

## January Meeting ED Notes

### **C4C General Updates**

- Q4 state report is due by end of the month.
- I have no new updates to the sports and event center or the AFA. State EDC has called me on both seeking new news.4
- We just completed requisition number 9 for the museum.
- Museum: Will be bringing forth some other options to present to the board regarding investment of funds.
- Infrastructure: Req 1 will be coming soon and I've been working with city staff to make sure the process is as clean as possible with the new independent engineer and us.

### **S/W Downtown**

- Smart City video of Panasonic's full press conference at the Consumer Electronics Show where they announced the partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the U.S. Olympic Museum. Here is a link to the video (COS portion starts around 22:50 of the video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I13BUTvVhLg>

### **City Aud:**

- Blight study process started last week.

### **S. Nevada:**

- Bonds and assignments on today's agenda

### **Polaris Point/Copper Ridge:**

- Signs going up now/soon

### **GENERAL UPDATES:**

- 1) The Shook's run draft implementation plan should be completed soon but the internal team is still working on some internal remarks from various divisions within the city. Stantec is still running some potential grant and funding opportunities that could be secured or partnered up with other mechanisms like Urban Renewal.
- 2) Spent quite a bit of time with the Urban Land Institute going over the healthy places study that they did on the S/E side. I can provide links to the current report but here are the assignments and suggestions:

- The assignment was to make the case for investment, both public and private, for projects that increase community connections (physical, social, economic) and are also market sensitive. Provide financing and organization strategies for these projects.
- Apply the principles of building healthy places and experiential solutions to identify and prioritize projects that are both responsive to community needs and in alignment with the strategic direction of the City and region.
- Recommend realistic and resident-driven strategies to activate vacant spaces (buildings, parking lots, land) and underutilized public places that encourage community development.
- Prioritize ideas from existing plans and seek opportunities to implement those that have the potential to impact both community and economic health in the area – i.e., Economic

suggestions so far:

- Develop a community resource center
- Activate the area through events, public art, and other initiatives
- Implement the 2011 South Academy Great Streets Plan
- Promote safety and beauty through enhanced streetscapes
- Turn South Academy Boulevard into a walkable, connected corridor
- Connect the community and enable people to thrive in the neighborhood
- Provide better access to services and daily needs
- Repurpose vacant structures to attract new businesses and uses

3) Talked with David Cooper about Jim DiBiase numbers so far. Still waiting on some more data based off a revision that Marriott wants Jim to make. Anticipate plan presentation at February board meeting.

4) Finance committee had a great meeting and we're just waiting to convene one more time before presenting. Great conversation around restructuring our agreements and creating potential revenue streams for future projects.

5) Façade improvement program in partnership with city. Working out details for viability.

6) Brent Toderian is doing a talk downtown tonight at CC through the Downtown Partnership's speaker series. HIGHLY recommend grabbing tickets

## Planning expert to tout density, design in Colorado Springs appearance

By: Bill Radford

January 18, 2018 at 6:53 pm

Higher urban density might not be appealing to those who prefer the wide-open spaces.

But for a growing city such as Colorado Springs, higher density can be key to success, says Brent Toderian, an expert in urban design and city planning who will speak in the Springs next week.

"The cities that are spread out and car dependent, the biggest challenge is how to accommodate more growth," says Toderian, former chief planner for the city of Vancouver and the founder of Toderian UrbanWorks. "The knee-jerk reaction can be, well, we're full. And you're almost the opposite of full - you're too spread out, you're too low density, and everything requires a car."

Putting people in higher-density, mixed-used neighborhoods with lots of amenities close by "does everything from reducing your carbon footprint to supporting public health to improving fiscal stability as a city," Toderian says.

But if care is not taken, he cautions, density can be ugly and poorly designed - a suburban high-rise in the middle of nowhere, "density that doesn't relate to the streets or neighborhood."

"Many cities are doing density poorly or not doing it at all," he says. "Both of those are a type of failure,"

Density done right is one of the topics Toderian will tackle on Wednesday as he kicks off the 2018 City Center Series, presented by the Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs.

"I'm going to cover a lot of ground," he says. "I'm going to cover how to do your transportation and mobility better. I'm going to cover how better design can position your city for greater success."

In terms of mobility, "Cities that provide more choices for people in how to get around work better for everyone, including drivers," Toderian says. "If everybody has to drive, everyone has a hard time moving because you're fighting for a finite amount of space. I like walking, biking and public transit because they make cities work better. I dislike car dependency because it makes cities fail."

While he favors a mobility mix, he says to beware of "mythologies" like a "balanced" transportation plan.

"That's really code for the status quo, but slightly better," he says. If you're going to have more choices, he says, priorities need to be set. "Given that the car has a significant head start, if you want to have walking, biking and transit as real, enjoyable alternatives, you have to prioritize them, at least for awhile."

Toderian will also tout the value of better urban design - "especially in your downtown, but throughout your city and suburban pattern. Better design is a value creator. It makes cities more competitive. It makes neighborhoods more enjoyable."

Toderian's talk comes as various construction projects point to a reinvigorated downtown Colorado Springs. While he'll touch on the importance of a successful downtown, "It would disappoint me if I have to make the case that a thriving downtown is critical for the success of a city," he says. "For me, that's kind of like saying the sky is blue."