



AGENDA

GOAL 3 ALLIANCE

Board Members:

Andrew Queenan • Breese Stam • Dave Riley • Dustin Corr • Hank Kelley • Jim Botts • Johannah Jelks • Kara Peltier •
Kristin Bennett • Max Dillivan • Meegan Joyce • Nikos Monoyios • Ryan Kilpatrick • SuLin Kotowicz • Trey Conner •

April 23, 2019

3:00p – 4:00p

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of March Minutes
3. Final recommendations for FY2020 Budget
4. Review Streetspace Guidelines evaluation metrics (time permitting)
5. Staff Updates
6. Alliance Member Updates
7. Public Comment
8. Next Meeting: May 29, 2019, 3p-4p
9. Adjournment



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.



Goal 3 Alliance

March 27, 2019

1. Call to order: Mr. Monoyios called the meeting to order at 3:04pm
2. Members Present: Andrew Queenan, Meegan Joyce, Nick Monoyios, Breese Stam, Kara Peltier, David Riley, Dustin Corr, Hank Kelley, Max Dillivan, Jim Botts, Trey Conner, Ryan Kilpatrick, and Johannah Jelks

Members Absent: Kristin Bennett and SuLin Kotowicz

Others Present: Goal 5 Alliance Members: Hannah Berry, Kyle DeGroff, Katherine Williams, Reb Roberts, Derek Call, Julio Cana, and Shaun Biel. DGRI Staff: Stephanie Wong, Mark Miller, Amanda Sloan, Kim Van Driel, Megan Catcho, and Kyama Kitavi. MKSK Consultants: Andy Knight and Casey Elmer.

3. Van Andel Arena Plaza Discussion with MKSK
Mr. Miller stated this project is currently at 30% completion and the decision was made to focus on the plaza portion in order to complete construction of that this year. At this point we need to vet any final design and materials decisions in order to move forward with construction documents and bid the project. Mr. Miller introduced Andy Knight with MKSK to provide the design concepts. Mr. Knight stated that both the Plaza and Alley are part of a larger design concept and the historical significance of "Furniture City" contributed to some design inspiration. He presented renderings of the project in order to prompt feedback for making decisions as we continue to move forward. As we graphically look at textures and colors, the goal is to create an outdoor experience to include vegetation and the reuse of existing pavers in the design. We will use the grade to elevate the edge of the plaza for protection from vehicles and provide a safe space for people to cue as they wait for an event, taking out the handrail and moving the wall to keep people away from that right of way area. The contour scheme for the furniture and ergonomic design take into consideration utilities; the ins and outs shape the spine (east and west) to the field area with recycled pavers.

Sculpted planters serve as barriers, seating elements and planting opportunities that complement the contoured scheme. Considering the Main Entrance (at Fulton and Ottawa), performance platforms would provide flexibility with higher trees surrounded by seating. The idea being that these can be built quickly and easily removed or relocated for specific events or future construction as well as provide a higher canopy from the start. The Woodland Contour (the transition from the plaza to the alley) would maintain a garden feel. The Sound (what we are calling the alley) would contain festoon lighting, light posts with banners for signage, as well as expressive vegetation for year round greenery. Mr. Knight presented examples of 3 different paving pattern options for the front of the arena. All are interchangeable and would recycle the donor pavers currently in use. Two options have pavers extending to the right of way; the other has pavers stopping at the steps and installing concrete to the street. Van Andel prefers to have the pavers extend to the road to bring definition to the area of events and an indication of a grade change. Ms. Joyce stated sometimes a greater contrast in pavers at grade change is important for the visually impaired. Mr. Knight agreed and stated we are trying to create as much access as possible while keeping a grade change for security reasons. Mr. Biel asked if the shading on this rendering is the actual color being represented. Mr. Knight stated we will reuse the three different existing pavers on this site with the question being in what pattern. We have the opportunity to create a big moment with the two grid patterns coming to a head at this site. It could be interesting to craft a subtle resolution of both bricks. Mr. Knight stated that each of these decisions has intent and are not arbitrary. He then requested a show of hands how many favored each pattern. Option 1 received 1 vote, Option 2 received 10 votes and Option 3 received 1 vote, by raised hands. Mr. Knight shared that Disability Advocates believed Option 1 to be too busy so MKSK will continue pattern design based on options 2 and 3.

In regards to the furnishings, the planters chosen are able to be disassembled to access (utility) pipes underground if necessary. Weathered steel is the material being considered for these. Typically a concern with steel is that it will leave a brown stain on the ground; therefore, it will need to be placed in a field or offsite for a time (and potentially treated with an accelerant) before installation to allow for that weathering to take place. This material will allow rain to sheet down the edge so water runs down the aggregate. We are also exploring sculpted (moldable) plywood for the seating.

The signage is also in design mode at this time. Mr. Knight stated we are looking at building a sign off of the planter located closest to Fulton and Ottawa but we are still trying to determine digital signage. There will be a large scale digital board on the building but we may also want one at pedestrian level. The Sound signage will include banner posts which are able to accommodate festoon lighting. The trees in the planters can hold light globes with color changeable LED bulbs resistant to water penetration. We are still playing around with paving patterns in the alley, carrying the contour idea to pull people down through the space.

