

AGENDA

GOAL 2 ALLIANCE



Board Members:

Monica App • Regina Bradley • Chardonnay Henderson • Devin Holston • Nicole Kosheba • Daniel Kvamme •
Latesha Lipscomb • Kisha McPherson • Angie Morales • Nipun Nath • Dave Nitkiewicz • Jenn Schaub •
Latrishia Sosebee • Noele Stith • Aaron Terpstra • Joshua Verhulst •

April 17, 2018

3:30p – 5:00p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2018
3. FY19 Budget Update
4. Heartside Quality of Life Process
5. Downtown Resident Organization Update
6. Open Alliance Member Discussion
7. Next Meeting – July 17, 2018
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 2 Alliance

January 16, 2017

1. Call to order: Tim Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:39pm
2. Members Present: Monica App, Daniel Kvamme, Dave Nitkiewicz, Aaron Terpstra, Joshua Verhulst,

Members Absent: Regina Bradley, Chardonnay Henderson, Devin Holston, Nicole Kosheba, Latesha Lipscomb, Kisha McPherson, Angie Morales, Nipun Nath, Jenn Schaub, Noele Stith, Latrishia Sosebee,

Others Present: Tim Kelly, Murphy Ackerman, Annamarie Buller, Flor Valera (DGRI Staff), Officer Rich Atha

3. Election of Alliance Chair
Mr. Kelly explained that each of the Alliances will nominate a chair that will work with staff to build agendas as well as represent the Alliance on the DGRI Board of Advisors. Mr. Kelly said Ms. App had previously been nominated and he will follow up with other members of this Alliance before an official vote in light of such a small amount of members currently present.
4. Approval of Minutes- October 17, 2017
Motion: Daniel Kvamme, supported by Dave Nitkiewicz, moved approval of the minutes from the October 17, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Resident Survey Update
Ms. Buller gave an overview of the process for forming the Downtown Resident Network. Ms. Buller shared some of the input that was given at the previous Alliance meeting regarding the previous resident surveys that were circulated. Ms. Buller took a moment to share the

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current draft of a new resident survey and asked Alliance members for their feedback. Mr. Terpstra asked if this survey will be distributed to the student resident population, as their answers could skew data because they are not permanent residents. Ms. Buller said there could be an option to select that they are students in order to identify them from other respondents. Mr. Nitkiewicz asked if there are options for single family homes. Ms. Buller said there is a write in answer for home addresses, but the downtown does not typically have single family homes and this survey will be geared towards downtown residents. Ms. App suggested providing a visual for survey takers to understand the boundaries of the downtown and surrounding neighborhood associations. Mr. Nitkiewicz said the boundaries will help as many won't be able to visualize neighborhoods by street name alone. Ms. Buller asked if there was any information that may be missing or may need to be changed. Mr. Nitkiewicz said it may be beneficial to organize the questions so that the demographic questions are answered prior to the subjective questions. Ms. App suggested informing participants the approximate time it will take to complete the survey before beginning so they can set aside the appropriate amount of time. Ms. Buller thanked the group for their feedback and said a main focus of the resident network will be to determine the mission and charge of the group, and these questions will help to determine what that might be. Ms. App asked when the survey will be sent out. Ms. Buller said it will be distributed the end of this month through the end of February. Mr. Verhulst asked if there was a goal participation rate. Ms. Buller said she is hopeful to have at least 300 participants, but also wants to be mindful that there is a good balance between all of the residential population and not only respondents from one or two buildings. Ms. Buller said the Resident Steering Committee will be meeting on February 1st and Steve Faber will be providing a facilitated session to work towards defining the scope of the network.

6. Downtown Affordable Housing Discussion

This item was postponed due to attendance.

7. Rose Center Recommendations

This item was postponed due to attendance.

8. Alliance Member Discussion

Mr. Kelly gave an overview of the two sub-groups that will be asked to meet outside of the regular quarterly meeting. Mr. Kelly gave an overview of the work that the Development Group will work on including, identifying how the \$250,000 in the DDA budget for affordable housing should be allocated, reprioritizing the incentive programs that the organization manages, and looking to address housing issues such as the "missing middle".

