



Virtual Meeting Instruction

GOAL 2 ALLIANCE

Hello,

As many of you know, recent restrictions and mandates have been issued to reduce the spread of COVID-19. For this reason, and for the safety and wellbeing of our members and employees, we would like to continue to move GR Forward through virtual meetings.

We have decided to use Microsoft Teams for video/phone conferencing for all upcoming board and alliance meetings. Teams has many exciting features including screen sharing, recording, live captions, file sharing, and more. Below are instructions on how to access your upcoming virtual meeting.



MICROSOFT TEAMS

How to Join the Meeting:

1. It is recommended to download the App (but not necessary):
 - a. [Apple Devices](#).
 - b. [Android Devices](#).
2. When you click the following link, it will prompt you to choose: Launch App, Download App, or Join by the web. [Click here to access the July 13th Team meeting.](#)
3. Allow access to your mic and camera (this is very important for you to join the conversation).
4. Prior to joining the meeting, it will require you type your name. Make sure your mic and audio are on and click join.

Virtual Meeting Etiquette:

- Test the app and all technology (including camera/video, Wi-Fi, and audio) before the meeting.
- Always have a contingency plan, you may want to download the app to a second device.
- Mute your microphone when you're not speaking.
- Start a comment by saying your name. Not everyone may recognize your voice. This practice also facilitates the work of the person who is taking minutes.
- Be aware of your surroundings: make sure your background is professional and work appropriate.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please email mmcdaniel@downtowngr.org. Thank you!

Best,
Mandy



Mandy McDaniel
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

29 Pearl NW, Suite 1
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
P: 616 . 719 . 4610



AGENDA

GOAL 2 ALLIANCE

Board Members:

Aaron Terpstra • Brian Grooms • Daniel Kvamme • Danielle Rowland • Sarah Green • Dave Nitkiewicz • Jacey Ehmann •
Jenn Schaub • Katy Hallgren • Landon Jones • Latesha Lipscomb • Latrisha Sosebee • Monica App •

Jun, 2020

1:00pm-2:30pm

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Call to order | Monica App |
| 2. | Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2020 | Monica App |
| 3. | Project Updates | Annamarie Buller |
| | • Wayfinding RFP | |
| | • Heartside Restroom Update | |
| | • Social Zones | |
| | • Heartside Quality of Life Implementation proposals | |
| | • History Walking Tour of Heartside/ Downtown | Jenn Schaub |
| | • Pekich Park Gardening | Jenn Schaub |
| | • Heartside Gleaning | Annamarie Buller |
| 4. | Ped Safety Agenda for Action Draft Documents | Annamarie Buller |
| 5. | Advisory committee discussion | |
| 6. | Public Comment | |
| 7. | Next Meeting- August 10, 2020 | |



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.



Goal 2 Alliance

June 8, 2020

1. Call to order: Ms. Buller called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
2. Members Present: Daniel Kvamme, Aaron Terpstra, Latesha Lipscomb, Katy Hallgren, Latrisha Sosebee, Jenn Schaub, Dave Nitkiewicz, Abby Cribb, and Sarah Green.

Members Absent: Brian Grooms, Danielle Rowland, Jacey Ehmann, and Monica App.

Others Present: Christa Ferguson, Johnathan DeHaan, Kandice Sloop, Haley Stichman, Annamarie Buller, Melvin Eledge, and Mandy McDaniel (DGRI Staff).
3. Approval of Minutes- April 2020
Dave Nitkiewicz, *supported by Latrisha Sosebee, motioned to approve April 02, 2020 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.*
4. Introductions
5. Wayfinding RFP
Mr. Nitkiewicz who served on the subcommittee, stated we received 23 proposals in response to the RFP we sent out. The panel reviewed the proposals using a weighted model. Mr. Eledge stated we did get it narrowed down to a local firm who was already engaged with the Disability Advocates of Kent County. Our goal is not only to refresh the wayfinding system but make sure it is pedestrian oriented. The hope is that they can use a lot of their local expertise to drive it in the direction that we want. Their team was also the most diverse compared to others. We will be making our recommendation to the DDA for approval this

month. Once the contract is complete, we hope to reach the deployment stage by next summer.

Mr. Eledge stated we also would like to focus on 21st century wayfinding incorporating charging stations on WIFI hot spots. The focus is of course wayfinding, but we are hoping to use this to add in additional features.

