CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Walls called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Mr. Walls moved the January 23 Minutes without objection. Ms. Horiuchi seconded.

BAB BUDGET
Not reviewed or discussed at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
No comments.

Mayor Mike Coffman

ACTION ITEM: Mayor Coffman updated the board on the issue of crime that is affecting Aurora businesses. There has been retail theft, break-ins from homelessness and vandalism. There have been complaints about trash in the city and he believes this is happening due to cameras, with the I-225 corridor being the worst, he will follow up with CDOT to help initiate cleanup efforts. Mayor Hancock, Mayor Suthers and Mayor Coffman had met regarding crime prevention issues. He believes in increasing pay for the Aurora Police Department, although they are still short of officers. Currently, the city is authorized to have 728 officers and there are 680 officers, with the hopes of 20 – 25 in the pipeline. This is an issue because when there is a shortage of officers, there must be sacrifices made, in this case, car patrol. The Police Area Representative (PAR) is an important program, particularly for businesses in Aurora because it assigns an officer to the area. This builds relationships between businesses and the Police Department. Being fully staffed will ensure programs
such as PAR and gang intervention can operate. State Legislature and the Governor had been asked to reconsider signing off on decreasing crime penalties because it has increased gun rights to some serious crimes that were previously felonies and are now misdemeanors. This restored a lot of gun rights to a lot of categorical crimes. Penalties for burglary, drug distribution, auto theft and more have been lowered to below $2,000 and now with gun rights being restored, people who are committing these crimes are now doing so with firearms. An additional request to the legislators was to expand the number of beds available to hold juveniles before trial was made so as not to mix them with adults. Essentially, violent juveniles are being arrested, released and often miss their court dates. Another proposal is to make motor vehicle theft a felony, as this has become an enormous problem in Colorado. Mayor Coffman hopes the legislature will increase the efforts to stop ghost guns and to make having a ghost gun a felony, as people are able to acquire one without a cleared background check, being mentally handicapped and have the ability to buy non-serialized firearms online. A proposal to grant monies for license plate readers has also been made. The Mayor is confident that resolutions can be made locally, but support from the legislation is essential to move forward.

**APPROVAL OF BAB BYLAWS**

There is an ordinance or bylaw requirement to approve the bylaws every two years. Mr. Walls proposed a change in Article VII, Section D. Article VII refers to “Organization and Officers” and Section D to the “Election of Officers”. With busy schedules happening this year, he wanted to push elections off until April, which in Section VII states that the election shall occur on the third month of the year. He proposed to change Section VII - D in alignment with the third meeting of the year rather than the third month of the year. It is also stated in Article VIII, of “Voting” when voting occurs but in Article VII, Section D “Election of Officers”, states that voting shall occur in April. Mr Walls proposed amending April to the third regular meeting of the year. Mr. Wall proposed that in Article X, of “Frequency of Meetings” that since Juneteenth had been admitted as a change to the city holiday schedule, this be reflected in the bylaws. The proposal here is to change January, February and June to having the meetings on the fourth Monday of the month instead of the third Monday of the month.

Mr. Fryberger mentioned that at the credit union, they had amended their bylaws to include the option to hold their meetings virtually. They use the language “hybrid” being in person, or via Zoom, as long as there is a quorum. Mr. Walls proposed to add to Article IV, “Place of Meetings” language that includes a hybrid option by adding, “or in a virtual format if necessary”.

Mr. Walls moved to change the final sentence in Article VII, Section D., to say the election of officers will be aligned with the third regular meeting of the year rather than April. Ms. Horiuchi seconded. No comments were made, and the members approved. Mr. Walls moved to change the final sentence in Article X to add the month of June to bring the schedule of meetings in alignment with the city holiday schedule. Ms. Pace seconded the motion. No comments were made, and the members approved. Mr. Walls motioned to change the wording in Article IV, the Place of Meetings, to add a virtual format option at the end of the sentence. Mr. Boyd seconded them. No comments were made, and the members approved.

**Licensing – Trevor Vaughn**

**ACTION ITEM: No items this month**

**Update Arts and Entertainment Study – Andrea Amonick**
ACTION ITEM: Mr. Walls and Ms. Fender will coordinate next steps with MPT Gardner and bring back report to next BAB meeting to decide on next steps

BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS NOMINATIONS – REVIEW AND SELECTION

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Wall presented the voting form for the awards and instructions on use. There are no manufacturing nominations; therefore, it was changed to recognize businesses in the service and hospitality industries in the fourth section of the award categories. All votes will be collected Friday, March 24, 2023. This year the BAB had received the more nominations than other years. Mr. Walls opened a discussion to organize a watch party at a local business and at the same time launch the nominations for next year. Mr. Joel Boyd offered to host the event at the Aurora Town Center. He indicated they have done events of this nature in the past and there is plenty of parking. Ms. Horiuchi volunteered to assist with goodie bags and baskets for the awards with the help of Elena Vasconez.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Council Member Bergan – Mr. Liles
Mr. Liles updated on Southlands. During its first quarter, it acquired new leases with Nordstroms Rack, Lululemon, and Daily Threads.

