

AGENDA

GOAL 2 ALLIANCE



Board Members:

Monica App • Regina Bradley • Chardonnay Henderson • Nicole Kosheba • Daniel Kvamme • Latesha Lipscomb • Angie Morales • Nipun Nath • Dave Nitkiewicz • Jenn Schaub • Latrisha Sosebee • Noele Stith • Aaron Terpstra • Joshua Verhulst •

December 10, 2018

3:00pm – 5:00pm

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – April 17, July 17, October 17, October 31, November 19
3. Downtown Neighbor Network Update
 - Event on December 1, 2018- Annamarie Buller
 - DNN Committee Recruitment- Annamarie Buller
4. Heartside Quality of Life Process Update
 - Investments planned for Heartside- Annamarie Buller
 - Final report update- Latesha Lipscomb
 - Quote for plants and soil for Peckich Park- \$1,200
 - Quote for Neighborhood Association newsletter mailing to all downtown residents- Jenn Schaub
5. Streetspace Guidelines- Mark Miller
6. Next meeting: January 14, 2019 3-5pm
 - Topics: Quote for HQOL/ Neighborhood Association Staff- cost and job description, Public Restroom, DNN Committee recruitment, Goal 2 Alliance Recruitment
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 2 Alliance

April 17, 2018

1. Call to order: Tim Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:38pm
2. Members Present: Daniel Kvamme, Monica App, Joshua Verhulst, Aaron Terpstra, Regina Bradley, Latrisha Sosebee, Jenn Schaub, Latesha Lipscomb

Members Absent: Dave, Nitkiewicz, Chardonay Henderson, Devin Holston, Nicole Kosheba, Kisha McPherson, Angie Morales, Nipun Nath, Noele Stith

Others Present: Tim Kelly, Annamarie Buller, Flor Valera (DGRI Staff), Officer Bryan Grooms, Officer Brandon Romero

3. Approval of Minutes- January 16, 2018
Motion: Jenn Schaub, supported by Daniel Kvamme, moved approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. FY19 Budget Update
Mr. Kelly gave an overview of the budget that will be presented to the DDA in May. The Alliance took a moment to review and discussed the list of projects. Ms. Sosebee asked how the budget process works. Mr. Kelly explained the budget process. Mr. Buller said there is a continued effort in identifying affordable housing development in Downtown and added that DGRI is committed to updating the existing Downtown census to better understand the changing dynamics. Ms. Buller explained that the resident engagement programs is also setting funds aside to bring speakers and create events in Downtown which are key to the organizational goals. Mr. Kelly mentioned the Heartside Public restrooms and highlighted that DGRI is working in with City of Grand Rapids to explore restroom solutions. Ms. App asked

who will be responsible for staffing the restrooms. Mr. Kelly responded that conversations regarding the responsibility were underway since DDA tax money cannot go towards the maintenance of these facilities. Mr. Kelly asked the Alliance if any changes needed to be made to the budget. The Alliance responded no; the budget was recommended to go before the DDA Board.

5. Heartside Quality of Life Process

Ms. Buller gave a presentation on the Heartside Quality of Life Process. Ms. Buller explained that conversations began after a letter was written to the Mayor and City Commission addressing important infrastructure improvements needed on Division Avenue. Some of the major issues in her presentation included pedestrian safety, parking signage, lighting improvements and increasing police presence. The City of Grand Rapids, DGRI, Dwelling Place and others came together to begin a planning process to address the Quality of Life issues in Heartside. Ms. Buller said Latesha Lipscomb was hired to facilitate a series of listening sessions in the community. To this day, 203 people have participated in a total of 14 sessions targeting different groups in the neighborhood. As a culmination of the process to date, the data was shared back with the community in a two day event. Ms. Schaub added that the intention was to connect residents to resources and ask residents to prioritize what issues were the highest priority for the neighborhood. Ms. Lipscomb gave a quick highlight of the Neighbor Knowledge Exchange, saying that was a great event that attracted twenty-two (22) agencies to participate and provided information to the community. Ms. Schaub commented that the event was focused on building resident engagement to encourage residents to take action. From the voting at the event, 7 working groups were created to address the issues given the greatest priority by the community. Ms. Lipscomb gave an overview of the seven (7) working groups and shared the upcoming meeting dates for each. Ms. Buller thanked both Ms. Schaub and Ms. Lipscomb for sharing that information with the Alliance. Ms. Buller continued by sharing some of the projects DGRI is collaborating, which include public restrooms, areas of improvements, neighborhood building and activation. Ms. Buller said sites were identified for the Heartside restrooms and the designs from the City are still pending. Ms. Buller said the Alliance will continue to receive updates as this project continues.

