

AGENDA

ALLIANCE
FOR
LIVABILITY



AFL

Board Members:

Shaun Biel • Trevor Bosworth • Ben Bozek • Regina Bradley • Asante Cain • Amy Cogswell • Lamont Cole • Robert Dean
Joe Elliot • Steve Faber • Christian Frank • Erika Hanson • Johanna Jelks • Nicole Kosheba • Lynn Locke • Lance Marconi
Jon Oeverman • Haley Patrone • Kelli Jo Peltier • Marcia Rapp • Jenn Schaub • Jay Schrimpf • Rachael Tamez • Aaron Terpstra
Lynee Wells

February 27, 2017

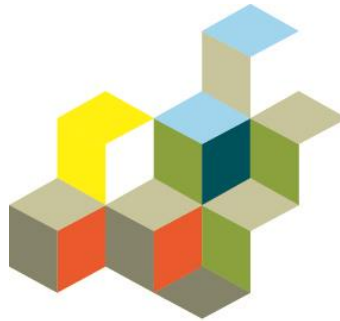
11:00a – 12:30p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to order
2. Public Comment, Current Business – 3 minutes per person
3. December Minutes, Downtown Ambassador Report, GRPD Report – 10 minutes
4. DGRI Alliance Structure Update (Larson) – 45 minutes
5. FY2017 Project Updates (Larson) – 15 minutes
 - a. Bike Share Feasibility Study
 - b. DASH Infrastructure
 - c. Division Avenue
 - d. Public Realm Improvements
 - i. Accessibility Audit
 - ii. Downtown Enhancement Grants (attachment)
6. Public Comment, Old Business – 3 minutes per person
7. Adjourn



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Alliance for Livability

November 28, 2016

1. Call to order- Wells called the meeting to order at 11:01am
2. Members Present- Shaun Biel, Regina Bradley, Lamont Cole, Joe Elliot, Nicole Kosheba, Lynn Locke, Jon Oeverman, Haley Patrone, Kelli Jo Peltier, Marcia Rapp, Jenn Schaub, Aaron Terpstra, Lynnee Wells

Members Absent- Trevor Bosworth, Ben Bozek, Asante Cain, Robert Dean, Steve Faber, Christian Frank, Erika Hanson, Johanna Jelks, Lance Marconi, Jay Schrimpf, Rachael Tamez

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Kristin Bennett, Stephanie Balke, Melvin Eledge, Jennie Kovalcik, Bill Kirk
3. Approval of November Meeting Minutes-
Moved approval of November 28, 2016 minutes as presented.
4. Public Comment / New Business-
None
5. Ambassador / GRPD Report-
Eledge said the team is doing a lot of snow removal, providing the group with an overview of what areas the Ambassadors are responsible for. Eledge said the team has staffed many winter events; including holiday events, Light Up Downtown, and Santa visits. Eledge said his team is working with the United Way to find out where the homeless community resides year round. Kirk added, snow removal by the ambassador team is funding through the DID. Terpstra said parking services also clears some of the DASH stops. Eledge updated the alliance on the SmartSystem technology, saying the team continues to learn from the system. Wells said the group could look at the list of data and talk about budget priorities when it is time to think about the budgeting process.

6. Full Alliance Work Session-

Wells followed up on last month's book discussion focused on creating inviting gathering spaces. Wells said it may be helpful to look at a map when thinking about how to create spaces of connectivity. Kirk provided the group with overlay maps from the GR Forward plan, DDA boundaries, and DASH route. Kirk said the group can see how they can partner with some of the existing projects to create gathering spaces and improve public space. Kirk asked the alliance where they would like to focus funds in the next budget cycle.

The full alliance discussed general areas for improvement.

