

Auraria Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 27,
2023
8:00 a.m.
Tivoli 320

Tracy M. Huggins
Governor Appointment

Paul Washington
Governor Appointment

Kate Barton
Governor Appointment

Marielena DeSanctis
President, Community College of Denver

Rollie Heath
State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education

Janine Davidson
President, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Albus Brooks
Metropolitan State University of Denver Board of Trustees

Jerry Glick
Metropolitan State University of Denver Board of Trustees

Michelle Marks
Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

Lesley Smith
University of Colorado Board of Regents Appointment

Zsuzsa Balogh
Representative, Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

Gabe Trujillo
Representative, Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

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Auraria Higher Education Center
Office of the Chief Executive Officer
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Phone: (303) 556-3291
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1. Call to Order

Tracy Huggins called the meeting to order at 8:09 AM

2. Auraria Land Acknowledgement

Shaneis Malouff, AHEC's Chief of Staff, read the Auraria Land Acknowledgement.

3. Recognition of New Members:

New Board members Jerry Glick, MSU Trustee, Zsuzsa Balogh, FACAB Representative, and Gabe Trujillo, SACAB Representative, were welcomed and introduced.

4. Election of Officers:

Per Auraria Board Bylaws, the election of Chair and Vice Chair are conducted at the first regular meeting of each fiscal year. The Chair and Vice Chair must be nominated from the governor appointments only.

Dr. Davidson nominated Tracy Huggins for Chair and Kate Barton as Vice Chair. Paul Washington seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of minutes of the June 28, 2023, meeting and August 18, 2023, special session (attachment: Proposed minutes of the June 28th, 2023, meeting of the Auraria Board of Directors)

(attachment: Proposed minutes of the August 18, 2023, special session of the Auraria Board of Directors)

Recommended Motion: Auraria Board of Directors approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023, and August 18, 2023, meetings, as presented.

Dr. Marks motioned to pass for the approval for minutes. Paul Washington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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6. **Consent Agenda: Policy Approval** (attachment: **Division of Campus Planning and Sustainability Mission and Structure, Division of Finance Mission and Structure, Finance and Business Services Subdivision Mission and Structure, Controller's Office Mission and Structure, Procurement Services Department Mission and Structure, Information and Technology Department Mission and Structure, Parking and Transportation Department Mission and Structure**)
- a. **Division of Campus Planning and Sustainability and Structure**
 - b. **Division of Finance Mission and Structure**
 - c. **Finance and Business Services Subdivision Mission and Structure**
 - d. **Budget Financial Planning Department Mission and Structure**
 - e. **Controller's Office Mission and Structure**
 - f. **Distribution Services Department Mission and Structure**
 - g. **Procurement Services Department Mission and Structure**
 - h. **Information and Technology Department Mission and Structure**
 - i. **Parking and Transportation Department Mission and Structure**

Tracy mentioned that these have been distributed previously to the board and presented to the institutions. She also thanked Skip for all the work pulling these all together.

Recommended Motion: That the Auraria Board of Directors approve the policies as presented.

Paul Washington motioned to approve the policies as presented; Rollie Heath seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Master Plan Update**

Tracy introduced Carl to present the Master Plan.

Carl explained that we are in the middle of phase two of the plan. Phase one focused on discovery and analysis studying the campus.

In phase two, the focus has been on student, staff, faculty, and community engagement, taking in all information to come up with three design concept alternatives. The final plan will be a mix of all three ideas.

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Final strategic plans from all four institutions have been received.

Sasaki mentioned that downtown is very busy with housing to the North and South and West, but the Auraria Campus is a housing desert.

Tracy asked the presenters if they could go back a couple of slides of presentation so the board can spend a little time looking at mission, vision and guiding principles.

The guiding vision and principles were formed by the steering committee. Creating an active campus that supports student success and institutional identity as well as creating a complete community on campus.

Albus Brooks began the discussion. From a land use perspective, what kinds of opportunities do we have on this campus? Are there any other restrictions like Ball Arena or River Mile? We should look for opportunity in future planning for the next 20 years.