6. Downtown Resident Organization Update

Ms. Buller gave an update on the Downtown Resident Organization Steering Committee, explaining that a survey went out in February 2018, whose goal was to gather information to help guide the efforts of the Steering Committee in identifying the need for a resident organization and to indicate what some of its functions should be. Ms. Buller reported that 300 Downtown Residents completed the survey. Ms. Buller added that the estimated current number of residents living in Downtown is nearly 6,000. Ms. Buller took a moment to share

MINUTES

Minutes-April 17, 2018

with the Alliance some of the questions that were asked in the survey. Overall, the main issues impacting Downtown continue to be lack of enough parking spaces, affordable housing and grocery stores in the proximity. Ms. Buller said the data collected helped to reinforce the need for an organization to represent residents. The survey also helped to inform the steering committee on who lives downtown and other priorities and preferences of Downtown. The Downtown Resident Steering Committee was able to connect with nearby Downtown Neighborhoods and Business groups that represent resident voices to discuss possible collaborations and the process for the steering committee. Ms. Buller took a moment to invite the Alliance to the 4th Annual Mix, Mingle and Share event on May 25th at the BOB and said that on May 3rd the committee would reconvene to continue the process of finalizing the structure for a Downtown Resident Organization and begin mission and vision conversations. Mr. Kelly thanked Ms. Buller for her presentation.

7. Open Alliance Member Discussion

Officer Bryan Grooms asked when the Heartside Restrooms would be ready for public use. Ms. Buller responded that parking services was working on the design for these facilities and was aiming for the time around or shortly after Art Prize. Ms. App asked if updates would be provided to keep the Alliance informed on the projects previously discussed. Ms. Buller said she would provide monthly updates on the Resident organization, restrooms and Heartside Neighborhood.

8. Next Meeting – July 17, 20189. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm

Minutes taken by:

Flor Valera

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 2 Alliance

July 17, 2018

1. Call to order: Annamarie Buller called the meeting to order at 3:25pm.
2. Members Present: Monica App, Regina Bradley, Daniel Kvamme, Latesha Lipscomb, Dave Nitkiewicz, Jenn Schaub, Latrisha Sosebee, Aaron Terpstra, Joshua Verhulst

Members Absent: Chardonnay Henderson, Nicole Kosheba, Kisha McPherson, Angie Morales, Nipun Nath, Noele Stith, Devin Holston

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Rachel George, Stephanie Wong, Mark Miller, Gabi Schumacher (DGRI Staff), Officer Bryan Grooms, Officer Rich Atha

3. Approval of Minutes- April 17, 2018
Postponed to October 31, 2018 meeting due to a formatting error.
4. FY19 Budget Update
Annamarie Buller gave an overview of the budget, with a focus on affordable housing support, amendment of the development programs, resident engagement programs, and Heartside public restrooms. Monica App said she wants to make sure that this group is providing the help and support to Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. and the Board of Advisors the way that they should be, and understanding next steps for these committees. Ms. Buller said that the next steps for committees, such as the Steering Committee, are something that has not been addressed in meetings so far. Ms. App asked if these groups or committees meet more frequently. Ms. Buller replied that the Neighbor Network Group is going to need to meet on a monthly basis to get organized, and that the Public Restroom work will be monthly. Ms. Buller said that they may also want to flush out current programs and see if they are accomplishing

their goals and determine how they are spending their money. Ms. Buller stated that one thing that will be discussed in the next meeting is purchasing new software called “Neighborland” with the money in resident engagement programs, which may be a great way to do surveys, newsletters, and may be a solution for Alliance communication.

