



## **Alliance for Investment**

October 13, 2015

3:30p – 5:00p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of September Minutes
3. Grand Rapids White Water Presentation and Discussion
4. HUD Resiliency Grant Overview and Discussion
5. Great Housing Strategies Presentation and Discussion
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting – November 11, 2015
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment



# Alliance for Investment

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

1. Call to order- Monoyios called the meeting to order at 3:32pm
2. Members Present: James Botts, Rick DeVries, Dave Hill, Rachel Hood, Ted Lott, Mark Miller, Nick Monoyios, Kirt Ojala, Darius Quinn, Sarah Rainero, Mark Roys, Megan Sall, Tom Tilma, Rick Winn, Kara Wood

Members Absent: Eric Brown, Suriya Davenport, Kristian Grant, Ryan Kilpatrick, Nick Koster, Phil Skaggs, Jay Steffen, Roberto Torres

Others Present: Murphy Ackerman, Tim Kelly

3. Approval of August Meeting Minutes:  
*Motion: Rachel Hood supported by Sarah Rainero, moved to approve the August 11, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. Updates:  
GR Forward:

Kelly gave an update on the GR Forward process. Kelly explained that the plan is currently in the public comment period and staff is working on a comprehensive engagement strategy to ensure that as many people as possible have a chance to comment on, and understand the plan. Kelly added that there are printed copies of the plan located in DGRI's lobby as well as the local libraries. Kelly gave an overview of the engagement schedule and encouraged anyone that wanted to schedule a meeting with their organization to reach out to him. Monoyios asked if DGRI has made public all of the effort that has been made to further the diversity and inclusion goal. Kelly explained that the information has been presented to organizations, but DGRI could look into an additional marketing piece to help emphasize the coordinated efforts and opportunities. Botts asked if all of the neighborhood organizations in Grand Rapids have been met with. Kelly responded that all of the Downtown and Grand River adjacent neighborhoods have been met with. Monoyios asked if any of these meetings

has changed the direction of the plan. Kelly responded that the diversity and inclusion meeting that was held at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation provided a lot of strong and specific feedback. Tilma asked what the process was for including the feedback. Kelly explained that comments will be added and presented at the next round of commission and board meetings.

Laker Line:

Monoyios gave an update on the progress of the Laker Line and an update on how the BRT has been performing. Monoyios explained that the Rapid has made significant progress and the Laker Line has been moving faster than most projects. Monoyios shared that the expected timeline is to have the Laker Line launched in August of 2017. Due to the extensive amount of research and outreach as well as the need for the line, the project has been ahead of schedule. Monoyios gave an overview of the different areas that will be most affected, and areas that will be looked at for additional lighting and other options to make the stops more appealing to riders. Monoyios added that there will be new branding to help differentiate the Laker Line from the BRT. Botts asked about the impact that the new line will have on Spectrum. Monoyios answered that Spectrum has been very interested in incentivizing alternate transportation for their workers and utilizing the new lines. Monoyios added that he would present another update to the group when there are construction and design drawing solidified. Miller added his desire to see more visually appealing signs and stops. Monoyios added that it is a high priority for the project.

5. Draft FY2016 Work Plan:

Kelly gave an overview of the 2016 work plan. Kelly explained that the work plan was created to help delineate where the alliances can participate on a project specific timeline for GR Forward. Monoyios added that that the intention is to look at the different projects that the Alliance for Investment can work on to ensure that everyone's time is valued month to month. Kelly asked the alliance to be specific on any idea on how meetings are structured, and how they could be moving forward. Hood asked if the alliance could begin looking into clean energy and understanding it as a group. Monoyios added that as soon as GR Forward is adopted, the alliance can begin to implement portions of the plan. Lott asked who under the DGRI umbrella is setting the priorities of the plan. Kelly responded that the DDA board will receive priorities from the alliances. Wood asked if the priorities provided in the packet were specifically for the Alliance for Investment, or to be divided between all three alliances. Kelly answered that these have been identified as projects that would fall under the purview of the Alliance for Investment. Lott asked if the alliance could have an update from Whitewater to better understand where they are at in concurrence with GR Forward. Lott added that he would also like an update from GRPS. Lott said that he believes the alliances should be provided updates before they approach the DDA for funding. Winn added that he would like to ensure that there is a sense of ownership and responsibility for the plan by the various partners. Kelly shared that while the big picture ideas and goals are outlined in the plan he would like to see the details of the projects and how to accomplish the goals, to be defined by the alliances. Hill asked for clarification on whether the alliance would work as a policy making group or being project based. Kelly and Monoyios responded that they would like to see the alliance work as both helping to guide policy and work on specific projects. Kelly said that the very purpose of the alliances is to help vet and prioritize projects before they are presented to the various boards. Winn added that the DDA board is very interested in understanding

how the plan is going to be stewarded and would like to see the alliances help to accomplish that. Hill explained that for it to be valid that there needs to be a blanket policy. Monoyios gave an example of the DASH re-routing as a specific project that the alliance can help to lead. Hood added that reworking the incentives to help drive developers to certain standards should be a high priority of the alliance. Rainero asked what the timeline is on amending the incentive programs. Kelly answered that as soon as the GR Forward plan is adopted, those changes will begin. Monoyios added that he will send out a survey to the alliance to ask how everyone feels the group is functioning and how everyone's time can best be spent during meeting times.

6. Next Meeting – October 13, 2015:

7. Public Comment:  
None

8. Adjourn :  
Monoyios adjourned the meeting at 4:51pm

Minutes taken by:  
Murphy Ackerman  
Office Manager  
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



## **Great Housing Strategies Timeline**

Tuesday, September 22, 2015	City Commission – process update Committee of the Whole
Monday, October 5, 2015	Draft plan available for public review Presentation 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm United Way Steelcase Room
Tuesday, October 13, 2015	City Commission – presentation of plan by Workgroup Co-chairs (Committee of the Whole)
Thursday, October 22, 2015	Planning Commission – public hearing on proposed zoning code amendments/recommend to City Commission
Tuesday, October 27, 2015	City Commission – schedule date for public hearing(s) on plan and proposed zoning code amendments
Tuesday, November 10, 2015	Economic Development Project Team – Review proposed economic development policy changes
Tuesday, November 17, 2015	City Commission – public hearing(s) for plan and zoning ordinance amendments (Committee of the Whole)
Tuesday, December 8, 2015	City Commission – adoption of plan, and zoning ordinance and economic development policy amendments (Committee of the Whole)