Ms. App asked if there is a list of the various incentive tools that DGRI manages. Mr. Kelly said he will send them to the group and is also planning to schedule a deeper dive into the incentive programs at the next Alliance meeting. Mr. Kelly said there will also be an Engagement Group that will be primarily managed by Ms. Buller and include projects such

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as, the Heartside public restroom facility, an update to the Downtown census, and continuing the work of the resident network. Mr. Kelly said the Alliance will also need to meet soon and begin the upcoming budget conversations. Mr. Kelly said because the organization works to have it's budgets finalized by May, he will work to ensure that this group meets prior to the scheduled April meeting.

Ms. App took a moment to give an update and overview of the City's new housing fund. Ms. App said the City and the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will be working together on the fund with it being managed by the Housing Commission. Ms. App said the organizational agreement will soon go before City Commission for final approval. Ms. App said the charge of the fund will be to use the money to help move forward initiatives that relate to affordable housing. Ms. App said she would share the information amongst the group.

Mr. Nitkiewicz asked about the current transition of leadership at DGRI. Mr. Kelly said there is currently an exploration committee that is assessing the needs of the organization and will be presenting to the DDA Board their recommendations in the coming months.

9. Next Meeting- April 17, 2018

10. Public Comment:

None

11. Adjournment:

Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at 4:43pm

Minutes taken by:

Murphy Ackerman

Office Manager

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

POTENTIAL FY19 PROJECTS: GOAL #2

Committed FY 18

Affordable Housing Support- play a role in determining the best use of these funds to develop a pilot program that increases the availability of affordable housing options in Downtown.

Amend Development Programs- we amend our development tools to ensure the tools are aligned and work to advance community priorities in key performance areas. For example, policies to be reviewed may include the Areaway Fill Program and the Building Reuse Incentive Program.

Resident Engagement Programs-Working in close collaboration with Downtown residents, this group will help DGRI identify and provide more opportunities for community building and social interaction among Downtown residents. This group will also help DGRI advance the effort to establish a neighbor-led Downtown Neighborhood Association.

Downtown Census- Online survey completed reaching 300 residents.

Heartside Public Restrooms- DGRI, working in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids, will identify and invest in new solutions to expand the availability of public restroom facilities in the Heartside neighborhood.

Proposed FY19

Affordable Housing Support- play a role in determining the best use of these funds to develop a pilot program that increases the availability of affordable housing options in Downtown.

Amend Development Programs- we amend our development tools to ensure the tools are aligned and work to advance community priorities in key performance areas. For example, policies to be reviewed may include the Areaway Fill Program and the Building Reuse Incentive Program.

Resident Engagement Programs- working in close collaboration with Downtown residents, this group will help DGRI identify and provide more opportunities for community building and social interaction among Downtown residents. Continue to fund Downtown Resident Network Events, seed the resident organization for their 1st year of operation.

Downtown Census

Heartside Public Restrooms- working in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids to place restrooms in parking ramps on Commerce. Continue to fund staffing for public restrooms the city creates. Continue to explore a restroom solution on Division Avenue.

Site acquisition opportunities

Explore open data policies/programs

Incentivize additional farmers markets

Explore/develop alternative housing models

Explore unique shopping opportunities such as a centralized location for local crafts people

Heartside Quality of Life Vision Statement

Our neighborhood will be a safe, cooperative place where our diverse interests and lifestyles can coexist with mutual respect.

We believe there are shared ideals and resources that are necessary for a daily life of dignity and respect. We are working together to:

- improve access to housing, fresh food, mental health, substance support, and public restrooms
- become a place where there is dignity for those who are disabled, facing unemployment or struggling with mental illness
- build economic and educational opportunities for all people, with an emphasis on supporting women, and people of color, and families
- improve our neighborhood so neighbors of all backgrounds can live, work, shop, volunteer, play, worship, and proudly welcome guests
- improve public and nonprofit services to build equity for all residents
- unite in harmony and fellowship
- tear down stereotypes
- ensure that community engagement is thriving and empathy is evident

We hope that Heartside neighbors and partners will embrace collaboration to become a welcoming, green, walkable, safe, historic neighborhood where people of all types can live, work and play without judgement based on race, income level, sexual orientation, religion, gender identity, ability or education.