5. Heartside Quality of Life Process

Ms. Buller reminded everyone of the Life Work group schedule and gave a brief overview of the Heartside Quality of Life process. Ms. Buller said that there will be a report available in October 2018 of all the working group’s recommendations.

Ms. Buller introduced Latesha Lipscomb to present the Neighborhood Building and Activation recommendations. Ms. Lipscomb gave an overview of the four goals that the working group has been working on thus far. Ms. Lipscomb described the goals for the working group as: creating a formal structure for the Heartside Neighborhood Association, constructing a yearly calendar, focusing on positive stories about Heartside Neighborhood, and the creating an outreach plan. Ms. Lipscomb asked if there were any questions. Ms. Buller added that National Night Out is another part of this work group and described what the event is. Jenn Schaub stated that the Neighborhood Association work group has been doing additional work in the meetings that play off what this work group is doing. Ms. Lipscomb said that she has found with all work groups that some goals and recommendations overlap. Ms. Lipscomb concluded by saying that the group will hear more about activation in the Heartside neighborhood.

Ms. Schaub discussed the Areas of Improvement Working Group. Ms. Schaub stated that she and Ms. Lipscomb are currently working on overlap in their final analysis for the presentation in October. Ms. Schaub stated that this work group is focused on a couple of different areas, which include defining appropriate behavior for the spaces, considering programs to address behavioral issues, and figuring out how to engage the owner of Lucky’s and what the recommendation would be for a change in how Lucky’s engages with the neighborhood. Ms. Schaub said that there is currently a meeting set up with Lucky’s owner, and the conversation will be focused on the availability of inexpensive alcohol and how this fuels the activity on Lucky’s corner. Dave Nitkiewicz asked about if the business or building owner should be at the meetings. Ms. Schaub responded that they are still working on this, and are currently trying to get to the bottom of whether or not this is a separate business. Mr. Nitkiewicz asked if there is a way to broaden the conversation to make it more of an educational experience for the owner. Ms. Schaub responded that the intention of the meeting is to do soft touch, and having community participate. Aaron Terpstra asked if there

was a financial incentive, since Lucky's is making money off of the cheap alcohol. Ms. Schaub responded that they are floating the idea about limiting the sale of alcohol, but Lucky's has not been receptive to this idea. Officer Bryan Grooms stated that he had a similar conversation with Zellar's Party Store in the past, and believes that this idea is a hard sell because people do not want to give up their income. Mr. Nitkiewicz asked if there was a way to have a positive spin on this idea with a community partner incentive, or if there was a way at a State level to make Lucky's make a change. Officer Rich Atha said that it might be best if the police do not attend the first meeting with Lucky's, so that there is more a positive impression. Ms. Schaub stated that Lucky's is aware that the conversation is happening as they were invited to attend a panel discussion about the areas of improvement, but they did not attend the follow-up conversation so they may not be tracking with everything going on. Ms. Schaub concluded by stating that residents are concerned about safety when going to and from Lucky's store, and that the reality is that it is not a safe corner and real change needs to be made.

Ms. Buller gave an overview for the Heartside Public Restrooms. Ms. Buller stated that a public restroom partnership with Mobile GR has been identified and locations have been selected in two parking ramps near South Division Avenue. The locations are Cherry and Commerce, and Weston and Commerce. Ms. Buller said that negotiation of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. and Mobile GR's roles are still in process. Ms. Buller said that the Heartside Quality of Life work group is also going to be continuing to meet to help oversee how the restrooms are rolled out and promoted. Ms. Buller stated that they are still working out the measures of success for the following goals: baseline measurement for public urination and defecation, encourage the provision of additional restrooms where gaps have been identified, pilot a Friendly Restroom program, explore expanded public options in parks, and support the development of public restrooms in parking ramps located at Weston and Cherry. Latrishia Sosebee reminded the group that there is not a stop sign or crosswalk at Cherry and Commerce, and that there is a danger about drawing people to this area if there is not a safe place to cross. Ms. Buller responded that this is a good thing to consider.

