

AGENDA

GOAL 1 ALLIANCE



Board Members:

Corinne Farleigh • Drake Harper • Eddie Tadlock • Elyse Mathos • Issac Degraaf • Janet Korn • Joe Elliot • Laura Cleypool • Lindsey Gadbois • Maleah Beatty • Mark Roys • Matt Chapman • Nolan Miller • Rachel Hood • Rob Hyde • Sergio Cira-Reyes • Ted Lott • Tom Hoving • Traci Montgomery • Tyler Kanczuzewski

February 25, 2019

3:00- 4:30 PM

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes –October 24, 2018
3. River Design Guidelines Review and Discussion
4. FY20 Project Line Items- Governance Structure Planning
5. Lyon's Edge + Square Update
6. GR Forward Orientation - TBD
 - Next Meeting – April 29, 2019
7. Alliance Member Discussion
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



GOAL 1 ALLIANCE

Reestablish the Grand River as the draw to the city & region.

FY20 Projects for Goal 1 Alliance

This is a list of projects and initiatives prioritized for the budget items for Fiscal Year 2020 which runs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The brief descriptions are not meant to be all encompassing but rather to serve as a high level overview of the particular project.

River Trail / Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Identifying safety improvements and stronger neighborhood connections along the river corridor.

River Trail Design Guideline + Opportunity Sites

Develop design guidelines for the river corridor along a seven-and-a-half-mile segment of the Grand River. The Design Guidelines Manual will outline approaches, design solutions, and material selections to inform the development of the riverfront trail through Downtown.

River Trail Identity

A project to define – through naming, banners, signage, etc. – a distinct identity for the future River Trail signage to ensure the trail reflects the unique character of West Michigan and stands out as a distinct asset.

Lyons Edge + Plaza Design

Construction for Phase I (Uplands) and coordinating ongoing efforts with surrounding stakeholders for Phase 2 for the Plaza.

Ah-Nab-Awen Park Master Plan

Restoration efforts within the river will begin in Spring 2019. Shortly followed will be the redesign of Ah Nab Awen Park Redesign that includes the grass mounds, river trail, and the shelter/bathrooms.

River Governance

Provide recommendations for a long-term governance structure to develop and manage the River Corridor and associated public assets. GR Forward Thinking Speaker Series and evaluation of funding and other governance models. RFP/RFQ for consultants will be released in May 2019 to ensure project alignment with organization expectations.



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 1 Alliance

October 24, 2018

1. Call to order: Eddie Tadlock called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.
2. Members Present: Ted Lott, Rachel Hood, Eddie Tadlock, Janet Korn, Joe Elliott, Traci Montgomery, and Lindsey Gadbois.

Members Absent: Jay Steffen, Rick DeVries, Richard Bishop, Laura Cleypool, Tom Hoving, Rob Hyde, Mark Roys, Ben Weatherhead, and Rick Winn.

Others Present: Tim Kelly, Annamarie Buller, Kyama Kitavi, and Amanda Sloan.

3. Approval of Minutes- July 18, 2018.
Motion: Traci Montgomery, supported by Janet Korn, moved to approve July 18th 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. River Design Guidelines Review and Discussion

Tim Kelly provided reminder that we are coming to the end of the river design process and that the “River for All” public presentation on November 1st should be well attended. He stated today will be one last opportunity for discussion and comments as we move forward with next steps then introduced Trevor Bosworth, with VIRDIS Design Group. Mr. Bosworth provided another overview of the project presenting on the three components of the project which include: corridor design guidelines, asset management plan, and opportunity site concepts as was discussed in detail in July.

The intent of the corridor design guidelines is to establish the design of the corridor edge that complements the White Water project already in motion. These designs address 7.5 miles and consider the high water mark of the river, shared use trails, lower trails, flood walls and green space. The intent of the asset management plan is to provide a long term planning document for the city: to determine the opportunity sites within the DDA boundaries and define the level of service, programming, maintenance strategies/forecasts, operation models and management strategies for each of these sites. Mr. Kelly stated DGRI plans to host Bronx River Alliance as well as reach out to other river cities before 2019 to determine best practices and move forward with a recommendation. Mr. Bosworth continued presenting in more detail on the 6 concept design sites. He stated these were selected in scope to provide the best access to the river and trail system.

