

TRANSPARENCY SUMMARY FROM AURORA DOWNTOWN DISTRICT (ADD) BYLAWS

1. Explicit Commitment to Transparency in Governance

- **Article III, Section 1 – Standards of Conduct and Governance Procedures**
 - Directors are required to act with “**honesty, transparency, and professionalism.**”
 - This establishes transparency as a core expectation in decision-making and leadership behavior.

2. Open Meetings Requirement

- **Article III, Section 7 – Open Meetings and Records**
 - **All Board meetings must be open to the public**, except for legally permitted executive sessions.
 - This ensures that deliberations and decisions are visible to the community and stakeholders.

3. Public Access to Meeting Records

- **Article III, Section 7 – Open Meetings and Records**
 - The organization must:
 - Keep **written minutes** of Board and committee meetings.
 - Make **approved minutes available to the public within a reasonable time.**
 - Redactions are allowed only when legally required, reinforcing a presumption of openness.

4. Financial Transparency and Oversight

- **Article VII, Section 1 – Books, Records, and Fiscal Year**
 - Requires:
 - **Accurate and complete financial records**
 - Maintenance of meeting minutes
 - **Annual financial review** (as determined by the Board)
 - This promotes accountability in how funds are managed and reported.

5. Transparent Amendment Process

- **Article VII, Section 2 – Amendments**
 - Bylaw changes must:
 - Be presented with **advance notice**
 - Allow **Board discussion and revisions**
 - Be **shared with full membership for ratification**
 - This ensures stakeholders have visibility and input into governance changes.

6. Member Involvement in Governance

- **Article VII, Section 3 – Annual Meeting of Members**
 - Requires:
 - Presentation of Board candidates
 - Opportunity for members to **vote or submit ballots**
 - Presentation of bylaw amendments for member vote
 - This adds transparency to leadership selection and major decisions.

7. Election Integrity Oversight

- **Article IV, Section 2 – Election, Duties, and Removal**
 - An **outside attorney supervises elections** to ensure:
 - Legal compliance
 - Integrity of the process
 - This adds an independent layer of accountability.

8. Core Value of Transparency and Accountability

- **Appendix A – Core Values/Guiding Principles (#6)**
 - States a clear organizational commitment:
 - **“We operate with integrity, openness, and fiscal responsibility, and we hold ourselves accountable to our stakeholders and partners.”**
 - This embeds transparency into the organization’s culture and mission.