6. Downtown Resident Organization Update

Ms. Buller gave an update on the Downtown Steering Committee and the Downtown Resident Survey. Ms. Buller explained that the following steps in the process after the survey included scenario planning, a scan of organizations and associations, and focus group discussion with existing neighborhoods. Ms. Buller explained that as a result, they are looking at changing the structure of the Downtown Residents Network to include an Affinity Group for those who identify as a Downtown Resident, but live in a nearby neighborhood, as well as a name change to Downtown Neighbor Network. Ms. Buller explained the name change from

“Downtown Resident Network” to “Downtown Neighbor Network”, as a change to be more inclusive. Ms. Buller said that the rebrand also includes an updated mission, vision and guiding principles which are still in draft form. Ms. Buller took a moment to explain the network’s key programs, which include communication, events, and advocacy. Ms. Buller further explained that the Downtown Neighbor Network is not separate from Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., but a committee of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. that will be collaborating with near neighborhoods. Ms. Buller said that the Downtown Resident Steering Committee will continue to meet in August and September to provide feedback on the plan and work out details before committee recruitment. Ms. Buller said that they will be meeting with each of the near neighborhood networks, DDA, DID, Neighborhood Association Collaborative, DGRI Board of Advisors, and the City Commission to be officially accepted as the Downtown Neighbor Network. Ms. App asked if it need to be officially approved and accepted. Ms. Buller replied that she does not think it does because it is a committee of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. and not a board. Ms. Buller reminded the group of events coming up which includes the Bridge Street Market Preview and Downtown Neighbor Network Update. Ms. Buller asked if there were any questions. Ms. App asked if this was going to be an ongoing part of the Goal 2 Alliance to oversee, or if it moves on to be a bigger part of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Ms. Buller responded that this is an unanswered question at this point and is something that needs to be figured out as the Goal 2 Alliance has been overseeing it up until now. Ms. App asked for confirmation that under Goal 2, the current spinoffs include the Downtown Steering Committee, Event Planning Committee, and the Public Restroom work group. Ms. Buller agreed, but said that the Public Restroom work group is a separate group. Ms. App asked if there were any other sub-committees or work groups that are directly under Goal 2. Ms. Buller responded that the only other one is Affordable Housing.

7. Open Alliance Member Discussion

Ms. App said that it might be helpful to receive updates from all the working groups or committees and have it be an item in future agendas. Ms. App emphasized that it would be great to include what this Alliance needs to understand, offer feedback on, or anything else that needs to happen in regards to the other Alliances. Ms. Buller said that it would be helpful to review what the responsibility of a committee member is, and what funds they are responsible for. Ms. App asked if they were responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Advisors or the DDA for the budget. Ms. Buller said that Alliance Goal 2 did this in the spring, but it is true that we may not always be the first ones to know about opportunities to make recommendations, so there is some responsibility there. Ms. Buller added that it is always a good idea to do a review of the background and purpose of Alliance Goal 2. Ms. Buller asked the group what would be helpful to keep everyone updated and in the loop. The

MINUTES

Minutes-July 17, 2018

group took a moment to discuss options about how to stay updated. Gabi Schumacher said that right now all of this information is on the website of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., but maybe a webpage could be created for just the Alliances to keep all the information in one spot.

8. Next Meeting – October 16, 2018

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm.