Leonard to Ann St Trail is the first site being considered. There is opportunity to complete in phases and does not depend on river construction. *Water Department Storage Yard* currently holds and pumps water to different areas of the city. This will be offline in 2021 and will be transformed with adjustable hydraulic system in the water. Greenspace, access for fisherman and kayakers, lower trail with habitat, upper boardwalk through the trees, and potentially restrooms will be added. Lindsay Gadbois and Rachel Hood requested more details on parking options and voiced concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians. Mr. Bosworth provided additional details on the vision of a portage area, kayak racks and gear drop and believes these are sufficient plans for expected “unloading” traffic. Long term parking may need to be addressed in the future. One of the visions at the *Coldbrook Water Pump Station* is to convert the existing water building into The Parks & Rec Administration Building with indoor programming to promote education. There is potential to sell a section of this lot (keeping the 50 foot waterfront) in order to fund other pieces of this project. The goal at *North Monroe* site would be to activate open public space and provide safe exits out of the river by softening the edge of the slope. The open public space could host large public events and allow more accessibility to the river. There is a desire at the *Grand Rapids Public Museum* is to make this space more accessible to the public. The goal is to provide education indoor/outdoor connectivity by reestablishing more native vegetation and providing better access to the water for classroom activities. *Fish Ladder Park* currently has a water pumping station (that will need to stay). The plan is to sculpt the hill and add restrooms to provide an area to host competitions, as well as have viewing terraces at upper and lower rapids. This is the area on the river that will have Class 3 rapids (highest level) on the water so emergency service access to the water is a need.

Mr. Bosworth continued to present high level overview of Priorities and Phased Implementation with all projects likely completed in 4-6 years. Grand River restoration (River for All) will be completed in 3 phases. Phase 1 (potentially in 2019 as permitting allows) will be

the Upper Reach (Ann St to 6th St Dam). Phase 2 (likely in 2021) will be the construction of the Adjustable Hydraulics Structure. Phase 3 Lower Reach (6th St to Fulton) will wrap with the removal of 6th St Dam.

Joe Elliott asked if there be markings at the mid-block street crossings. Mr. Kelly responded there is one by the post office fully designed and already budgeted that we will bid in the winter for installation in the spring. East side overhang and West side crossing markings and lighting are still to be determined. Mr. Bosworth commented that at every major cross street along the trail a decision needs to be made to provide protective crossing and/or access under the bridge.

Ted Lott requested clarification on the Priorities and Phased Implementation slide. Mr. Bosworth explained there is level of commitment that has been budgeted by the city for core projects for the river each year. We will continue to communicate with Mobile GR, DNR, MDOT, and West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition to determine how these projects will be fully funded. Mr. Kelly reiterated DDA boundaries per Mr. Lott's request. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Bosworth if he had conversations with Ottawa County. Mr. Bosworth answered conversations have taken place regarding trail width as well as providing accurate and consistent cultural (Native American) history along the trail. Best management practices between the city, Kent and Ottawa counties have also been discussed.

Mr. Kelly expressed the importance of thinking long term in regards to funding strategies. We may see shifts in some of the design as we start thinking about generating revenue and how we will maintain this over time. The site opportunities are all conceptual ideas at this point so keep in mind that there may be tweaks we would pursue.

Mr. Elliott asked if there has been any feedback on Ah Nab Awen Park. Mr. Kelly responded we have received generally positive feedback. He is hopeful there will be even further opportunity to increase access to the river in the future. Mr. Bosworth stated this is a great example of a missed opportunity. We identified the need for flood protection at this location 3 or 4 years ago, at the same time GR White Water identified the need for river access at this point though GR Forward was not yet completed. Hopefully we can use this as an example to improve our guidelines in the future.

Mr. Kelly added we will need to prepare for managing the big mess that years of construction will bring to the city. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Bosworth about the approval path for funding. Mr. Bosworth stated there is a March 1st deadline to provide the City's estimated 5 year budget commitment for funding to the state. There is also still some policy language (ordinances) that need to be looked at.

5. Alliance Member Discussion

Mr. Kelly informed members that a survey will be sent out soon. We will be collecting opinions on ease of participation in this alliance to establish the best possible engagement.

6. Next Meeting

TBD

7. Public Comment:

None.

8. Adjournment:

Mr. Tadlock adjourned the meeting at 4:41 pm.

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Sloan

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.