Josh ** from Sasaki responded: AHEC doesn't have to follow city zoning. One of the biggest benefits is that AHEC wouldn't have to go through an entitlement process, which is a very long process. Permits will still need to be applied for. The ability to do a 30-year vision is much quicker for entities such as Ball Arena or River Mile, which is one of the biggest benefits from a development standpoint. It would be beneficial to be a good neighbor to Ball Arena/River Mile. Pertinent aspects that will fit in with a larger context and relationship within the city will be considered.

Historically, Auraria has functioned as a commuter campus. Being able to provide students with access to housing is an incredible opportunity. Sasaki added that they have partnered with the city because they are doing a Speer Boulevard study with lots of partnership opportunities. They will talk to developers as well, in addition to looking at both the Auraria Parkway and Speer Blvd crossings to make it safer for everyone to cross. The plan doesn't guarantee housing for everyone, but partnerships are being developed to make it easier to get to campus.

Tracy asked Jerry Glick if he had any questions.

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Mr. Glick asked about the 5280 trail as it relates to the Speer Boulevard project.

Josh from Sasaki answered that the 5280 Trail is a part of the landscape opportunity slide, especially with all housing elements of green space. Not sticking strictly to the alignment because a design is still being studied that better interacts with the 5280 loop and provides the most traffic through campus. The proposed redevelopment by KSEt, north of campus, brings an exciting opportunity to connect campus to Union Station and LoDo. It will be very intentional with how student, faculty and staff connect to LoDo especially on Lawrence and Larimer across from Speer since that is primary connection to downtown now. Although, it may change if people choose to cross over into KSE's development area, especially if there is a lot of activity over there. We will have to wait and see how transformational it will be for the campus. There is a potential partnership with Kroenke on how to reduce Auraria parkway to slow it down and make it a much more pedestrian friendly environment.

Sasaki mentions that COVID exposed AHEC's financial weaknesses by relying on parking, when parking didn't exist during COVID.

Lesley Smith mentioned her experience from UCCS, going from no housing to housing made huge impact on campus and the feel. Mentions how great it has been for UCD to have housing.

Leslie asked a question regarding safety. Colfax feels like a freeway and having lots of students going across campus to that neighborhood is not safe right now.

Jason agreed. He is concerned about increasing the population of the area but can find a great solution and handle the influx of people and activity in the area. There will be a change in active hours from Monday through Thursday to 24/7 365 days on campus.

Leslie concludes. Kate asked which questions in the open houses surprised them.

The surprise that the team saw was how clear it was for a desire for higher density population housing, though there are more concerns about what will happen across campus.

Kate asked who else they needed to hear from to help in this process.

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Sasaki mentions that two open houses have been conducted. A set of focus groups with the city and the state, developers across Auraria parkway, SACAB, FACAB, and the community. In the process of schedule, a meeting for input with the Northern Arapahoe and Cheyenne Tribes, and the displaced Aurarians, along with other neighborhood, civic, and historical organizations such as History Colorado, Historical Denver. Finally meeting with a few more focus groups. A survey has been conducted and is open until the end of October.

Michelle began by thanking the team for all their hard work. She mentioned how commuters will always be an important part of urban institutions to students of all ages including staff. With 2-3 RTD stops located on campus, these are big opportunities since the campus will always remain a commuter campus regardless of housing.

Sasaki responded that transportation to campus and improved infrastructure is a desire for everyone. Looking at where light rail stations are currently, they are located in the lowest densely populated areas. Different models could reduce costs for students and work for both commuters and people who live on campus.

Gabe asked what is considered the definition of student housing. Is it just an individual student by themselves or with a family? How old are the students?

Josh responded that student housing can be a range of students meaning traditional school housing, public private partnership, or market average housing. Thinking about certain demographics is important.

Zsuzsa asked which one out of the three plans so far is the favorite. There is no favorite. We are still in the early stages of engagement. Next stage will really focus on the three ideas to get a better understanding.

Tracy motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:39AM. Kate Barton seconded.

8. Executive Session

The Auraria Board of Directors will enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

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9. Public Comment (5 minutes)

SACAB representative from CU Denver, Mitchell Mauro introduced himself and told everyone he was looking forward to working together over the next year.

Michael Warner made a comment about storage space in Tivoli student center. There is a lack of communication about space. Pricing has gone up and there hasn't been enough communication on it. Student organizations are temporarily storing stuff in their own institutions' government offices

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 AM.