



# AGENDA

## GOAL 2 ALLIANCE

### Board Members:

Aaron Terpstra • Angie Morales • Brian Grooms • Daniel Kvamme • Danielle Rowland • Noele Stith • Sarah Green •  
Dave Nitkiewicz • Doreen Timmers • Jenn Schaub • Kate Hunter • Katy Hallgren • Landon Jones • Latesha Lipscomb •  
Latrishia Sosebee • Monica App •

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May 13, 2019

1:00pm-3:00pm

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2019
3. Affordable Housing RFP Process overview
4. Downtown Neighbor Network overview
5. Heartside Quality of Life recommendations
  - Peckich Park
  - Gleaners
  - YMCA Veggie Van
  - Public Restrooms
6. Grand Rapids Police Department Update
7. Next Meeting – June 10, 2019 1-3:00pm
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



DOWNTOWN  
GRAND RAPIDS INC.



## Goal 2 Alliance

April 8, 2019

1. Call to order: Annamarie Buller called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm.
2. Members Present: Sarah Green, Katy Hallgren, Latesha Lipscomb, Danielle Rowland, Monica App, Kate Hunter, Brian Grooms, Nipun Nath, Latrisha Sosebee, and Jenn Schaub.

Members Absent: Daniel Kvamme, Aaron Terpstra, Angie Morales, Noele Stith, Dave Nitkiewicz, Landon Jones and Doreen Timmers.

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Kyama Kitavi, and Amanda Sloan (DGRI).

3. Approval of Minutes- March 11, 2019  
*Ms. Sosebee, supported by Ms. Rowland, motioned to approve March 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.*
4. FY20 Budget Recommendations  
Ms. Buller presented the Draft FY20 Projects List for Goal 2 and stated these budget allocations are soft dollar amounts that may be adjusted as budgets for all of the alliances are finalized. The first priority on the list is Affordable Housing Support. Ms. Buller presented the Draft Affordable Housing RFP that will be provided to our legal counsel for review. We have \$250,000 in funds already allocated to Affordable Housing for FY19 and this Request for Proposal (RFP) invites applications for Affordable Housing project grants. We are maintaining this amount on our FY20 budget because it is unlikely we will be able to spend these funds before FY20. With the approval of this alliance, and after any recommended adjustments from Legal, we can make this RFP public. The Frey Foundation will send out on our behalf and we will be ready to make a broad distribution in May. Ms. Buller stated this is currently a loose framework to keep open for multiple proposals including a market study.

Proposals will come to DGRI staff, adjusted if need be, and then presented to this alliance for consideration. Ms. App stated this is a great way to see what opportunities may be available and is hopeful to find a way to use these funds where they will make a difference. Ms. Hunter asked if we expect a good volume of applicants. Ms. Buller stated we need to advertise that this opportunity exists. We should forward this to organizations that have done housing research for us in the past as we could potentially provide much needed information to the City for their Housing Commission Fund. Ms. Hallgren stated perhaps we should clarify that more than one grant may be awarded. Ms. Lipscomb asked what the timeline is. Ms. Buller stated she is planning to send out to everyone that she can think of and following up in a few weeks to ask if they are interested. It will take at least a month for a proper proposal to be created. We should expect to see applications being submitted in June, July or August. Ms. Sosebee asked why there isn't a deadline. Ms. Buller stated we would like to be aware of projects as they are happening and a deadline may prevent us from receiving some applications. Having a rolling basis timeline allows us to consider supporting projects for future budgets as well. Ms. Sosebee requested a marketing flyer or a visually appealing embedded email for sharing the RFP. Ms. Buller recommended that we keep the \$250,000 amount for this budget line item in FR20. Ms. App and Ms. Lipscomb agreed.