Locke said looking at areas where the DASH and Silverline stops overlap should be a priority for placing covered benches and proper signage. Kirk said The Rapid could look at the busiest stops and see if there are heated or covered options, proper snow removal, and signage. Schaub said if the goal is to look at inactive streets, infrastructure should be checked in those areas. Kirk said the group could focus on a geographic areas based on activation or pedestrian safety. Biel asked what has not been completed in our working groups, and what could be finished before starting from scratch. Kirk said some of these projects have been discussed over the years, but with the completion of the GR Forward plan they are ready to start making moves and checking boxes. Kirk added, it is possible to consider narrowing this list down to less than five (5) projects to hone in on. Wells said there are some large projects that overlap with the work of other alliances, and the group can tag on to that work. Wells provided the example of east to west connectivity and the underpasses on Monroe North. Kirk asked if the group wanted to prioritize west side connections. The group responded yes. Schaub said public art could be used to accomplish this. Rapp said bridges being well-lit are also helpful. Kirk said the lack of snow plowed on the Riverwalk near Ah-Nab-Awen Park has also been an issue, saying alternative winter routes could be added to our list of priorities. Schaub inquired about how to engage current residents to make new residents feel welcomed and best use resources, using the 311 app as an example. Buller said this pairs well with efforts of the Downtown Resident's Network work she is doing. Buller said creating a resident orientation could be beneficial for new and existing residents to share best practices. Kirk said this item could be budgeted into the stakeholder engagement line item in the next fiscal year. Wells identified the Fulton corridor and river crosswalk near Grand Valley State University as another area that could be improved through connectivity. Wells said we could also use the pedestrian counter information to decide where to place updated signage. Kirk said through this conversation, many projects and needs have been identified and he will work to compile them and move priorities into the new alliance structure discussion.

7. DGRI Alliance Structure Update-

Wells said the DGRI Board of Advisors and alliance leaders would meet in January to discuss the structure of the alliances. Kirk said due to the shift in work after completing GR Forward, the goal is to make the best use of alliance members' time, focusing on project implementation. Wells said working groups will be defined next month to start work on these projects.

8. Public Comment / Old Business-
The group participated in an activity to wish Bill Kirk farewell.
9. Adjourn-
Wells adjourned the meeting at 12:18pm

Minutes taken by:
Jennie Kovalcik
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.



DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

2016



I. Program Purpose

To provide financial assistance to enhance projects in Downtown Grand Rapids that furthers the community goals established in GR Forward and the organizational goals of Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI)

II. Available Funding

Approved projects are eligible for reimbursement of up to 50 percent of project costs for eligible activities as defined by PA 197 of the State of Michigan.

III. Project Evaluation

Any project located in the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) boundary is eligible for the Downtown Enhancement Program. Submitted applications will be evaluated to determine their ability to advance the goals of GR Forward, with a specific focus on public realm enhancements. The DDA will fund project elements and enhancements beyond what is required by the City of Grand Rapids, including but not limited to those elements outlined below:

- **Accessibility Enhancements for Persons of all Abilities**
- **Bicycle and Multi-Modal Facilities**
- **Enhanced Paving**
- **Façade Lighting**
- **Outdoor Dining Areas**
- **Parklets (publicly accessible)**
- **Pedestrian Lighting**
- **Planter Boxes**
- **Public Art**
- **Street Trees**
- **Street Furniture**
- **Snowmelt**
- **Others as Approved by Review Committee**



The approval of a particular project will be at the sole discretion of the DDA Board. On an annual basis, the DGRI Alliance for Investment will review the Program Guidelines to determine if changes are required to meet the ever evolving needs of Downtown.

IV. Requirements and Eligibility

1. Projects must be located in the DDA Boundary (see attached);
2. Funds may only be used to reimburse eligible activities, as defined by PA 197;
3. Project elements for which an applicant is seeking reimbursement must not have commenced construction at the time of application;
4. Project shall not have received previous funding from DDA, however a building or site may be eligible for multiple grants;
5. Projects receiving funding from the DDA's Development Support Program are not eligible;
6. Non-profits and higher learning institutions are generally not eligible; however, the DDA Board may choose to support a project at their sole discretion;
7. Applicants must be up to date on City of Grand Rapids taxes prior to receiving reimbursement;
8. Funding shall be allocated per project, as opposed to a per parcel, address or unit basis.





V. Approval Process

1. Submit application with \$200 application fee
2. DGRI staff review of application materials to confirm project eligibility
3. Review of application by the DGRI Alliance for Investment
4. Presentation to DDA Board (2nd Wednesday of every month)
5. Agreement executed following DDA Board approval
6. Construction completed
7. Receipts and proof of payment provided by applicant to DGRI
8. Reimbursement issued



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