

**ACRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
September 28th, 2021**

Call to order: Cristal Logan called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Attendance: Present: Cristal Logan, Debbie Braun, Charlie Bantis, Dave Ressler, Donnie Lee, Rose Abello, Patti Clapper, Sam Barney, Nina Eisenstat, Andrew Ernemann, Alan Fletcher, David Baugh, Heather Kemp, Cari Kuhlman, Lisa LeMay, Maria Morrow, Heather Steenge-Hart, Bill Tomcich, and Mayor Torre Staff: Kristen Anderson, Sarah Reynolds Lasser, Alycin Bektesh, and Maureen Poschman Special Guests: PJ Murray, Mitch Osur and Pete Rice Press: Matt Bennett and Rick Carroll Absent: Riley Tippet, Dan Barthomelew, David Baugh, Heather Kemp, Henning Rahm, John Rigney, and Jeff Bay.

Welcome: Cristal Logan welcomed our presenters; Mitch Osur, Director of Parking and Downtown Services along with PJ Murray, Project Manager and Pete Rice, Division Manager.

Safety and Mobility in the Downtown Core:

Presentation

Director Questions and Concerns. The directors had several concerns about parallel parking and E-Bike safety. Downtown shuttles are necessary, and hotels need to lead the pack. People are going to drive into town. If there is no street parking, where are they going to park? Several directors want to see where exactly the problem areas are and concentrate on those areas. Creating one-way streets will create more panic and problems. Why are we focused on cars when bikers still have the right of way.

Wheeler RETT / Arts and Culture update:

Alan Fletcher and Cristal Logan gave a brief overview of the Wheeler RETT fund / question 2A on the November Ballot. The new Question keeps the Wheeler centered but provides an increase in funds that are available for nonprofit arts and culture organizations through a grant application. Also asking the City to not have a cap on the fund. This is not a new tax and only affects future funding. Cristal and the Arts and Culture leadership team have started a new campaign, Arts for Aspen, Aspen for the Arts. The campaign is to educate the community on the ballot question.

Chair Comments: Cristal congratulated the ACRA Staff on a successful and busy summer and September. Cristal and several of the ACRA staff, hosted the 3rd quarter Arts and Culture Meeting – all the organizations had a great summer season and demand for offerings. All did well with covid protocols. ACRA BOD Retreat will be on Thursday, November 18th.

President Comments: Debbie started with a brief VHA update; they continue to meet monthly. Great article about the progress VHA has made in Sunday's paper. Debbie is attending DMA West, first in person conference in the past 18 months. Eliza is in Italy and Jennifer is on a well- deserved vacation. A lot of strategic planning going into 4th quarter. Afternoon Blend in person on Monday October 4th at Bumps at Buttermilk. October is Guest Appreciation Month, looking forward to kicking it off at the Afternoon Blend. The team is busy planning for year-end along with the board election and retreat. Debbie concluded with giving a NomComm update, 6 board seats up for election, Riley Tippet is not running for re-election of the service seat. We thanked him for his years of service.

Director Comments:

Mayor Torre: Mental health and suicide prevention is very important and needs to be in the forefront in the Valley. City Council, appreciate everyone's input on the downtown safety plan. There is still a lot of work to be done. Financials look strong for the city; lodging is still showing a hit from the pandemic. On the agenda for tonight's council meeting, we are voting on our winter vitality plan and reviewing the Centennial sketch plan. 2A is a great step for our community. Debbie asked about the Wheeler Lobby moving forward with vaccination requirement or proof of negative test. Lobby operations will be the same.

Andrew Ernemann: As a part of the real estate community, we have a huge opportunity of educating our newcomers to the valley about what the 1.5% tax on their purchase. This isn't just another tax; it is a huge positive impact to our community. Real estate rentals and listings continue to be limited. The housing market is impacting the entire demographic of our valley with the home prices.

Patti Clapper: F&W was great, enjoyed the lower attendance, looking forward to the events return to June next year. Pitkin County reviewing 75 applications for the airport advisory board. Hope to release final names in the coming week. The Commissioners are looking to take more formal action on short term rentals. Growth management is still on the plate. More specific conversations in 2022.

Nina Eisenstat: F&W was amazing and flawless execution. The services industry continues to be busy. Wedding and event planning is one of the busiest subcategories, along with construction and trade.

