

MINUTES FOR THE
BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, May 10th, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call

The following members of the Business Advisory Board were present:

Jeff Carleton, Chair
Scott Lyttle
Pook Carson
Abudujannah Soud
Siliveinusi Niu

Andy Robertson, Vice-Chair
Darin Piccoli
Alfonso Brito
Jocelyn Kearn

The following members of the Business Advisory Board were absent:

Karen Gunn

Sue Rice

Also Present:

Veronica Cavanagh, Department of Economic Development; Lorena Rizzo Jenson, Department of Economic Development; Roberta Reichgelt, Department of Economic Development; Will Wright, Department of Economic Development; Cathie Rigby, Department of Economic Development; Andie Feldman: Department of Economic Development; Peter Makowski, Department of Economic Development; Lindsey Day, Department of Economic Development; Mayor Erin Mendenhall; Andrew Johnston, Director of Homeless and Outreach; Heather Wall, LDS Hospital; Michelle Saucedo, Suazo Business Center.

2. Business

A. Homelessness updates and business impact discussion

Mayor Erin Mendenhall started the discussion of homelessness as a significant and emotional issue in the City. She explained the Mayor's Office have been dedicating a substantial amount of time to address this issue since day one of the administration. The perception of Salt Lake City as the sole creator and resolver of homelessness needs to change. She said that this perspective is detrimental and does not emphasize that homelessness is a statewide crisis not just a Salt Lake City crisis.

Mayor Mendenhall discussed the factors contributing to the crisis, such as the housing shortage, economic impacts of the pandemic, and the fallout of the mental health system. She noted that homelessness has been concentrated primarily in Salt Lake City and St. George. She highlighted the State's commitment to affordable housing and the City's investments in affordable housing projects. She emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the City, State, and County in addressing homelessness.

Mayor Mendenhall introduced Andrew Johnston, Director of Homeless Policy and Outreach, as a crucial member of the team responsible for leading homeless policy for the City. Mr. Johnston provided his background as a social worker and his extensive experience in the homeless services industry. He then provided a presentation regarding the City's homelessness.

Mr. Johnston mentioned that the City is actively searching for suitable land, ideally 10 to 20 acres, to address housing needs. The location should have some distance from heavy residential and commercial areas.

Mr. Johnston discussed the need for better public dissemination of information and the challenge of ensuring that the work done over the years reaches the public effectively. He mentioned the involvement of the State Homelessness Council and emphasized the importance of involving the business community and political circles in understanding the state strategic plan. Mayor Mendenhall emphasized the need for collaboration and the collective effort required to address homelessness effectively. She mentioned the partnerships established and the progress made with the support of state and county funding. Mayor Mendenhall also acknowledged the challenges in communicating the ongoing efforts to the public and expressed gratitude for Mr. Johnston's leadership in this regard. She also told the BAB how grateful she is that they want to help in getting the information out there.

B. Intermountain Healthcare at Sears Block

Heather Wall introduced herself as the Hospital Administrator at LDS Hospital and gave a presentation on how Intermountain Health would like to move forward with the purchase of the Sears block in downtown Salt Lake City. Here are some brief discussion points:

- Ms. Wall stated that the purchase of the Sears block downtown by Intermountain Health has been in the works for over a year and they have proposed changing the zoning from D2 to D1 and are awaiting approval from the city.
- Intermountain Healthcare contracts with large employers to bring patients from across the country for joint replacements and bariatric surgery so they need a location where it is easily accessible for patients, close to public transit, and offers outdoor space for patients and caregivers. She discussed the need for wraparound services and the benefits of having hotel and restaurant connections nearby.
- The new downtown location would bring approximately 1,700 caregivers, but traffic flow would remain like the current hospital location in Salt Lake City.

- Intermountain Health aims to build a long-term anchor and destination location for healthcare downtown.
- Ms. Wall said the opening date of the new hospital depends on various factors, including zoning approval and issuing the Request for Proposal (RFP). The aim is to open the building as quickly as possible, ensuring patient accessibility and safety. However, no specific date was mentioned.

3. Approval of the minutes

A. Review and Approval of March 8th, 2023, BAB Minutes

Mr. Piccoli made a motion to approve the minutes from March 8th, 2023, meeting. Mr. Soud seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

4. City Council Announcements

No announcements.

5. Briefings by the Staff

Construction Mitigation Grant

Ms. Reichgelt updated the BAB regarding the Construction Mitigation Grant. Economic Development have exhausted the \$200,000 and have asked the Mayor for more funds. She approved it and it will now go in front of Council for approval.

Living Traditions

Ms. Reichgelt let the BAB know that Living Traditions Festival will happen on May 19th to the 21st. The festival will feature live performances, unique traditions, and diverse cultures.

Small Business Week

Ms. Reichgelt discussed Small Business Week which happened the week prior. They celebrated local small businesses and visited various businesses such as Curry Fried Chicken, Sapa, Tacos Don Rafa, Global Place, Pacific Seas, and Noor.

ARPA

Mr. Andersen gave three updates regarding ARPA:

1. Over 40 businesses were awarded the ARPA grants in Phase 1. Checks have started to be distributed.
2. Currently working with the Community Recovery Committee to allocate \$500,000 to nonprofits.

3. The application process of the second phase of the individual small business grant closed on April 18th and they have received over 100 applications.

6. BAB Member Announcements

Chairperson Carleton discussed a volunteer opportunity that Vice-chair Robertson organized for the BAB at the Women's Resource Center through Volunteers of America in Salt Lake City. He recently went there to volunteer and said it was a great experience.

Vice-chair Robertson discussed the Mayor's Community Outreach Office hours which is the Mayor's team of community liaisons going out into different neighborhoods for discussions on constituents needs, feedback for the Mayor, or help navigating the City. BAB members can find out where they are hosting the office hours at <https://www.slc.gov/mayor/home/community-outreach>.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Jeffrey C Carleton (Aug 18, 2023 09:45 MDT)

Jeff Carleton, Chairperson

This document and the recording constitute the official minutes of the Economic Development Business Advisory Board meeting held on May 10th, 2023.

BAB Minutes 05.10.23

Final Audit Report

2023-08-18

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