6. HOT Team/ Community Engagement

Mr. Eledge stated the city has released a Homeless Outreach Task (HOT) force to help with the challenges and solution to the challenges relayed. During the start of the Stay at Home order, the HOT team placed hand washing stations and porta potties around downtown. There are a total of 7 locations. They are working on next steps to discuss things moving forward. Ms. Eledge stated he was recently added to the HOT team committee to find a way to connect the Ambassadors and DGRI to the HOT team. Currently, there are HOT team members working on a combined/shared resource binder for the ambassadors, police department, fire department, and EMS so that if they come across someone in need, they will have a huge list of resources at their disposal.

Ms. Schaub stated the HOT team has been the primary group to reach out and help these people. They are now actively working on police and fireman giving out documentation so people can qualify more quickly to apply for housing. It may be something to investigate for Ambassadors participate in as well.

7. GR Forward Goal 2 Project Implementation update

a. Heartside Restroom Update

Mr. Eledge stated the construction is well underway. They will be pouring concrete later this week. Construction is close to being on schedule. The latest update is the construction of the actual structure the 14th of July was the original date now it will be on the 24th. We also weren't sure if there was going to be power when first installed, with it arriving late everything should be functioning, and they expect no more delays.

b. Heartside Quality of Life Implementation proposals

i. Resident Development Training

Ms. Buller stated we planned a resident development training; Citizen Planner course. We wanted to take the course in person rather than online. We are considering the best time to offer this course in person and the majority had voted for late October to complete the course by the end of the year. We have several staff and Alliance members who are planning to participate in the course.

ii. History Walking Tour of Heartside/ Downtown

Ms. Schaub stated we held our first tour two weeks ago and included 53 participants. The tour included a presentation that showed a picture comparison of the historical site, what the site currently looks like, and a wayfinding map to help identify the location. This first tour was focused on origins; including the indigenous persons and different groups that inhabited Grand Rapids.

Ms. Schaub stated we plan to share the Google map and a recorded Zoom video of each tour on the Dwelling place website. We were able to break people into smaller groups at the end to discuss what was learned. If you would like to participate, please contact Ms. Schaub or Ms. Buller.

iii. Pekich Park Gardening

Ms. Schaub stated because of COVID, this summer we are going to be abstaining from gardening at Pekich Park. There is little to no way to be in that space and safely social distance. Our team is putting together a new version of our proposal. We would like to bring residents together for a volunteer event to plant flower bulbs throughout downtown.

Ms. Buller asked if the secret garden tour would be virtual? Ms. Schaub stated we are already working on that. We are working on enhancing those public spaces and getting people involved downtown safely.

iv. Heartside Gleaning

Ms. Buller stated this Saturday Heartside Gleaning will begin. Heartside Gleaning works with farmers at the farmers market to glean produce that won't be sold, then donating that to people who need it. They will deliver the produce directly to people who don't have transportation access.

There is also a gleaning event in the LeGrave Church parking lot at 2:00.

Ms. Buller asked members to help share the flyer to get the word out. We also will continue to find a way to utilize the veggie van.

8. Pedestrian Safety Enhancement

a. Michigan and Bridge Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Mr. Miller shared a slide of the Bridge and Michigan crossing which is now fully operational and constructed. A median was added in and we will be adding landscape to the planters soon. On the opposite side of the bridge there is a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB), you can push the button and it will flash, signaling for drivers

to slow down. It is also solar powered. We are seeing mixed results and hope to condition drivers better that it is a designated crosswalk.

b. Jefferson Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Mr. Miller stated the next crosswalk is on Jefferson. We requested funding for this project at our last DDA meeting in May and two days. We worked with St. Mary's and a consultant and were able to have half of it implemented within 2 days of approval. There are 2 crosswalks, the north crosswalk on Jefferson was reconstructed and the RRFB signs were added. The north crosswalk is completed, and they are now working on the south crosswalk located between two BRT stations. The south is more interesting because they are going to place a temporary median, like the bus stop on Fulton street, to provide pedestrian refuge area. The crosswalk is already there, and they are going to buffer it with the 2 medians soon.

c. Bike Safety and Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Miller stated we are going to the DDA next week with further funding requests for additional pedestrian safety improvements. They are all crosswalk enhancements or improvements. We would like to install RRFBs at three different intersections, which are at Monroe and Campau, S. Division and McConnell, and the third is a midblock crossing near Mary Free Bed. Our funding for the 1st phase is for the design work, so we will support that effort and once it is design, we can start the implantation. These are easy to install since they are solar powered, we don't have to run electricity to them.