The second project for budget consideration is Heartside Quality of Life Implementation. As the HQoL plan just recently became final, she recommends allocating \$30,000 to support ideas that fall within this implementation. The HQoL plan, as well as the GR Forward plan, calls for providing a CSA and/or Farmer's Market. Ms. Buller suggested working with Heartside Gleaners (who distribute food unable to be sold at Fulton Street Market to needy residents of Heartside) and the Veggie Van through the YMCA which is currently in need of funding. Potentially we could fund one day during the week for the Veggie Van and then Gleaners volunteers on Saturdays. Goal 2 could support the Heartside Downtown Neighborhood Association by financing several mailings as they kick off their first year as an organization and fund Peckich Park gardening efforts. Another potential way to support Heartside would be to provide a course or training program for reviewing developments. The goal would be grow our leadership base by working both with local residents and businesses to improve the neighborhood. Ms. Schaub stated we want to create the business association process so that it aligns with the neighborhood association process. The recommendations for those two groups may be different but the process/presentation should be the same for both. Providing background to citizens about the process would allow them to make better educated decisions.

Public Restrooms for Heartside had \$300,000 budgeted for this past year but has been a rolling line item since 2015. Unfortunately, our plans continue to foil but this is a core issue that needs to be addressed this year. Heartside Ministry requested a substantial amount of money to take on the risk of offering a public restroom. Ms. Buller stated the Parks Department was developing a plan for FY2021. The Friendly Loo program (collaborating with businesses downtown to provide public restrooms) may be an option but businesses tend to leave the program after undesirable incidents. We may be able to incentivize businesses financially or with ambassador services. Ms. Schaub stated in the working group they discussed putting out an RFP to find a solution for a public restroom. Potentially we could offer \$150,000 for an RFP and use \$150,000 for upkeep. Ms. Lipscomb stated an RFP could creatively address this issue. She stated she doesn't support Degage when they ban people based on behavior. Ms. App stated she would like to see \$150,000 budgeted again for FY20. Ms. Sosebee agreed.

Ms. Buller stated the DNN Advisory committee met last week and is still determining what the organization will stand for and what they will accomplish. The amount of \$35,000 recommended in this budget is the same amount as last year. This covers events, print materials, support to near neighborhoods and associations, marketing and brand building.

The Downtown Census data tells us who lives downtown and who works downtown. The information was last pulled in 2014. \$15,000 would help us keep that data fresh. Ms. Buller stated this work could correspond with a resident survey this summer as part of the DNN to help us determine priorities for the DNN. This data would be delivered in 2020.

The Public Inebriate Center would require a 3 year commitment totaling \$150,000. Mr. Nath indicated his support. Mr. Grooms stated, in his mind, spending \$50,000 a year on this is preferable to \$150,000 on a public restroom. He believes people would rather see urine than a drunken person lying on the street. Ms. Sosebee asked if there will be a publication or educational piece to residents notifying them of this resource. Ms. Schaub stated if we are funding this, it important to support public awareness. Ms. App suggested adding a recommendation to facilitate communications with residents for this funding.

5. GRPD Update

The GRPD is still looking for a homicide suspect from a few weeks ago. There have been unverified rumors that the suspect had been frequenting downtown missions. Mr. Grooms will forward the press release for us to review. Results from a GRPD staffing study have been released and it was not recommended to increase police officer staffing but instead to hire civilians for some interior and community outreach positions. Mr. Grooms stated the Presidential visit went well and the PD expects up to a dozen more large political events throughout the rest of the year.

6. Open Alliance Member Discussion

Officer Brian Grooms stated the lighting improvements are currently being installed at Cherry and Division. Ms. Buller stated there is a GR Overview being held tomorrow and encouraged everyone to attend to receive the big picture plan of action for Downtown and the Grand River. Also, be sure to read the GR Forward Focus Newsletter every month for updates on what each of the Boards and Alliances are doing at DGRI. If you are a downtown resident please attend the Mix, Mingle, & Share event taking place Wednesday evening.

7. Next Meeting – May 13, 2019

8. Public Comment

Mr. Nath shared with the group he is competing in Start Garden's 5x5 Night this month. He encouraged the group to visit [www.5x5night.com](http://www.5x5night.com) to view his idea called Dignity Hostels and asked for votes which he hopes will lead to additional support to address homelessness in Grand Rapids.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Sloan

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.