

Virtual Meeting Instruction

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBOR NETWORK ADVISORY

Hello,

As many of you know, recent restrictions and mandates have been issued in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. For this reason, and for the safety and wellbeing of our members and employees, we would like to continue to move GR Forward through virtual meetings.

We have decided to use Microsoft Teams for video/phone conferencing for all upcoming board and alliance meetings. Teams has many exciting features including screen sharing, recording, live captions, file sharing, and more. Below are instructions on how to access your upcoming virtual meeting.



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How to Join the Meeting:

1. It is recommended to download the App (but not necessary):
 - a. [Apple Devices](#).
 - b. [Android Devices](#).
2. When you click the following link, it will prompt you to choose: Launch App, Download App, or Join by the web. [Click here to access the May 7th Team meeting.](#)
3. Allow access to your mic and camera (this is very important for you to join the conversation).
4. Prior to joining the meeting, it will require you type your name. Make sure your mic and audio are on and click join.

Virtual Meeting Etiquette:

- Test the app and all technology (including camera/video, Wi-Fi, and audio) before the meeting.
- Always have a contingency plan, you may want to download the app to a second device.
- Mute your microphone when you're not speaking.
- Start a comment by saying your name. Not everyone may recognize your voice. This practice also facilitates the work of the person who is taking minutes.
- Be aware of your surroundings: make sure your background is professional and work appropriate.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please email mmcdaniel@downtowngr.org. Thank you!

Best,
Mandy



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AGENDA



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBOR NETWORK

Advisory

Members:

Amy Skentzos • Christopher Billmeier • Daniel Drent • Drew Terwee • Eddie Tadlock • Jane Reynolds • Kathy Steindler • Kelli Jo Peltier • Latesha Lipscomb • Laurie Craft • Mark Tangen • Michael Dorney • Myric Harris • Rose Martinez White • Wilma Banks •

May 7, 2020

11:30pm- 1:00pm

[Microsoft Teams](#)

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Call to order/ introductions | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 2. | Approval of minutes | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 3. | Downtown neighbor challenges during Covid 19 | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 4. | DNN virtual engagement brainstorming: What can residents do to help? | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 5. | DNN Advisory background and discussion | Annamarie Buller |
| | • Ask for committee volunteers to work on a DNN Advisory job description | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 6. | Advisory member discussion | |
| 7. | Public comment | |
| 8. | Adjournment | |

The DNN exists to foster a community of downtown neighbors that are connected, informed and empowered to improve downtown living.





Goal 2 Alliance & Downtown Neighbor Network Advisory

April 2, 2020

1. Call to order: Ms. Buller called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.
2. Goal 2 Members Present: Daniel Kvamme, Aaron Terpstra, Abby Cribbs, Danielle Rowland, Latesha Lipscomb, Katy Hallgren, Dave Nitkiewicz, Jenn Schaub, and Monica App.

Goal 2 Members Absent: Brian Grooms, Sarah Green, Jacey Ehmann, and Latrisha Sosebee.

DNN Members Present: Amy Skentzos, Kellie Jo Peltier, Daniel Drent, Latesha Lipscomb, Rose Martinez White, Eddie Tadlock, Jane Reynolds, Kathy Steindler, Laurie Craft, Mark Tangen, and Michael Dorney.

DNN Members Absent: Christopher Billmeier, Myric Harris, Drew Terwee, and Wilma Banks.

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Marion Bonneaux, Mark Miller, and Mandy McDaniel (DGRI Staff).

3. Approval of Goal 2 Alliance Minutes - March 2020
Daniel Kvamme, supported by Abby Cribbs, motioned to approve March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.
4. Approval of DNN Advisory Minutes - March 2020
Daniel Drent, supported by Kathy Steindler, motioned to approve March 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.
5. Introductions

6. Goal 2 Alliance FY 21 Budget Review

Ms. Buller referred to the Goal 2 Alliance budget for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. She stated this is the 3rd year with The Heartside Quality of Life (HQL) Implementation in the budget. Last year was the 1st implementation where we were spending funds that included resident trainings such as, a Citizen Planner Course through MSU and the City, Mental Health First Aid Training, Rent this Way Training (regarding renter's right), and Action Planning for Community Change which was created by Jenn Schaub and Annamarie Buller. The MSU Citizen Planner course will be rescheduled to the summer or in the fall depending upon the COVID-19 crisis.

