

# AGENDA

## DGRI BOARD OF ADVISORS



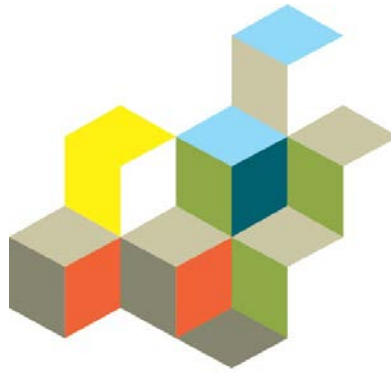
### Board Members:

Monica App • Rick Baker • Shaun Biel • Richard Bishop • Mayor Rosalynn Bliss • Wayman Britt • Kayem Dunn • Jorge Gonzalez • Brian Harris • Bob Herr • Ray Kisor • Birgit Klohs • Brandy Moeller • Nikos Monoyios • Teresa Neal • Jon Nunn • Jim Saalfeld • Doug Small • Eddie Tadlock •

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Monday, February 12, 2018  
3:30 p.m. Meeting  
29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

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|--|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Call to Order   |                  | Dunn          |
| 2. Approve Minutes from November 2, 2017 DGRI Board Meeting (3:31)<br>(enclosed) | <i>Motion</i>    | Dunn          |
| 3. Election of Officers (3:34)   | <i>Motion</i>    | Dunn          |
| 4. Board Appointments (3:39)<br>(enclosed)                                       | <i>Motion</i>    | Chair         |
| a. Monica App, Chair, Goal 2 Alliance (Downtown Neighborhood)                    |                  |               |
| b. Shaun Biel, Chair, Monroe North TIFA  |                  |               |
| c. Wayman Britt, Kent County Administrator                                       |                  |               |
| d. Jorge Gonzales, Chair, Goal 4 Alliance (Economic Development)                 |                  |               |
| e. Eddie Tadlock, Chair, Goal 1 Alliance (River)                                 |                  |               |
| 5. Report from the Exploration Committee (3:45)                                  | <i>Motion</i>    | Dunn / Harris |
| 6. Presentation on River Restoration and River Design Guidelines (4:00)          | <i>Info Item</i> | Consultants   |
| 7. Chair's Report (4:30)   | <i>Info Item</i> | Chair         |
| 8. Board Member Discussion (4:35)  | <i>Info Item</i> | Chair         |
| 9. President & CEO Report (4:45)   | <i>Info Item</i> | Kelly         |
| 10. Old Business   |                  |               |
| 11. New Business   |                  |               |
| 12. Public Comment   |                  |               |
| 13. Adjourn  |                  |               |



**DOWNTOWN**  
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

**Board of Advisors Meeting**

**November 2, 2017**

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Chair Kayem Dunn

2. Attendance

Present: Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Kayem Dunn, Howard Hansen, Brian Harris, Bob Herr, Ray Kisor, Birgit Klohs, Brandy Moeller, Nick Monoyios, Jon Nunn, Doug Small, Greg Sundstrom

Absent: Rick Baker

Others Present: Kristopher Larson (DGRI President & CEO), Murphy Ackerman (DGRI Office Manager), Tim Kelly, Kim Van Driel, Andy Guy, Annamarie Buller (DGRI Staff) Richard Bishop, Melvin Eledge, Dick Wendt, Sara VanderWerff, Scott Atchison

3. Approve Minutes from August 21, 2017 DGRI Board Meeting

*Motion: Ray Kisor, supported by Howard Hansen, moved approval of the August 21, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. DGRI Bylaw Amendments

Ms. Dunn said these are the same bylaws that were presented at the previous meeting. Mr. Larson reviewed the changes from the previous approved bylaws, including moving away from the specific definition of the Alliances and towards committees that focus on the GR Forward goals. Mr. Larson said the Executive Committee will continue to discuss whether additional changes are needed in the future.

*Motion: Ray Kisor, supported by Nick Monoyios, moved to approve the amended DGRI Bylaws as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. DGRI Advisor Appointments

Mr. Larson said he has worked with the Executive Committee to evaluate near term opportunities to expand the DGRI Board membership to ensure that organizations with a direct role in GR Forward implementation are at the table. Mr. Larson shared the recommendations for Richard Bishop (Grand Rapids White Water), Teresa Neal (Grand Rapids Public Schools), and Jim Saalfeld (Kent County Board of Commissioners) to be added to the composition of this Board. Mr. Larson said all three (3) have confirmed their interest in participating. Mr. Harris said the primary purpose of this Board is to align around the work of GR Forward, and said this is an excellent way to ensure that partners are convening around the same table to advance the plan.

