

AGENDA

ALLIANCE
FOR
INVESTMENT



Board Members:

Rick Winn • Mark Roys • Kirt Ojala • Rick DeVries • Nick Monoyios • Nick Koster • James Botts • Phil Skaggs • Tom Tilma
Dave Hill • Ted Lott • Mark Miller • Rachel Hood • Jay Steffen • Eric Brown • Suriya Davenport • Sarah Rainero • Megan Sall
Kara Wood • Kristian Grant • Ryan Kilpatrick • Darius Quinn • Roberto Torres

February 9, 2016

3:30p – 5:00p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of November and December Minutes
3. Updated Meeting Protocols
4. Public Space Activation Follow Up Discussion
5. FY2016 Priority Plan Follow Up Discussion
6. Tree Canopy Report
7. Priority Planning Activity
8. New Member Update
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment





Alliance for Investment

January 12th, 2016

1. Call to order: Monoyios called the meeting to order at 3:32pm
2. Members Present: James Botts, Rick DeVries, Dave Hill, Rachel Hood, Nick Koster, Mark Miller, Nick Monoyios, Kirt Ojala, Jay Steffen, Tom Tilma, Rick Winn

Members Absent: Eric Brown, Suriya Davenport, Kristian Grant, Ryan Kilpatrick, Ted Lott, Darius Quinn, Sarah Rainero, Mark Roys, Megan Sall, Phil Skaggs, Roberto Torres, Kara Wood

Others Present: Tim Kelly, Jennie Kovalcik, Kayem Dunn

3. Approval of October Meeting Minutes:
Unable to approve November minutes due to lack of quorum
4. GR Forward Implementation Discussion:
Kelly told the Alliance that DGRI has opened applications for new members. Monoyios said that the majority of this coming year will focus on implementation and opening specifics on the GR Forward Plan. Ojala publically thanked Kelly for his communication efforts and overall work on GR Forward. Kelly said that the plan is now a roadmap of what DGRI hopes to accomplish in the upcoming years. Kelly explained that each goal has an implementation plan that includes actions steps, recommendations, and lead organizations to take on each action. Kelly said that once partners are found the work will be divided between all three alliances for support. Winn asked if this group had a specific budget for projects. Kelly said that the funds will be determined with the implementation points and then the Alliance will discuss the best actions to take, and approve expenditures. Monoyios asked when the official approval of Alliance recommendations was due. Kelly responded May of 2016. Winn asked how far in the implementation matrix the group should prioritize. Kelly said it covers ten (10) years, but will keep in mind more urgent time frames. Monoyios said that there will be a template from the matrix to help the Alliance moving forward.

5. FY2016 Priority Plan Update:

Kelly presented the FY2016 Priority Plan to the Alliance. Kelly said that the alliances play an important role to approve the budget plan for the next year that will need to be presented to fiduciary boards, and ultimately be approved by the City Commission. Kelly explained that discretionary expenditures include public realm priorities, such as the Pearl Street Improvement Project which has been adjusted to include the Alliance's concerns. Kelly added that this project is up to bid this month. Monoyios asked if the Alliance will be able to see what adjustments had been made based on the November discussion. Kelly said yes. Miller asked Kelly to describe the Public Realm Improvement line item of the discretionary expenditures. Kelly explained that the State Street Project, finished over multiple fiscal years; the Lyon Square project that plays into the River Access Plan; and Riverwalk Maintenance were a few examples. Botts asked what the Library Area Improvement line item was. Kelly said that there was an interest to add improvements to the library roof; however the engineer deemed the idea unfeasible. Kelly added that these funds can be allocated to other public space activation projects. Kelly showed the expenditures for the Alliance for Livability, which focused on mobility priorities with tasks oriented to the holistic approach rather than just parking. Kelly added that other Alliance for Livability expenditures include the Downtown Ambassador program that provides safety and information to the public. Kelly showed the expenditures for the Alliance for Vibrancy that focused on diversity and inclusion efforts, winter programming events, and other event production downtown. Botts asked what Downtown Marketing and Inclusion Efforts line item was. Kelly said this item is used when DGRI partners with outside inclusion and marketing teams to advertise our information or support their projects. Hood asked if Kelly could share the budget list slides with the group. Koster added that a historical context of how funds have changed over time would also be helpful. Kelly said that he would provide both for the Alliance.

6. Public Space Activation Discussion:

Kelly asked the Alliance if they had fund allocation priorities for public space activation, including items discussed in past meetings. Botts asked for an update on the Veteran's Park project. Kelly said that there are dedicated funds for this project and a final budget is needed from an engineer before implementation. Steffen asked if a solar application could be added to coexist with green efforts. Hood mentioned a company in Ottawa County that worked to develop solar powered street lights. Kelly took the information from Hood. Botts added that solar powered parking meters might go along with this green theme. Monoyios said the Alliance could layout important principles to see where they can fit into Alliance goals and priorities. Botts asked if these funds had to be used by end of fiscal year. Kelly said that ideally it would be used by that time. Tilma recommended using funds towards trash, recycling, and compactor bins that were solar powered. Monoyios said that operating costs may need to be considered while finding a place for these funds. Steffen also added that solar technology is used in the blue emergency phone system, which could assist in the safety of the river corridor. DeVries suggested adding landscaping improvements or parklets in front of the library. Winn said maybe instead of adding more benches or infrastructure more trees in that area could be beneficial. Miller asked Kelly if this money could add a block of tree canopy growth near the library; Kelly said yes. Monoyios said that after more research, pricing, and timeframes, the group could discuss options more in depth. Hood added that it may be best to do a trial of solar street lighting in order to consider the

best positive investment. Koster added that these funds could also become a contingency fund. Kelly said that next month they will go over some options and if no general decision made, funds can roll into next fiscal year. Monoyios said the return on investment based on the proposed projects should be a factor into qualifying which to choose.

7. Old Business:

Kelly said the Calder Plaza RFP process is continuing. Kelly added the steering committee will be scheduling four (4) interviews with the chosen applicants. Kelly said the Parks Master Plan is also kicking off, with interviews ongoing in the next few weeks.

8. New Business:

Kelly said that Cannonsburg in the City will be using snow on Ah-Nab-Awen Park mounds to help teach kids how to ski with volunteer instructors. Kelly added Valent-ICE is in the final stages before kick-off, if any of the Alliance members knew businesses still wanting to participate. Kelly said that Human Hungry Hungry Hippos is a new event that will happen in Rosa Parks Circle in March, with registration opening next week. Kelly handed out meeting surveys for talking points and other considerations.

9. Next Meeting:

February 9, 2016

10. Public Comment:

None

11. Adjourn:

Monoyios adjourned the meeting at 4:30pm

Minutes taken by:

Jennie Kovalcik

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.