

AGENDA

GOAL 1 ALLIANCE



Board Members:

Richard Bishop • Laura Cleypool • Rick DeVries • Joe Elliot • Lindsey Gadbois •
Rachel Hood • Tom Hoving • Rob Hyde • Janet Korn • Ted Lott • Traci Montgomery •
Mark Roys • Jay Steffen • Eddie Tadlock • Ben Weatherhead • Rick Winn •

October 24, 2018

3:30p – 5:00p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes – July 18, 2018
3. River Design Guidelines Review and Discussion
4. FY19 Project Updates
5. Alliance Member Discussion
6. Next Meeting – Schedule to be Determined
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment





DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 1 Alliance

July 18, 2018

1. Call to order: Eddie Tadlock called the meeting to order at 10:06 am
2. Members Present: Traci Montgomery, Lindsey Gadbois, Eddie Tadlock, Ted Lott

Members Absent: Jay Steffen, Joe Elliot, Rick DeVries, Janet Korn, Richard Bishop, Laura Cleypool, Rick DeVries, Rachel Hood, Tom Hoving, Rob Hyde, Mark Roys, Ben Weatherhead, Rick Winn

Others Present: Tim Kelly, Rachel George, Stephanie Wong, Gabi Schumacher (DGRI Staff), Trevor Bosworth.

3. Approval of Minutes- April 18, 2018.
Motion: Eddie Tadlock, supported by Ted Lott, moved to approve April 18th 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. River Design Guidelines Review
Mr. Kelly took a moment to introduce Trevor Bosworth, landscape architect at VIRIDIS Design Group. Mr. Bosworth gave an overview of the three components of the project, which include: corridor design guidelines, asset management plan, and opportunity concepts. Mr. Bosworth asked if anyone had a chance to go through the guidelines. Mr. Lott asked for confirmation that this is a new thinking in the structure since the last discussion, and that there will be separate documents. Mr. Bosworth replied that there are specific concepts for each opportunity that can be designed to the guidelines as an appendix. Mr. Bosworth said that these can be in one document together, but they wanted to have flexibility to be able to pull separate sections. Tim asked if there was a conversation about opportunity sites being incorporated into the parks master plan. Mr. Bosworth said yes, this is part of the plan. Mr.

Bosworth took a moment to explain the design guidelines and the recommendations made by site types. Mr. Bosworth asked if there were any questions. Traci Montgomery asked for clarification on trail development along the river. Mr. Bosworth said that these design guidelines and recommendations gives guidance on materiality, but does not give exact requirements. Ms. Montgomery asked if there was an ordinance related to this. Mr. Kelly responded that there is a River Overlay District, which is a zoning overlay that covers the entire corridor and has elements that looks at trails and setbacks, but it is not specific. Mr. Kelly said that the intent is that some recommendations would modify the Grand River Overlay district. Mr. Kelly said that the trail action and how it is implemented in the larger network could use more discussion. Mr. Bosworth explained that the overall trail network plan describes future connections, but does not include those who are inter-agencies. Lindsey Gadbois asked if there is a context map. Mr. Bosworth said that there is a map; however it does not provide implementation. Mr. Lott added that there he is concerned about the coordination and governance of these plans. Mr. Lott said that there needs to be a discussion about definitions of a trail and other things along the river, and who is responsible for these items. Mr. Bosworth said they are also looking at the bike plan and looking at how far they are going to extend outside the river corridor. Mr. Lott said that Bosworth is working on two plans that need to be interconnected somehow. Mr. Kelly added that it is actually three plans due to the Streetspace Project. Mr. Bosworth asked if there were any more questions about the guidelines. Mr. Lott said that he does not have any big issues with the conceptual guidelines document, but that his criticism is that there should be some statement with leadership planning outlined. Mr. Bosworth replied that they did not want to have specific rules for the planning, but agreed that they do not have a plan for who is responsible for making decisions. Mr. Kelly said that for the trail itself, those things do need to be specific and one of the challenges is that not everyone is on the same page. Mr. Lott replied that by presenting this and moving it forward, the City can commit across the organization to implement the document. Mr. Lott said that since they are getting pushback on implementing GR Forward, there needs to be a discussion about having GR Forward as the document that the City of Grand Rapids is working towards. Mr. Bosworth said that this work needs to happen specifically so that the River Restoration can understand the plans, and so Grand Rapids Whitewater can also move forward.