*Motion: Ray Kisor, supported by Birgit Klohs, moved to appoint Richard Bishop, Teresa Neal, and Jim Saalfeld to the Downtown Grand Rapids Board of Advisors as recommended by the DGRI Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously.*

7. Discussion: Corporate Recruitment

Mr. Larson said the Amazon HQ proposal presented the opportunity for this organization to explore corporate recruitment, specifically focused on Downtown. Mr. Larson thanked Ms. Klohs and The Right Place for their assistance with this project. Mr. Larson said Goal 4 of GR Forward specifically identified corporate recruitment as a goal, and this was a real-time opportunity to discover where the gaps currently are. Ms. Klohs thanked the DGRI team and the City for their help with assembling, what she believes, is a strong and quality proposal. Ms. Klohs said she was happy to see the way the various organizations were able to work together to ensure that the end product was something the city could be proud of. Mr. Kisor asked what the biggest shortfalls were in terms of the Amazon proposal. Ms. Klohs said the public transportation and airport components both left something to be desired. She then emphasized that this was also an opportunity to call out the regions strengths as well as identify where improvements are needed. Ms. Klohs said there is a misconception that there is a lack of talent in the area, but it is quite the opposite with the number of local colleges and universities. Mr. Harris asked if there is a future plan in place to work towards the recruitment of mid-size companies before working to recruit larger companies, such as Amazon. Ms. Klohs said The Right Place is primarily focused on retention but is also looking to help fill the gaps in terms of recruitment. Mr. Larson said GR Forward specifically addresses recruitment in terms of identifying and preserving physical spaces for startups and growing businesses. In recent years much of the industrial stock has been converted to residential, and it is important to protect some of that industrial space in order to have places for businesses to locate. Mr. Larson said the new Goal 4 Alliance will continue to explore the opportunities for corporate recruitment.

8. President & CEO Report

DDA 10/11/17

- Approved funding for Streetscape Guidelines Project

- Approved funding for pedestrian & bicycle safety interventions
- Approved support for façade improvements at 53-57 Monroe Center
- Received a presentation on ArtPrize pedestrian counts

#### DID 5/15/17

- Approved and recommended FY18 Budget
- Received update on spring plantings
- Received a report and overview on pedestrian counter data

#### MNTIFA (10/11/17)

- Approved funding for Streetscape Guidelines Project
- Approved financial support for GRWW

#### DGRI (8/21/17)

- Approved appointments to new Alliances
- Had first reading of bylaw amendments
- Received update on legislative advocacy

#### Alliances:

- Hosted New Alliance orientation Sep 21. 6-8 PM
- Goal 1 Alliance: Oct 18, 10:00 AM
  - Engagement Focus: River Trail Design Guidelines
- Goal 2 Alliance: Oct 17, 3:30 PM
  - Engagement Focus: Residential Outreach Survey Design
- Goal 3 Alliance: Oct 23, 3:30 PM
  - Engagement Focus: Bike Share Feasibility
- Goal 4 Alliance: Oct 25, 3:30 PM
  - Engagement Focus: MWBE Recruitment RFP
- Goal 5 Alliance: Oct 19, 3:30 PM
  - Engagement Focus: Winter Programming / Outdoor Fitness Equipment

#### DGRI Staff Highlights

##### Events / Marketing / Communications / Engagement

- Collaborated on Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Event celebrating APA Award for RPC
- Finalizing Event Plan for Light Up Downtown – Dec 1
- Exploring sports-oriented ice rink at Heartside Park for Winter 2018
- Planning Women + City Building 2018 – Mar 21, 2018, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Hosting Grand Action Appreciation Reception Nov 20 in collaboration with Chamber, CAA, Experience GR, and The Right Place

Planning / Development / Infrastructure

- Collaborating with City of GR to install public restrooms in parking ramps
- Partnered with The Right Place, City of GR, MDOT, MEDC, and GRR on AHQ2 Proposal
- Collaborating with Frey Foundation on development of maintenance sustainability plan for RPC
- Lyon Square DD process ongoing – finalizing scope for in-river designs to be submitted with HCP – to DDA for funding Nov 8
- Calder Plaza – presented to City Commissioners, CoGR, Kent County on potential Pavilion plans & construction leading up to 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of La Grande Vitesse. Drafted Pavilion design RFQ for review by City & County.
- Planning pedestrian safety improvements at several key intersections & crossings
  - Michigan / Bridge Street Trail Crossings
  - Pilot Protected bike lane – Division Ave (Leonard to Fountain)
- Daniel Rose Fellowship:
  - Hosted Grand Rapids Study Visit Mar 20-23 for Daniel Rose Fellowship.
  - Project page available on the website. Follow-up engagement opportunity currently underway.
  - KL attended Anchorage Study Visit Apr 3-7
  - Fellowship Team presented a mid-year fellowship in Seattle Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Study Visit to Grand Rapids – September 18/19 – 60 attendees
  - Presented recommendations to Rose Center 10/26 in LA
  - Final Presentation to City Commission: November 14<sup>th</sup>
- Received Pinnacle Award for Leadership from International Downtown Association for Equity-Driven Growth Agenda in GR Forward

Advocacy

- Senator Horn has re-introduced TIF Reform bill (SB 393), Afendoulis to introduce Fee Fairness bill
- Transformational Brownfield (MIThrive)– Collaborating with The Right Place & CoGR on potential applications for use of tool
- Held a Lawmaker Breakfast Briefing Aug 28 @ 9 AM

9. Board of Advisors Discussion

Ms. Dunn said she would like to take a moment to recognize both Mr. Hansen and Mr. Sundstrom as it is their last meeting.