Ms. Buller stated the reason we are bringing this information to you is because these are projects that have been advocated for multiple years. Hopefully this group can help speed these processes up in the future.

d. Ped Safety Agenda for Action Draft Documents

Ms. Buller stated she will email members the Downtown Pedestrian Safety Agenda for Action Planning timeline. This was our first draft for an agenda for action planning. The goal for June is to establish City of GR data partners, develop a schedule and receive feedback, engage with near neighborhood association leadership, and celebrate pedestrian safety victories on social media. The Goal for July is to overview key background literature with DNN, create a presentation to share best practices, continue to ask for feedback and ideas, set a public meeting, and consider a survey for additional feedback. In August our focus will be the structure the agenda for action, identifying 12 action items. By September we hope to have a draft agenda for review.

9. Social Zones

Mr. Miller stated once Europe began to reopen their economy, they created gastro pub zones. We started talking about it as an organization considering how we would safely reopen the economy. Since April, we began having conversations with the city, the chamber, and local

business owners. We realized within a few days it started to become the topic across urban areas. We were able to procure tables and chairs to have them ready to go for deployment.

On May 21st, the North American City Traffic Organization (NACTO) produced a manual for Streets for Pandemic Response. We locally referred to them as “social zones”. In the diagrams presented, it displayed different ways you can convert the street space including school streets, dining street, market streets, etc. We knew once restaurants could reopen, they were not going to be able to work at full capacity. Many restaurants would fail if they only operate at 30-50% capacity, that is why we are expanding into the streets. Social zones consist of public property and turning them into private use for restaurants or retailers to use. Some social zones we would like to open for physical activity. Mr. Miller shared a variation of photos of different social zones across the country.

10. Advisory Committee Discussion

None.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Next Meeting – July 13, 2020 at 1 - 2:30 pm

13. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 2:31 pm.

Minutes taken by:

Mandy McDaniel

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

Downtown Pedestrian Safety Agenda for Action Planning Timeline:

July 2020

- Gather materials & understanding
 - Local incident data
 - Relevant projects in pipeline (bike share, scooters, pedestrian safety improvements at specific intersections)
- Develop process schedule/expectations with DNN leaders
- Engagement with near Neighborhood Association leadership- what are the near neighborhoods doing? How effective are current interventions?
- Celebrate Pedestrian Safety victories on social media (IE: Bridge and Michigan, Jefferson Street)

August 2020

- Overview key background literature with DNN & “The why” (GR>>>, City Vision Zero, Streetspace guidelines, etc)
- Creation of a presentation that can be easily shared, continued to share best practice articles and information from GR Forward and Streetspace guidelines
- Education w/ DNN on existing recommended actions- best practice in some key cities (ie:Oakland 70% streets shut down during covid)
- Current thinking and events reflective of this moment during Covid 19
 - Heightened awareness of how people exist in streets, are things safe?
 - The economic development that equity in use of are city creates (Bike Share, scooters, more varied users on the street, change cultural habits)
- Engagement with near Neighborhood Association leadership- share the background and ask for ideas and feedback?
- Set public meeting to hear feedback
- Consider survey to help get additional feedback

September 2020

- Work to structure of Agenda of Action
- Public engagement comment/ survey events and deployment
- Inspirational speaker?

October 2020

- Present DRAFT Agenda for review/affirmation by DNN

November 2020

- Publish/present Agenda

Possible Interventions:

1. Consider speed traps and ramped up policing in critical locations.
2. Enhanced Pedestrian Safety campaign to build Vision Zero/ Heads Up GR Awareness.
3. Install a high impact art installation that shares stats of pedestrian and car impacts over the past 5 years in Downtown.
4. Bring in a powerful speaker with success in pedestrian safety.
5. Target 4 crosswalks a year for intervention over the next 3 years.
6. Advocate for lighting and painting all crosswalks artistically or consider more street murals like on Sheldon.
7. Work with the City on a construction signage ordinance fine if signage is left after construction is complete for more than 10 days.
8. Contemplate a no turn on red policy Downtown.
9. Back to the concept of streets should be designed for folks of all ages 8-80. Research the addition of a safety patrol at key intersections Downtown at key times during events and rush hour.
10. Lower downtown speed limits and increase enforcement.
11. Road diets and in key areas where speeds are too fast Downtown.
12. Think of all the non-car related uses downtown, bike and bike lane advocacy as well. Scooters and bike share are coming soon.
13. Build support for a distracted driver ordinance and enforcement.