Mr. Bosworth gave a brief overview and intent of the strategic asset management plan. Mr. Bosworth stated that the plan is a long range planning document for the City of Grand Rapids and its partners as a guide to most effectively maintain and replace assets specified within the Grand River corridor over time. Mr. Bosworth took a moment to describe the organization of the document. Mr. Lott said that we should be spending institutional energies on governments at this point. Mr. Lott said that governance seems to be the biggest issue at this time because we cannot envision this without a solid government in place. Mr. Kelly said that they have

been meeting with the Whitewater Restoration and the City of Grand Rapids, and they are looking to bring in some folks with experience as well as look at models across the country. Mr. Bosworth said that there is still value in this document, even though it does not define governance because it gets into the guts of what we need to be thinking about. Ms. Gadbois said that it is a check and balances thing, and this document can be used as a tool for whoever is going to govern the space. Mr. Kelly responded that the DDA is not going to invest without structure. Mr. Bosworth said that they are designing spaces, and not getting into the programming of spaces yet. Mr. Bosworth added that it is still undefined who is going to manage it, and this desperately needs to be worked out. Mr. Lott said he was surprised to see that there were opportunity sites in the asset management plan. Mr. Kelly said that with all the renderings, he feels like there are not a lot of winter discussions for the spaces in this document, which is something that needs to be discussed.

Mr. Bosworth took time to look at each of the six opportunity sites and gave a brief summary for each. Mr. Lott asked how the adjustable hydraulic structure and boat passage would work for site 2. Mr. Bosworth showed on the map how it would work, and described that this would occur in the portage area. Mr. Lott asked about parking requirements for the Coldbrook site. Mr. Kelly asked if parking would be allowed. Mr. Bosworth replied that the Whitewater Restoration group feels strongly about access for people to be able to park and unload their cars at the access sites, and that parking is what is needed for this to be a success. Mr. Lott said that there should be more discussion about how to find a better solution. Mr. Kelly said that for the North Monroe opportunity site, the DDA has been bringing up the opportunity to generate money in the Southern end, and may end up building a structure. Mr. Lott asked if the lawn at the site would be big enough for Movies in the Park. Mr. Kelly said that the lawn is much bigger than what is needed. Mr. Kelly asked what was happening with the current trail along the Museum opportunity site. Mr. Bosworth said that heading south, there are multiple options. Mr. Bosworth stated that GVSU currently owns the property there, so there is discussion about creating a more defined trail way along the Blue Bridge, as well as discussion about a cantilever system due to private property ownership along the river.

Mr. Lott asked if they should have another meeting. Mr. Kelly said that he will reach out to the other Alliances to see if they want to see the information from the presentation, and then they can decide if they want to meet again. Mr. Lott asked what the schedule was moving forward. Mr. Bosworth replied that the plans are going to commission on August 14. Mr. Lott asked what is happening August 14. Mr. Kelly replied that it is a special briefing that outlines action; no action is actually being taken yet. Ms. Gadbois asked Mr. Bosworth if there were any areas that he needed feedback on regarding his plans. Mr. Bosworth said that he maybe would like feedback on the trail connections plans. Mr. Bosworth said that one thing that keeps coming up is that things will change. Mr. Lott said that he wished the bike plan were to show the

connections that need to be made, acknowledge that the Grand River and the freeway are barriers, and create an overall vision for fixing trail connections. Mr. Kelly said they need to look at priorities and ask what needs to be done when. Mr. Tadlock added that they need to show progress, especially when they are asking people for funds.

5. FY2019 Budget Update

Mr. Kelly said that the DDA and MNTIFA approved the budget in June, and if anyone had questions on the specifics to let him know.

6. Alliance Member Discussion

Mr. Lott asked if they could discuss governance. Mr. Lott asked what the intent of the \$100,000 was. Mr. Kelly replied that the money is set aside to do that if needed. Mr. Kelly said that how the money will be ultimately spent will be determined by best practice research and working with the mayor mainly. Mr. Lott asked if everyone at the table was engaged. Mr. Kelly said yes, the speaker series will be the first piece and will kick off around Labor Day.

7. Next Meeting- TBD

Meeting is not scheduled yet. Mr. Kelly said that there is some loss in momentum and engagement, so they are going to circle back with the Alliance chairs to see what works best for getting more people involved.

8. Public Comment:

None.

9. Adjournment:

Mr. Tadlock adjourned the meeting at 11:26am.

Minutes taken by:

Rachel George

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.