Minutes taken by:

Rachel George

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 2 Alliance

October 31, 2018

1. Call to order: Annamarie Buller called the meeting to order at 3:44pm.
2. Members Present: Latesha Lipscomb, Chardonnay Henderson, Aaron Terpstra, Dave Nitkiewicz, Angie Morales, Monica App, Latrisha Sosebee, Jenn Schaub

Members Absent: Nicole Kosheba, Kisha McPherson, Nipun Nath, Noele Stith, Devin Holston, Joshua Verhulst, Regina Bradley, and Daniel Kvamme.

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Stephanie Wong, Kyama Kitavi and Amanda Sloan

3. Approval of Minutes- April 17, 2018 and July 17, 2018
Postponed to next meeting due to lack of quorum.
4. Downtown Neighbor Network Update
Website: <http://downtowngr.org/our-work/projects/dnn> contains summary of process, current members, and call for additional committee member(s) to join: 6-8 new members being sought. Applications due November 23. Chardonnay volunteered to join the applicant review process. DNN Happy Hour at Bridgewater Place December 1st 2:30-4:30 pm in conjunction with Light Up Downtown. Orientation for DNN is in January 2019 with the first meeting in February 2019.
5. Heartside Quality of Life Process Update
Working Group Goals Review:
Dwelling Place, DGRI, and the City collaborated with working groups in Heartside to identify resident needs. Listening (13 sessions), Neighbor Knowledge Exchange (helped to identify top

problems), and Work Groups (3 months of problem solving in regards to 7 different areas), were the first 3 phases. At this point we are in the final Ask phase, providing information to businesses and asking for funding and support with implementation.

GR Forward Alignment earmarked \$20k for Goal 2 spending. As a committee we need to look at where the needs are and make a decision how to utilize our funds.

Annamarie provide a high level summary of projects that will provide enhancements (including additional street lighting and other infrastructure improvements) for Division Avenue Area. DDA is investing approximately \$1.9 million between the Sheldon and Fulton intersection (\$245,000), Division Avenue: Fulton to Cherry Street (\$221,884), Weston Street: Sheldon to LaGrave (\$412,759), Sheldon Ave: Weston to Fulton (\$442,152), and Division Ave: Wealthy to Cherry (\$599,989) reconstruction and improvements. These exact numbers may change as project dates near.

Heartside Public Restroom: Heartside Quality of Life Working group meetings have discussed the need for a public restroom. Discussions have been centered on the purchase a single stall restroom. Considering the cost of the stall with shipping, it may make more sense to pay for staffing of a vacant space with a working restroom. We are close to getting data on areas that biohazard incidences are happening (conducting a baseline measurement from Ambassadors, GRPD, and Mobile GR). A number of public restrooms are closed after hours and on weekends. Proposed recommendation in process to rent a commercial space as well as encouraging local businesses to allow public use of their restrooms. \$150,000 is currently budgeted for FY19.

Latrisha asked if putting restrooms in parking ramps was no longer being considered. Risk management at the city was unwilling to insure them unless they were staffed and budget constraints may likely prevent that option. This is still a possibility that we can revisit if a better solution doesn't present itself. In the short term (perhaps as a one year trial period) a commercial space is being considered. Specific locations: 42 S Division offers a potential opportunity right now; 106 and 122 S Division both potential long term options though may require build out. Cost and additional usage possibilities are all being reviewed.

Affordable Housing Working Group: Funds of \$250,000 are available for FY19 with no plan as of yet how to spend. Monica suggested collaboration with the Housing Commission. This topic will be slotted as an agenda item for February meeting.

6. Parks updates for 2019

Many parks in 2019 will be under construction in the coming year. Will continue update at next meeting.

7. Open Alliance Member Discussion

Determination was made that additional meetings are necessary in November and December 2018. There are many topics that still need discussed... motion to move to monthly meetings.

8. Next Meeting – Nov 15

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm.

Minutes taken by:
Amanda Sloan
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



Goal 2 Alliance

November 19, 2018

1. Call to order: Annamarie Buller called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.
2. Members Present: Latesha Lipscomb, Aaron Terpstra, Monica App, Jenn Schaub, Nipun Nath, Daniel Kvamme, and Brian Grooms.

