

Niwot Local Improvement District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, August 7, 2018
Mt. View Fire and Rescue Station
8500 Niwot Road
Niwot, CO

Present: Laura Skaggs, Scott Firle, Bruce Rabeler, Anne Postle, Jay Champion

Guests: Kathy Koehler, Chuck Klueber, Jocelyn Rowley

Staff: Mark Ruzzin

Call to Order:

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The board considered the July 3, 2018 meeting minutes.

ACTION: On a motion from Anne, second by Scott, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 3, 2018 meeting minutes, as presented. Bruce and Jay abstained, as they did not attend the July meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Mark provided a spreadsheet of the funding requests that have been approved through July 2018. Through July 2018, the board has spent \$20,104 more than its approved budget of \$132,854. Mark pointed out that it is typical for the board to request a budget supplemental in the fall of the year, to ensure that the LID has the necessary funds available to reimburse for the projects and events that it approves. Bruce asked about the LID's reserve and its current total, and if it's expected that any costs associated with constructing a parking lot on the newly acquired BNSF property are to come from the reserve. Mark reminded the board that the LID purchased the property with funds from its reserve; after the transaction was completed, the reserve fund level stood at \$70-80,000. Although the LID has currently spent about \$153,000 year-to-date, the district is on pace to collect \$185,000 in 2018.

Bruce suggested that the board be cautious in its spending of reserve funds, as it should keep an eye on the big picture and begin dedicating or saving money for the eventual construction of a parking lot. Bruce also pointed out that between the \$5,000 misappropriation to the LID by the state, which will have to be returned, and with Colterra and Powder Keg Brewery no longer operating, LID collections for 2018 may not be as robust as in past years.

The board acknowledged that it will be important to rebuild the LID reserve to provide freedom and flexibility to meet community needs as they emerge, including construction of a parking lot when the time comes.

Bruce, Harris, Dawn Brashford-Page of the county Budget Office, and Mark will meet to begin the transition of Bruce to the role of LID treasurer.

Funding Requests:

1. Niwot Business Association – Community Corner Art – \$2,000

Chuck Klueber presented the funding request on behalf of the Niwot Business Association. The Community Corner was designed to include seven locations within the project to install artwork, as an attraction to draw pedestrians between Cottonwood Square and Old Town. The art will be initially installed on a rotating, consignment basis.

A seven-member Art Committee has been formed, including membership from various Niwot associations and groups, and also including Catherine McHale, Niwot's economic development director. Catherine has met with the head of Longmont's Art in Public Places program, and solicited a number of ideas that can be brought to the Niwot program. For example, the Longmont program offers a stipend of \$750 to artists for contributing artwork to their program. Niwot would also like to offer a stipend, with the requirement that the artist commit to displaying the work for one year, while looking to solicit artwork from local and/or Colorado artists. Artists will be asked to pay for shipping and insurance costs, with the Art Committee responsible for installation costs.

Catherine has created a Call to Artists, which will be distributed broadly by the Longmont Art in Public Places program and the NBA, with the goal of having the first piece of art installed in the September/October timeframe.

In respect to the funding request, in addition to the \$750 artist stipend, as artwork gets installed, the plan is to hold a People's Choice competition, and provide the winning artist with a \$250 cash award. The request also contemplates spending up to \$1,000 for installing the artwork, and \$500 for ongoing maintenance of the art. Both the NBA and the NCAA have committed \$250 each to the project. Thus, \$2,000 is being requested from the LID.

Laura pointed out that this is a new project for the LID. Scott asked if the LID has a list of other funding requests that it is expected to receive for the rest of the year. Mark mentioned that the annual Halloween Parade funding request is expected to come in in September, and the NBA is planning to submit the Second Avenue tree project funding request in October. Even with these projects, it's likely that the LID will collect more in 2018 than it will spend.

Bruce suggested that creating a budgeting tool to help the board forecast future expenditures would be useful.

Bruce mentioned that he knows people who are active with the Lafayette public art program, and he would be happy to connect Chuck to these folks. He asked if \$750 is enough to attract quality artwork. Chuck replied that according to the Longmont program manager, this amount has worked well for their program and is expected to create enough of an incentive for quality art.

ACTION: On a motion from Jay, seconded by Scott, the board voted unanimously to APPROVE the funding request of \$2,000.

Anne and Chuck clarified that the individual artists will carry insurance to cover any liability for the artwork, while the NCAA's liability insurance will cover any risk associated with the Community Corner installation.

New Business/Old Business:

Kathy Koehler provided the board with an update on the Fourth of July parade and the Fire House Museum project. The Fourth of July parade spent \$1,500 of the \$1,540 awarded to it by the LID. The Niwot Community Association contributed \$3,975 to the event, bringing the total cost to \$5,475. The board commented on the quality of the event.

Regarding the Fire House Museum project, Kathy reported that the overall project cost was over \$14,700, with \$5,000 coming from the LID. \$20,000 total has been raised for the renovation project, all of which will be spent on the museum, either to complete final items for the renovation or for displays and exhibits inside the museum. The museum was open on July 4, and received much attention from visitors to Old Town. Going forward, how often the museum is open to the public will be dependent on how many volunteers the NCA can recruit to staff it. Managing the volunteer schedule is a significant amount of work for the NCA, not to mention that the museum has no heat or air conditioning, and it can get very warm or very cold in the building itself. Mark reported that the reimbursement requests for both projects have been forwarded to the county Budget Office.

Mark pointed out the drawings he sent to the board of the concrete repair work that the county is hoping to complete in Old Town and in other locations in Niwot. Of primary interest is the improvement planned for the island at the intersection of Niwot Road and Second Avenue. This improvement will bring the island into ADA compliance, amongst other things. Dave Webster of the county Transportation Department informed Mark that the county hopes to complete the work this fall, with project construction beginning in October. Dave does not expect the project to affect Old Town parking, and the county will instruct the contractor to stage equipment in locations other than in parking spaces. The island project will likely take three to five days to complete, and is weather dependent.

The board discussed the island project and some of the other repairs that will be completed throughout town.

Jay asked about the initial indebtedness taken on by the community and the mechanics of how things were developed initially for the LID. The board discussed the possibility of going back to the bond

market to create an infusion of cash that the LID could dedicate to a second round of public infrastructure capital improvements in and around Old Town, including for such projects as sidewalk repairs, place-making initiatives, and perhaps even the future parking lot, as an alternative to saving money on an annual basis to complete projects on an ad hoc basis.

Anne asked if a subcommittee of LID board members could be formed to explore this idea in more detail. This subcommittee could coordinate with other efforts like the NBA's Vision 2027 committee to create a big picture infrastructure plan for the community.

The board discussed some of the opportunities that could be captured with a bonding measure. The board also discussed the possibility of discussing this approach with the county commissioners at the October 23 joint meeting. Anne will broach the idea with Jim Ditzel of Summit Commercial, who is leading the Vision 2027 committee work.

The board spent some time discussing the implications of dedicating a portion of its annual tax revenues to bond repayment, as opposed to having the money being available for community events. This issue will need to be part of any future conversation around the best and highest use of the LID's revenues.

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present for public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.