

# AGENDA



## GOAL 2 ALLIANCE

### Board Members:

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

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January 14, 2019

3:00p – 5:00p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2018
3. Affordable Housing Fund Conversation with Carlos Sanchez
4. Downtown Neighbor Network Recruitment & Goal 2 Alliance Recruitment
5. Heartside Quality of Life Update
6. Public Restroom Update
7. Next Meeting – February 11, 2019 3-5pm
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment



## Goal 2 Alliance

December 10, 2018

1. Call to order: Monica App called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.
2. Members Present: Latesha Lipscomb, Monica App, Dave Nitkiewicz, Latrisha Sosebee, Nipun Nath, Daniel Kvamme, Chardonnay Henderson and Brian Grooms.

Members Absent: Angie Morales, Nicole Kosheba, Noele Stith, Joshua Verhulst, Regina Bradley, Aaron Terpstra, and Jenn Schaub.

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Mark Miller, Kyama Kitavi, and Amanda Sloan.

3. Approval of Minutes- April 17, 2018, July 17, 2018, October 31, 2018, and November 19, 2018  
*Monica App, supported by Daniel Kvamme, motioned to approve minutes from April, July, October, and November of this year.*

4. Downtown Neighbor Network Update

Annamarie provided a recap on the DNN Happy Hour held at Bridgewater Place December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a small but lively group. See the DGRI website for updates and additional information at <http://downtowngr.org/our-work/projects/dnn>. Also, orientation for DNN will be in January 2019 with the first meeting to be held in February.

5. Heartside Quality of Life Process Update

Ms. Buller reviewed approved funding items that have been completed or is planned, in order to give the group an overview of where investment is going in the Heartside Neighborhood. In FY19, \$150,000 is budgeted for a public restroom and \$250,000 (along with an estimated \$150,000 in FY20) toward affordable housing. Downtown Neighbor Network investments include \$15,000 for a Downtown Census and \$35,000 for Stakeholder Engagement Programs.

\$70,191 in lighting improvements were completed on Weston Ave (from Sheldon to LaGrave) with another \$378,784 budgeted for lighting improvements on Division Ave (from Wealthy to Fulton). Non-lighting street improvements completed in 2018 include \$245,000 at Sheldon and Fulton, and \$342,568 on Weston Ave (from Sheldon to LaGrave). Improvements scheduled for 2019 include \$442,152 for a linear park on Sheldon Ave (from Weston to Fulton) and \$443,089 for Division Ave reconstruction from Wealthy to Cherry. Ms. Buller stated \$20,000 is set aside for the HQoL Process and this group is tasked with deciding how to best allocate these funds.

Latisha Lipscomb presented 2 documents taken from the final HQoL report. She will be presenting the full and final report to City Planning on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> with a recommendation to fund an employee for 2 years (\$100,000) as well as \$40,000 to fund the work. Chardonnay asked for clarification on the request. Ms. Lipscomb stated the \$40,000 request is in addition to the \$100,000 salary proposal.

Ms. Buller stated we received detailed quotes on the work recommended for Pekich Park. \$1,200 will cover plants and new soil. She also provided quotes for a Neighborhood Association newsletter mailing to all downtown residents. To provide this newsletter to residents in color would be \$1,393 or in black and white \$905. If we wanted to include businesses in that newsletter the cost for color would be \$2,854 or \$1,849 for black and white. Mr. Nitkiewicz asked if we have a comprehensive plan to utilize our affordable housing funds. Ms. Buller stated at this time we do not. Ms. App suggested we invite Carlos Sanchez with the Grand Rapids Housing Commission to our next meeting. Mr. Sanchez could provide an update or overview on where The City is with affordable housing projects and may have ideas as to how we could contribute our funds in a collaborative way toward the cause.

#### 6. Streetspace Guidelines

Mark Miller presented the (very close to) final Streetspace Guidelines. This document intends to provide guidance for all downtown projects that impact the quality of the public realm and outdoor room, and specifically all projects that seek Downtown Enhancement Grants. These guidelines establish baseline expectations for our downtown streetspaces that further the goals of GR Forward. This baseline would be achieved by the public sector when initiating improvements within the streetspace and also the public sector when seeking development support from DGRI. We need to think about how we are prioritizing our funds. As such, we want to promote pedestrian experience and encourage construction to put people first. When this group is asked to evaluate proposed projects for funding, we should support projects that create enduring places, inviting places, and designs that put people first.

There are 5 street types described in this document; for each street type there are specific benches, bike racks, and trash bins recommended. Ms. Sosebee asked if there would be just trash. Mr. Miller stated there would also be recycling receptacles. Mr. Miller presented

pedestrian zone elements including the design and placement recommendations of café seating, landscaping, public seating, transit stops, waste and recycling, and street lighting. Frontage zone elements include human scale, building composition, façade materials, façade lighting, and active walls. Transparency in storefronts with variation and color, and decorative but functional signage are things we would like to see.

Mr. Nitkiewicz mentioned the new crosswalk (at Division and Fulton) which is pedestrian controlled. He asked if there will be more pedestrian controlled crosswalks in this plan. Mr. Miller stated some were recently installed as a pilot. As a city we need to work through better accommodations for the handicapped and visually impaired. Ms. Sosebee asked how much of a window you can cover on street level frontage. Mr. Miller stated we would defer to the zoning ordinance but recommend limiting signs and encourage the promotion of advertising with activated space. We cannot regulate what is on the inside of a window but we can strongly encourage the business to invite people in without the use of a billboard, perhaps by using an educational piece. Ms. Sosebee asked if a smaller version of the Streetspace Guidelines could be distributed to business owners throughout downtown. Mr. Miller agreed he would like to see that happen.

7. Open Alliance Member Discussion

Brian Grooms stated GRPD currently has 12 officers in training so new officers will be on the street soon. There is no update on the hiring of the new chief of police.

Ms. Buller stated the city is currently completing a parking rate and demand study to determine if they will maintain or increase standard monthly parking and extend the hours of operational metered parking. She will email the group a link to this survey and encouraged everyone to participate before it closes on Dec 21.

8. Next Meeting – January 14, 2019

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm.

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Sloan

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.