Dave Ressler: COVID incident rate is going down and currently no one is admitted at the hospital. VHA – great article in the paper, progress is being made by making health care more affordable. Excited to host our Health Fair. Dave ended with COVID vaccinations: more and more hospitals and businesses are requiring employees be vaccinated. Currently 95% of our staff is vaccinated and every one of our physicians in our valley is vaccinated. This is not because of the mandate this is because of science.

Sam Barney: Construction Industry Update

- Jurisdiction updates

- City of Aspen
 - Published approximate first round permit review following complete submission. Below are the current projected turnaround times for all permits submitted in October 2021 from acceptance of an application for review to complete the first review round.
 - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Permits: 2-3 Days
 - Repairs: 2-3 Weeks
 - Additional Information: 2-3 Weeks
 - Re-Roof Permits: 2-3 Weeks
 - IFFR Permits: 2-3 Weeks
 - EPIC Permits: 3-4 Weeks
 - New Mini Permits: 6-8 Weeks
 - Response to Comments: 8-10 Weeks
 - Simple Change Orders: 9-11 Weeks
 - New Minor Permits: 11-13 Weeks
 - Major Change Orders: 18-20 Weeks
 - New Major Permits: 18-20 Weeks
- Pitkin County
 - BOCC growth management discussions – defer to Patti
 - Analysis of embodied carbon associated with residential construction.
 - Airport advisory committee and associated upcoming airport work
- General state of the industry (AGC information):
 - Challenges
 - Nationwide – material cost inflation, supply chain disruptions, shipping/port issues.
 - Shipping has been prolonged over the last year but in the last month ports are struggling to manage cargo ships and unloading activities and manage customs load – unprecedented shipping disruption
 - Commodity price volatility
 - S&P information - Commodity investors appear to be affecting futures based on concerns over a global push to reduce carbon emissions
 - Diesel price escalation
 - Hurricane related disruptions on Gulf area chemical producers for the plastics industry
 - Construction start data shows month over month increases
 - Architectural billings index – continues to be a high index number indicating strong likelihood of strong market for the next year.
- Locally
 - Personal observation: Work outside of the upper valley is plentiful, most of the working people come from well outside of the upper valley – there is a trend

where working people would prefer not to travel as far for work if they don't have to. I foresee a scenario where this creates scarcity and inflates the cost of labor in the upper valley until the general market cools. Market cooling does not appear to be within sight.

- Having infrastructure projects ready to go for when the general market cools would be nice to cushion any future decline in work.

Bill Tomcich: We are moving into the traditional October flight schedule. Light on capacity beginning of December and then we ramp up and offer full winter schedule. Reminder, always subject to change. Airlines are seeing a pilot shortage. We will see upcoming winter at record capacity.

Maria Morrow: Recommendation to Major Torre, regarding the pedestrian safety plan. Thankful for the city reaching out to the local businesses. There needs to be a standard by which we can measure whether these changes will impact businesses. Anticipate what could go wrong for business, and monitor. After the experiment, let's discuss what we learned. Aspen is a true commercial core and there needs to be parking spots for the local businesses.

Donnie Lee: The Gant is wrapping up a very busy summer. October is looking strong. January continues to be a hole without international business. Summer was a success, but not without some pains. Downtown was designed to have limited parking. How do we amend and adapt to change? How do we get creative and how to look at the situation? We are in the Western part of the country, and a reality is everyone drives.

Rose Abello: September has been busy in Snowmass. Last weekend to ride the gondola. Thursday is the last for summer concerts. Weddings are keeping Snowmass busy, however due to mask mandate, people are cancelling or postponing once again, also seeing hybrid conferences.

Lisa LeMay: Lisa commented on the Centennial owners scheduling meetings with tenants during the day, when everyone works.

Heather Steenge Hart: Thank you for a very engaging meeting and for sharing the downtown pedestrian plan with us - it is great to have insight and information. Thank you, ACRA, for all your involvement in making F&W such a success and for your enthusiasm and passion. Great lunch at The Jerome - thank you to that team as well. Nina is correct - a lot of wedding activity and bookings for the Hospitality sector. The St. Regis Aspen will have their seasonal closure from October 25th through November 18th.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.