Members Absent: Angie Morales, Nicole Kosheba, Kisha McPherson, Noele Stith, Devin Holston, Joshua Verhulst, Regina Bradley, Latrisha Sosobee, and Chardonnay Henderson.

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Mark Miller, Samantha Suarez and Amanda Sloan.

3. Approval of Minutes- April 17, 2018, July 17, 2018 and October 31, 2018
Postponed to next meeting due to lack of quorum.
4. Downtown Neighbor Network Update
Annamarie provided a reminder that the DNN Happy Hour will be held at Bridgewater Place December 1st from 2:30-4:30 pm in conjunction with Light Up Downtown. See the DGRI website for updates and additional information at <http://downtowngr.org/our-work/projects/dnn>. Also, orientation for DNN will be in January 2019 with the first meeting to be held in February.
5. Heartside Quality of Life Process Update
Annamarie Buller stated that at our last meeting we discussed the current planned investments for Heartside as well as a public restroom. Today we will be reviewing the other Working Group recommendations that we were not able to get to at the last meeting. A quick update on the public restroom: DGRI met with The Dwelling Place and had a site visit at 42 S Division. This location would work well for a public restroom and we are pursuing a lease as a

one year pilot including ambassador staffing options. This site would provide additional meeting space for DGRI, a washer & dryer, a parking space, additional storage and would act as an Ambassador hub as well as. Next steps are to inform and connect with local businesses and obtain permits for special land use and minor renovations. This could potentially happen by the first of the year. Ms. Lipscomb reiterated the Heartside Quality of Life (HQoL) process that was discussed in detail at the last meeting. This alliance is tasked with reviewing these recommendations and determining how to best spend our allocated budget as supported by the GR Forward Plan.

At Home in Heartside Workgroup made several recommendations in regards to housing: study mixed-use development and vacancies to determine potential opportunities for increased affordable housing options and educate residents on the Residential Rental Application Ordinance including the HousingNow Residential Application Ordinance Advocacy. Ms. Buller stated on November 27th HousingNow will be presenting recommendations on policy to the City Commission. Ms. Lipscomb stated an informational session will occur in Heartside on this ordinance as well. Ms. Lipscomb stated the planning department has developed a list of all vacancies in Heartside to consider all affordable housing options in mixed use buildings. Ms. Buller requested a copy of that list. Ms. Lipscomb agreed to share. Ms. Buller stated at this time \$20,000 has been budgeted to support the access of affordable housing. Our February meeting agenda will include discussion on how best to utilize these funds.

Neighborhood Building and Activation Workgroup recommended allocating funds to facilitate outreach for engaging neighbors in Heartside. A newsletter or mailing should be considered for a potential budget item. Another recommendation is that any meetings being scheduled for the neighborhood (community outreach or feedback workshops) that they would align with the neighborhood association meeting already in place as not to conflict and to ensure the best attendance. This group also recommended the development of a community committee, which is in the works, to facilitate a campaign for positive stories and activate windows along the corridor. Both of those actions could be funding considerations. The final recommendation from this group was to contract an individual for 2 years to work 10-14 hours per week to support the completion of the QOL process.

Engaged & Employed Workgroup produced 3 recommendations. Completing a Heartside employer assessment, implement an employee development lunch and learn series, and the creation and distribution of a handheld graphic. The assessment has been completed and demands no funding. The lunch and learn series will provide quarterly class offerings to start in 2019. The topics include resume building, life skills, work life balance, and employer communications. This series will culminate in a job fair which provides an opportunity for

funding. The handheld graphic has been completed but will need updated in the future, which presents an opportunity for support.

