

CapitolRiver Council Board Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

Present: Will Travis, Linda McBrayer, Erin Zolotukhin-Ridgway, Josh Vang, Julie Printz, Victoria Fritz, Jon Fure, Amada Duerr, Meredith Henghan, Brett Bacon

1. Meeting commenced at 5:15 p.m. with introductions and the reading of the Land Acknowledgement
2. Previous meeting minutes: Jon asked people to send him feedback later as the minutes were lengthy.
3. Financial Update: Jon/Will presented financial statements including the Statement of financial position (assets/liabilities) and Statement of activities which details each category of revenues and expenses.

A question was raised about with/without donor restrictions. Will explained that “with” means it is allocated (or designated) to particular projects. All the money is reimbursed – the city authorizes the money (the workplan is required for this), and the CRC spends down its reserves. Once the contract is approved the CRC starts getting paid by the city. Community Engagement Contract is the largest amount.

4. Draft budget for 2024: Jon shared the draft budget. The budget is the CRC’s best estimate of income and expenses. City contract is \$62,922. This item would include grants but the CRC doesn’t have grants presently.

Items of note: Insurance and rent are going up (lease is up June 1, 2024). CRC could save on rent by moving to the Landmark Center (\$200 less in rent a month, and would be able to carry less liability insurance). Jon included moving expenses in case a move is imminent.

The designated category is money given for something in particular, i.e. if someone donated snacks for a meeting. Jon currently parks at TPT ramp.

Amy Lee is working on applying for some grants (Knight Foundation). CRC could also do a fundraising blitz. Amy was hired a year ago to do some event coordination and strategic planning funded in part by a stipend from the JCs.

5. Proposed Skyway Ordinance: A proposed ordinance will give the City some additional tools to enforce some skyway-related violations. A public hearing is scheduled for December 6. The CRC Skyway Governance Advisory Committee supports the proposed ordinance. More information is posted on the CRC website (under the heading News and FYIs).

6. Continued discussion about goals for 2024: Board members were asked to provide feedback on each of the following themes:

Safety, Livability and Vibrancy – covered in the October meeting.

Community Building

- a) CRC facilitates/encourages public forums & meetups.
 - a. Acts as a sounding board and directs voices to official bodies – i.e. government agencies, departments (as in Public Realm and Skyway Governance committee).

- b) CRC promotes volunteerism or partners with other organizations to do so.
- c) Connects people with ways to help improve the community, using 2024 as a momentum builder.
 - a) Promotes sense of belonging & ownership.
 - b) Builds ways to know neighbors beyond the building one lives in.
 - c) Inspires stakeholders to care collectively about the community (residents, workers and building owners). (Jon gave an example of how district councils worked together to influence restaurant take out containers – the CRC understands what the community feels passionate about.)
 - d) Promotes sense of ownership in downtown (people feel less like something is broken and someone else, i.e. government needs to fix it)
 - e) Encourages attendance at community events, to interact with the city, develop recommendations for local government.

Collaboration with other organizations/community partners (identifying shared interests, serving on boards or committees for other nonprofits, or for the City or County)

- a) Partners with DT alliance on items such as:
 - a. Art installations.
 - b. Help at Dorothy Day.
 - c. Gather feedback about people’s attitudes about downtown.
 - d. Share info with residents and downtown workers.
 - e. Understand what people need/want to know about downtown.
- b) Engages in coalition-building/information sharing with organizations whose work overlaps and identify top priorities and potential partners (no need to reinvent the wheel).
- c) Identifies new ideas for outreach (i.e. talk to people waiting for a show at the Palace. Doing outreach – making sure people know about these organizations.
- d) Creates a flyer/brochure about community partners/organizations.

CRC Visibility (community engagement, succession planning, volunteer recruitment)

- a) Hosts Community Resource Fair to highlight the work of downtown organizations including CRC.
- b) Includes CRC information into Welcome Packets in residential buildings.
- c) Creates regular CRC newsletter or has CRC info included in other publications/email lists.
- d) Builds community awareness that CRC represents downtown stakeholders/residents/workers.
- e) Strategizes best communication vehicles (Facebook, email lists, other) and develops communication plan. Develops an effective elevator speech.
- f) Uses marketing to build awareness, starting with something simple (i.e. table three successful events in the next year).
- g) Modernizes and refreshes the website so that the CRC appears to be actively functioning.
- h) New and diverse individuals desire CRC board positions, attend meetings and work on CRC behalf.
- i) CRC is viewed as an effective body and people see themselves as participants in CRC work.
- j) Community understands the purpose of CRC:
 - a. Community-building
 - b. Involvement of stakeholders in policy work and advocacy.

c. Is an organization that can't be ignored, that has influence in policy.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

December meeting will meet at an establishment for happy hour.