Mr. Larson said Mr. Hansen has been one of the founding members of DGRI and one of the most passionate and sincere members that he has had the pleasure of working with. Mr. Larson said Mr. Hansen has helped to champion a message of solidarity and independence for

the Monroe North neighborhood, and thanked him for his service to this organization. Mr. Hansen said being a part of this organization has been one of the highlights of his civic career. Mr. Hansen said it has been exciting and reenergizing, not only for himself, but for the entire city. Mr. Hansen thanked this Board for the opportunity to serve, and said he would encourage everyone to continue to work to educate the public on the work this organization continues to do.

Mr. Larson said Mr. Sundstrom has been both supportive and encouraging of this organization and has helped to ensure that progress continues to be made in the City. Mr. Larson said Mr. Sundstrom has pushed the organization to think differently and creatively and has also been an advocate when needed. Mr. Larson thanked Mr. Sundstrom for his work with this organization as well as his contributions to the City. Mr. Sundstrom thanked Mr. Larson and said he had his concerns when this organization was starting, but said he has been pleased with the significant impact it has had in the community. Mr. Sundstrom said it may take time for the City to appreciate all of the work Mr. Larson and his team have accomplished, but it has been immeasurable. Mr. Sundstrom thanked the Board for allowing him to be a part of the work it has accomplished.

10. Public Comment

Scott Atchison introduced himself to the Board and shared that he believes there should be an information booth located Downtown. Mr. Atchison said now that the GoSite is no longer operating, the DDA should build the booth, while Experience Grand Rapids should operate it. Mr. Atchison said he believe ArtPrize should operate the booth during its event dates. Ms. Dunn thanked Mr. Atchison for his comments.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

Mr. Larson shared that he has accepted a position with the Downtown Raleigh Alliance and will be resigning from Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Mr. Larson thanked this Board for their support and guidance during his tenure. Mr. Larson also thanked his staff for all of the great work that they have accomplished. Ms. Dunn said Mr. Larson's resignation will need to be accepted by both the DGRI Board of Advisors and the DDA Board.

*Motion: Brian Harris, supported by Ray Kisor, moved to accept with regret the resignation of Kris Larson as President & CEO, effective upon acceptance by the DGRI Board of Advisors and DDA Board of Directors, and to designate Kayem Dunn and Brian Harris to memorialize with Mr. Larson the terms of his resignation under his employment agreement and the terms of a consulting arrangement with DGRI during a transition period. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion: Brian Harris, supported by Greg Sundstrom, moved to appoint Tim Kelly as the interim President & CEO, and to designate Kayem Dunn and Brian Harris to work with Mr. Kelly on interim employee arrangements. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Monoyios took a moment to share his full confidence in Mr. Kelly and his ability to lead this organization in light of Mr. Larson's departure. Mr. Hansen added that his involvement with Mr. Kelly and the GR Forward process was incredibly positive and shared his confidence in Mr. Kelly as interim President & CEO. Mr. Larson noted that Mr. Kelly has affirmed that he will accept the interim position.

*Motion: Mr. Monoyios, supported by Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, moved to appoint Kayem Dunn, and Brian Harris, together with two additional persons appointed by each of them, to assess the needs of DGRI; to determine a recommended process to permanently fill the position of President & CEO; and to report back to this Board. Motion carried unanimously.*

Board members took a moment to thank Mr. Larson for his work and service to the organization.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm



## MEMORANDUM

TO: DGRI Board of Advisors

FROM: Tim Kelly, AICP

DATE: February 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Appointments to the DGRI Board of Advisors

The bylaws of the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Board of Advisors (the Board) call for the elected chairs of the Alliances to serve as members of the Board. The chairs serve a one-year term and are elected during the January Alliance meetings. For the one-year period starting January 2018, the elected chairs for the Alliances are as follows:

- Goal 1 (River): Eddie Tadlock, Vice President, SMG
- Goal 2 (Downtown Neighborhood): Monica Steimle-App, VP of Property Management, Rockford Construction
- Goal 3 (Mobility): Nick Monoyios, Long Range Planner, The Rapid\*
- Goal 4 (Economic Development): Jorge Gonzales, Director, Start Garden
- Goal 5 (Public Spaces and Programming): Brandy Moeller, Administrative Services Officer, City of Grand Rapids\*

*\*Current Board member*

In addition, the bylaws also permit the Board to appoint members of the community for service at any time they deem necessary. At this time, two additional appointments are requested to accommodate the transition in leadership for the Monroe North Tax Increment Finance Authority, and Kent County. The two appointments are:

- Shaun Biel, Chair, Chair, Monroe North TIFA
- Wayman Britt, Kent County Administrator

Each of these seats is considered an advancement of the intent that shaped the Board's initial and evolved composition. Further, each of the individuals being recommended reflect the need for strong collaboration to advance the vision for Downtown outlined in GR Forward.

### RECOMMENDATION:

**Appoint Eddie Tadlock, Monica Steimle-App, Jorge Gonzales, Shaun Biel, and Wayman Britt to the Downtown Grand Rapids Board of Advisors as called for in the DGRI bylaws and recommended by the DGRI Executive Committee.**