Heartside Quality of Life Work Groups Guiding Principles

Leadership

We count on residents and community partners to take initiative in working collectively, creatively and aggressively to make it a reality. The early involvement of community stakeholders leads to the identification of a number of community issues. Workgroup participants will focus on shaping shared goals and identifying strategies to guide change in our neighborhood. Transparency of process and the inclusion of neighborhood feedback will be evident, monthly workgroup updates will be shared at Neighborhood Association Meetings and a mid season event. Personal accountability for engagement is paramount to supporting the process and the community.

Partnership

From our social service organizations, faith institutions, for profit businesses, neighborhood association and education institutions to our public safety officials and city departments, we recognize that success can only be achieved through collaborative efforts, relationship building and a shared vision. No community resolutions will work without having a broad range of partners integrated as workgroup members, committed to carrying solutions forward.

Creativity

Creativity is a neighborhood strength and we recognize the importance of infusing creativity into our problem solving processes. From sharing neighborhood vision to encouraging dynamic meeting processes, we are looking for innovative methods that champion expression and new perspectives.

Access

We are committed to creating a neighborhood that is welcoming for all, from inclusive design decisions to community meetings that are open for participants of all abilities and backgrounds. Heartside is a place for everyone.

Diversity and Inclusion

We want to make sure that our community is welcoming. We value solutions that encourage and promote empathy. Diversity is value and strength in our neighborhood and the inclusion of resident voice regardless of race, religion, ability, age, gender or socioeconomic status is essential when determining solutions. We will work to cultivate empathy for our neighbors and peers.

Community Health

We understand that the health care concerns of the individual can impact the neighborhood as a whole. The maintenance, protection and improvement of the health status of our community is an indicator of neighborhood improvement. Our strategies and solutions understand that limited access to nutrition, mental health and addiction services constitute a public health crisis in Heartside and supportive services are paramount to supporting the well-being of our neighbors.

Advancement and Opportunity

We seek solutions that create economic and educational opportunities for both residents and businesses. Growth opportunities for community members to be engaged, empowered, and employed will increase individual and community wealth.

Heartside Quality of Life Work Group Schedule

Tuesdays

10-11:30 *Substance Support (focus: addiction support network)*

Meeting dates: May 8, May 22, June 5, June 19, July 10, July 24

Wednesdays

10-11:30am *At Home In Heartside (focus: affordable housing options)*

11:30- 1pm *Public Restrooms (focus: public restroom solutions in Heartside)*

Meeting dates: May 9, May 23, June 6, June 20, July 11, July 25

Thursdays

10am- 11:30am *Engaged and Employed (focus: employment and educational options)*

Meeting dates:

11:30 -1pm *Neighborhood Building and Activation (focus: creating a Neighborhood Association in Heartside)*

Meeting dates: May 10, May 24, June 7, June 21, July 12, July 26

Friday:

10-11:30am *Areas of Improvement (focus: Pekich Park and Lucky's Liquor)*

11:30am-1pm *Fresh Food Access (focus: healthy food options in Heartside)*

Meeting dates: May 11, May 25, June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27

Make up dates: please reserve July 30 and 31st from 9-2pm incase of WorkGroup make up meetings.

Quality of Life Workgroup Progress Report Lunch (Open to the community)

Herkimer Community Room, 309 South Division

June 13th 11am 1:30pm

Workgroup Celebration (Invite only)

August 8th 11:30am to 1:30pm

4TH ANNUAL MIX, MINGLE & SHARE WITH YOUR DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORS



Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Space is limited. Please RSVP
at rsvp@downtowngr.org
or call **616-719-4610**.

*All attendees are entered to
win Downtown prizes.*



5:00pm - 6:00pm

Mingle with your neighbors.

6:00pm - 6:30pm

Imagining the possibilities for
a Downtown neighborhood
organization.



**The B.O.B. | 20 Monroe Ave.
Eve Nightclub**

Complimentary appetizers and
non-alcoholic beverages. Happy
hour pricing for adult beverages.
Dress code? Come as you are
comfortable.

Presented by the Downtown Residents Network in partnership with:



eve



**Downtown
Residents
Network**