Mr. Monoyios inquired about the arrangement with the businesses operating trash bins in the alley. Mr. Knight stated these businesses are very receptive to the idea of enclosed trash bins throughout the alley and even willing to coordinate trash removal around events. Mr. Biel stated the tree canopy is quite tall in these renderings and asked if the plan was to install large trees. Mr. Knight stated in some areas more mature trees will be placed among younger trees with intention to grow the canopy further over time. Hank Kelley stated there should be equal attention in improving the arrival experience by public transit or ride share services in that area as there is for pedestrian arrival. Ms. Joyce stated the Go!Bus (which operates for seniors or persons with disabilities) would certainly benefit from having a designated parking or turn off area for assisting with drop offs at that location. Hank Kelley stated as Ottawa is closed off during events, that road could potentially be utilized for rideshare or public shuttle cueing.

4. Approval of Minutes- February 27, 2019

Motion: Trey Conner, supported by Maxwell Dillivan, moved to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Streetspace Guidelines evaluation metrics

Mr. Miller stated these should be finalized and available for review by our next meeting.

6. FY2020 Budget

Mr. Monoyios stated this group must determine the recommended budget for Goal 3 priorities and projects that will be presented to and approved by the DDA for FY20. FY2019 Investment Line Item Budget was provided for reference as well as a Draft FY2020. Mr. Miller stated these pools of investments listed are all areas that Goal 3 will be vetting; within these line items are examples of various projects. Public Realm Improvements could include street furnishings to align with the updated Streetspace Guidelines as well as a new Wayfinding System. Division Avenue Reconstruction is an example of a Streetspace Improvement likely to be part of the FY20 budget. Some of the things we are investing in here are public seating, receptacles, bike racks, and shelters. Another improvement is the Fulton/Sheldon Transit Stop Enhancement where we are considering a pilot bus stop. Investing in a temporary platform allows us to test a bus bulb which extends the curb cut, saving time and money while increasing mobility safety. Mason Street and Ottawa Street both in Monroe North are other opportunities to invest in the streetscape while the City will be reconstructing the street as part of the Coldbrook decommissioning. The Ottawa/Ionia study is being done to determine possible two-way restoration so this is included as a budget item. DGRI currently owns 13 Pedestrian Counters and 2 Bike Counters. These count the pedestrians in certain spaces at certain times throughout downtown. This is a rolling line item simply for data acquisition costs, though we could consider expanding the number of counters or possibly updating the

technology. We also want to consider enhancing the crosswalks around the River Trail, specifically at Fulton. Mobility Enhancement opportunities would include mobility and accessibility repairs or bike-friendly improvements (such as bike lanes & infrastructure or bike share) and are typically done in collaboration with Disabilities Advocates. Development Enhancement Grants (reimbursement of up to 50% of an expense for public space improvements) and Development Support now fall into Goal 3 purview. The Summer Street project is a potential DEG where the old Service Reproduction building is being converted to a restaurant this year. The owners would like to have a sidewalk on Douglas with parallel parking spots created. Mr. Miller stated we are currently working with the engineering department at the City to determine how to address this project but it could potentially qualify as a DEG in the FY20. Rolling Investments are items that we invest in year over year. Dash support (through a bus lease) and Wayfinding Maintenance and Repair both fall into this category. Carry-Over projects that were included in the FY19 budget that we did not yet fund include: Festoon Lighting on Ionia Street, Michigan/Ottawa Gateway (plaza or artwork), Downtown Circulator Infrastructure, Division Avenue lighting, and the Michigan/Bridge River Trail Crossing. These items have already been allocated in our budget but may need to carry over to FY2020 if funds are not spent before June 30th of 2019.

As a group we need to make decisions on prioritizing these projects. Our goal is from now until April 23rd to dialogue any opportunities in order to have a more refined priority list at our next meeting. We will be presenting our budget to the DDA for approval in April and then to the City of GR (City Commission) for formal approval. Ms. Joyce asked if we haven't spent money that has been earmarked will it automatically be rolled over into the next year's budget or can we cut it. Mr. Miller stated either; if we haven't used these funds for the designated purpose, perhaps we should reconsider removing them from the budget. Mr. Stam asked if we start a project before July 1st will the funds be applied to the FY19 budget. Mr. Miller stated, yes, but it needs to be included in the FY20 budget if we are spending in 2020.

Mr. Stam stated the Sheldon (Weston to Cherry) project is on hold and not on the horizon for 2020 so perhaps those allocated funds could be shifted to other projects. Mr. Miller stated we do hear periodically from stakeholders that our Wayfinding system is outdated and insufficient. We may want to consider conducting a study and investing in upgrading it. Hank Kelley asked if the DDA has considered striping the road a red coloration to signify bus lanes; this is likely to be a costly project but would seek to elevate the transit experience downtown. Mr. Stam stated Ottawa (from Michigan to Fulton) is going to be repaved and if we would like to see any upgrades (curb cuts, bulb outs, or greening) to the streetscape those would need to be designed in the next few months. Mr. Queenan stated bulb outs on the north and south sides of Calder could provide a safe designated area for food trucks.

7. Alliance Member Discussion

Mr. Stam stated we were told that the pavers on Monroe Center would hold color and they didn't. On Van Andel, if we are planning to reuse pavers, what condition are they in and will they allow infiltration of water? He stated we also need to consider less curb cuts if we want this to look nice. Mr. Miller stated these are all things being considered by the design team. The pavers are clay, not concrete, and the area will likely will be irrigated as it is our desire to include maturing trees in the scope of this project. Mr. Queenan stated the Fulton and Sheldon temporary curb extension is a good idea. That portable platform would be a good investment and useful in testing out other projects. He would be interested to know if we could share that cost with The Rapid and who would own or maintain it. Mr. Miller stated we would need to do a little more research and decide how we might facilitate that.

8. Next Meeting – April 23, 2019

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm

Minutes taken by:

Amanda Sloan

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.