketing and launching the new bus service.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Vance made a motion to adjourn; Phyllis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m.