Areas of Improvement Work Group provided recommendations around Pekich Park, Heartside Park, and the corner of S. Division and Weston (near Lucky's Liquor). A recommendation for Pekich Park was to introduce a community garden. This initial attempt failed due to a rat infestation in the soil. New soil and plants are needed before this area can be activated. Dwelling Place has agreed to support the care of the garden once plants and soil are installed. Another recommendation is to install a restroom and/or mobile community center for regular programming use in the park and around the neighborhood. The corner of Division and Weston has very poor lighting and very high crime. Ms. Schaub stated we have been engaging with Lucky's Liquor on the impact of crime on that corner. 11% - 16% of robberies and assaults in Grand Rapids occur on that corner. Ms. Schaub stated Lucky's has agreed to reduce the number of single malt beverage options from 11 to 4 and reduce the hours of liquor sales by 2 hours per weekend. The hope is that this reduction of the cheapest liquor available would clean up the area of substance abuse victims and reduce crime.

Fresh Food Access Workgroup recommended (and provided) a fresh food access map to identify affordable option access points. This is another item that will need ownership for updating. They also recommended education around access to free food, incentivizing farmer's markets, and the creation of a food co-op. Ms. Buller stated funding support for these ideas may require more long-term planning.

Substance Abuse Support, Recovery & Mental Health Workgroup provided recommendations that do not align with the GR Forward plan and are not the focus of our group.

Ms. Buller opened discussion to the group by asking what, of the opportunities discussed today, should be considered for recommendations in utilizing our budgeted funds of \$20,000. Ms. Schaub stated Ms. Lipscomb has been a dedicated resource from the start of this project but will be rerouted to another project through the planning department soon and the HQoL project will officially come to an end. The need for an employee to own these projects and see these recommendations through is highly desired. Mr. Kvamme agreed and stated we don't want to lose momentum. Aaron Terpstra asked if we have the ability to adjust our budget line items and use some of our unused Affordable Housing dollars to fund an employee. Ms. Buller stated there is an argument for using these funds to improve the quality of life in the area while HousingNow is in place and focused on Affordable Housing. Ms. App asked if Ms. Buller could gather info and make a proposal to the group. She would like to see the job description and recommendation for who would house it, and costs associated. Chardonnay

Henderson is in agreement. She stated her desire to give support to accomplish these tangible goals by hiring a staff person. Ms. Schaub is also in agreement and asked the list of all HQoL projects could be included in the job description. Mr. Kvamme asked what the costs associated with the revitalization of Pekich Park would be as he would like to see this area used for community meetings and activities. Ms. Schaub stated the estimate she received was \$1200 for fresh soil and plants, though this did not include irrigation. Perhaps Parks can support this project with the installation of a water source. Ms. App stated she would like to see funding proposals on both the Pekich Park green clean up and the HQoL staff person. Ms. Buller stated she would like to see the cost of sending a mailing to all downtown residents that could be pulled from the Resident Engagement budget line item. Ms. Schaub stated she would share the cost analysis that she has for that. Brian Grooms asked if there will be power going into Pekich Park. Ms. Buller stated she will connect with Parks or the Planning Department to find more information on that possibility.

6. Parks updates for 2019

Mark Miller presented proposed plans on the first phase of reconstruction of Calder Plaza. DGRI has hired Progressive AE to provide an overview of master plan created for this space. Phase 1 will encompass the SE corner of the plaza. Construction may begin on this project in the spring of 2019. After reviewing and receiving feedback on 4 different concept, the “aligned concept” has been developed. This is a 2 story structure with restrooms and an elevator. It will have a café space, covered stage area with seating in coves of the green area. Once this plan is at 30% completion, construction proposals will start. The city is also undertaking the reconstruction of the Calder this summer. Members asked for more details on the restrooms. Ms. Schaub stated having access to those may increase the value of renting the space since portable toilets are so expensive. Mr. Miller stated likely portable toilets will still be needed as the plaza is home to many large scale events. The purpose of this building is to increase usability of the plaza for the 300 or so days out of the year where no events are scheduled.