Council Member Marcano - Ms. Pace
Ms. Pace updated that Council Member Marcano is running for mayor. A follow-up on childcare will be made to ensure that the Council Member responds to Mr. Walls. A new program called the Colorado Department of Health and Environment Technical Assistance Program (CDHE) was created to support cities, towns, and counties’ waste diversion efforts. Its goals for recycling and composting across the state cannot be enforced, but in the meantime, CDHE is finding ways to use the state resources to improve waste management in Aurora.

Council Member Jurinsky - Ms. Horiuchi
Ms. Horiuchi updated that council members Gardner, Lawson, and Zvonek will host a town hall on March 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Southeast Rec Center.

Council Member Murillo - Mr. Fryberger
Mr. Fryberger was out last month and did not have any updates.

Council Member Zvonek – Mr. Boyd
Mr. Boyd supported Ms. Horiuchi’s announcement about the town hall meeting and that he is meeting with Council Member Zvonek regarding the police substation. The station is relocating and is seeking more funding. Although $40,000 was approved, more is needed.

Council Member Medina – Ms. Woodson
Ms. Woodson did not have any updates from Council Member Medina.

Council Member Lawson – Mr. Sarwal
Mr. Sarwal updated that he and Council Member Lawson have been visiting schools and providing vaccinations for refugees and immigrants. Their work with the Department of Public Health has effectively supported different communities, languages, and cultural barriers.

**Council Member Coombs – Michele Redding**
No contact

**Council Member Gardner – Shannon Fender**
No contact

**COMMANDER WRIGHT**

Commander Write introduced recently sworn Fire Chief Alec Oughton to the group. Mr. Walls proposed a reception and a meeting with the BAB along with the business and development community at large.

**ARTS AND VENUES STUDY**

Ms. Fender presented an update on the Event Venue and Cultural Arts. They heard from a panel, from Parker Arts, Lakewood Cultural Center, Northglenn, Broadmoor World Arena, Pikes Peak Center, and Arvada Center. However, the panel was not inclusive of the vision of the BAB. All of the organizations that presented were subsidized and are reliant on the city for revenue, none of them were private groups. Ms. Fender had mentioned to Council Member Gardner that making a private group panel was suggested to broaden the options away from city-owned and managed to learn from for-profit entities. She noted she is hoping that there will be an opportunity to hear from the for-profit entities that operate different organizations around the metro area.

Mr. Walls stated that the approval from PED would allow the economic study to move forward and then to include Council Member Gardener to ask for direction to get an RFP together that will be interesting for stakeholders. Ms. Fender responded that an investigation would be conducted first to clarify if two separate ideas are happening or if it is still conclusive to one. Mr. Walls concluded that the latest stakeholder meeting seemed to be a city-funded subsidized cultural experience. Still, for the business community and the community at large, an exciting venue needs to be made to bring a clear and unified vision, and he asked Council Member Gardner his thoughts.

Council Member Gardner responded that he was frustrated and concerned that the vision of the council and Board needed to be in alignment, believing that the conflict is mainly between entertainment and cultural facilities. He thought it was made very clear that the council's direction was that we wanted to see, not just arts and entertainment venues, but look at those as a way to diversify the revenues from bars, restaurants, hotels, sports, books. His concern has been that staff is looking at models such as the Arvada center, and just wanting to recreate that in Aurora and then saying, Okay, we're done, we built a cultural facility. And while he certainly thinks that there's a need for that, something like that in a city of our size, he does not want that to be the end of the process. You know, the Arvada center certainly puts on some great programming, but it is still heavily subsidized by the city of Arvada. And for anybody who has been there, there are no bars, there are no restaurants, there is nothing around that facility. And so that concept does not meet the goal of bringing in that entertainment dollar from both Aurora residents as well as other residents in the metro area. And it does not accomplish the goal of getting them to spend additional dollars, which is sales tax revenue, back to the city.
Mr. Walls responded that he would follow up to ensure everybody is on the same page with what is being asked for at PED and to put it on the calendar for the meeting in April to decide on next steps for the BAB.

Mr. Walls moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 AM. Ms. Horiuchi seconded.

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- Shared via chat:
  - Carolyn Pace
    - Both sound reasonable!
  - Joel Boyd
    - You still have me on mute
  - Chance Horiuchi
    - Congrats!
  - Chance Horiuchi
    2023 At Large Town Hall Meetings MPT Gardner, CM Jurinsky, CM Lawson and CM Zvonek
    Wednesday, March 29, 6 - 8:00 p.m. Southeast Recreation Center, 25400 E. Alexander Drive.
    Learn More Here: [https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/mayor___city_council/mayor___council_members/danielle_jurinsky](https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/mayor___city_council/mayor___council_members/danielle_jurinsky)

**APPROVED:**

Garrett Walls, Chairperson