Mr. Miller stated another project likely under construction by next summer will be the Van Andel Plaza. MKSK consulting firm will be redesigning the plaza as well as the alleyway focusing on safety, security, greening, and seating in the area.

Mr. Miller stated, in collaboration with GR Parks, we are in the early stages of redesigning Ah-Nab-Awen Park. This will be offline in the fall of 2019 as it will be used as a river construction access site. The redesign will include restructuring the mounds and updating the public restrooms as soon as the river construction ends. We are working with the Native American community to redesign the park from bridge to bridge.

Mr. Miller stated our StreetSpace Guidelines are almost finished. These guidelines are intended for area businesses to refer to during construction and reconstruction projects as well as for our alliances to use on projects. All alliances may find this useful to share. More will be presented as the final draft is completed.

7. Open Alliance Member Discussion

None

8. Next Meeting – December 10, 2018

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm.

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Sloan

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

Here is the application for the DGRI Citizen Alliances and the Downtown Neighbor Network Advisory.

The DNN Advisory is a group of passionate Downtown Residents working to improve Grand Rapids Downtown neighborhood. The Citizen Alliances are steering committees for DGRI's organization. More details in the survey/application. Annamarie Buller, the Manager of Resident Experience will follow up with you shortly after you apply to learn more your interest. For questions please email abuller@downtowngr.org

If you are interested in joining a committee or advisory to help build your downtown please fill out this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DNNAdvisory>

For more information about the Downtown Neighbor Network click this link: <http://downtowngr.org/our-work/projects/dnn>

Estimated Spending for FY2019

Lighting Improvement Investments:

\$221, 884 Division Ave from Cherry to Fulton for lighting improvements – Spring/Summer 2019

\$70,191 Weston Ave, Sheldon to LaGrave for lighting improvements- completed 2018

\$156,900 Division Avenue Reconstruction Wealthy to Cherry for lighting improvements- Spring/Summer 2019

Non Lighting Improvement Investments:

\$442,152 Sheldon Ave, Weston to Fulton for street improvements- under construction (Linear Park from GR Forward)

\$342,568 Weston Ave, Sheldon to LaGrave for street improvements-completed 2018

\$245,000 Sheldon Ave and Fulton Street Intersection street improvements- completed 2018

\$443,089 Division Avenue Reconstruction Wealthy to Cherry for non-lighting- April 2019

Public Restroom Investment:

\$150,000 FY 19 Estimated \$150,000 FY 20

Affordable Housing Support:

\$250,000 FY 19 Estimated \$150,000 FY 19

Downtown Neighbor Network:

\$35,000 Stakeholder Engagement Programs

\$15,000 Downtown Census

Pekich Park Estimate:

Soil:

Approximately 5 yards from Birch, Tree, Bark & Stone

@ \$34.00 per yard = \$170.00

Delivery, \$45.00

Mulch:

Approximately 4 yards from Birch, Tree, Bark & Stone

@ \$21 - \$30 per yard = \$84 – \$120

Delivery, \$45.00

Plants:

Lavender (interspersed around roses) 12-24 plants: \$4.99 – 8.99 per plant = \$60-\$216

Thyme, lemon thyme, oregano, rosemary, lavender, garlic chives (encircling boxwoods) 40 plants: \$4.99 – 8.99 per plant = \$200 - \$360

Russian Sage, Black Eyed Susan, Daisy, Iris and ornamental grasses (beds adjacent to mural) 36 plants: \$6.99 per plant = \$250

Russian Sage, Black Eyed Susan, Daisy, Iris and ornamental grasses (weedy bed to west of main park) 36 plants: \$6.99 per plants = \$250

Rye, vetch, clover, perennial wildflower mix (sloped area beneath crab apple trees) 3-5 seed packets: \$8.99 per packet = \$27-\$45

Other:

Rose Toner: \$7.95 per bag

Polypropylene Single Net Erosion Control Blanket, 8ftx112.5ft: \$52.52

Total (high end): \$1560.00