Ms. Buller stated under the HQL budget, we would like to continue the expansion of fresh food access downtown, continue our partnership with the Dwelling Place on the Pekich Park Gardening program, and continue incentivizing local farmers markets through The Heartside Gleaning Initiative, the YMCA Veggie Van, and a bi-weekly farmers market. The farmer's market would be a total of 6 events occurring every other week in July, August, and September.

Ms. Buller stated continuing under the HQL budget for fiscal year 21, we would like to budget for a Heartside Downtown Walking Tour. A pilot tour was originally scheduled for the Spring but will be postponed due to COVID-19. We would also like to create a Heartside/ Downtown Resident Employment Program in the next fiscal year targeted towards downtown residents who are underemployed.

Ms. Buller stated some projects through HQL are to be completed soon are all the lighting improvements (by the end of the summer) and the Heartside public restroom (installation scheduled for July 2020). Ms. Buller stated we are still planning to complete a restroom audit to see what is needed and continue to advocate for restrooms for our downtown parks. The cleaning/maintenance of the restrooms are under Goal 5's budget.

Ms. Buller stated the Downtown Neighbor Network (DNN) is funded through DDA and reports to the Goal 2 Alliance. The DNN's key areas for the fiscal year 21 budget is communication and marketing. The DNN would like to continue to build and evolve the DNN brand. The budget includes a staff member for operational support, the continuation of monthly newsletters, the addition of a standalone website, and build its social media presence. In addition, the DNN would like to boost its brand and target marketing towards resident's downtown to grow their knowledge of what the DNN is.

Ms. Buller stated also included in the DNN's budget for fiscal year 21 are some major events to help build the network and share information with residents. There will be a winter holiday gathering, a spring Mix, Mingle, and Share event, and community conversations on topics such as fresh food access conveyed as needed. The spring Mix, Mingle and Share event scheduled for May 2020 will be postponed to the fall.

Ms. Buller stated the DNN engagement focus is to build an agenda for action and coalition around pedestrian safety improvements. Another focus of engagement is continuing to make downtown more welcoming to neighbors. Educating our residents is important to the DNN and a lot of that was covered through HQL process. Ms. Buller plans to schedule a nationally acclaimed speaker on pedestrian safety, conduct some research on best practices internationally as well as local statistics, build a coalition to decide 6-8 top things to pilot and improve on, and collaborate with the DNN, Goal 2, and Goal 3 Alliance.

Ms. Buller stated some pedestrian safety improvements that are already taking place include, the river trail crossings at Fulton, Monroe crossing at Campeau, a crossing at Ottawa in front of City Hall, a raised median refuge at Market and Weston, and a complete conversion of pedestrian signal heads. In addition, Monroe Avenue mid-block crossing improvements, but unsure of where exactly that is located. Mr. Miller stated it is safe to assume it is in between the Devos Convention Center and City Hall. There is money in the budget for pedestrian safety behind Monroe center, turning it into a green alley with permeable pavers and innovative space. There is also a Wayfinding RFP to help improves pedestrian safety downtown.

Ms. Buller stated there is a lot that DNN, Goal 2, and Goal 3 can collaborate on including mobility education and initiatives. Also, DGRI has funded research with Disability Advocates and Common Notice to work on making Downtown more welcoming for people of all abilities.

Mr. Nitkiewicz asked if COVID-19 will impact the 2020 budget? Ms. Buller stated yes it will, DGRI and the DDA will have to work hard to create a plan of action.

Ms. Hallgren asked if the bidding process for the Portland Loo has started. Ms. Miller stated we have received 2 bids, one from Wyoming Excavators and the other from Nagel Construction. We will be proposing to the DDA next week to enter into contract with one of them.

Mr. Nitkiewicz stated it looks like there has been a lot of effort branding the Fulton corridor. He asked is we are collaborating with Experience GR and others for the DNN signage? Ms. Buller stated the marketing efforts of the DNN will be focused more on welcoming current residents. Goal 2 is focusing on how to communicate businesses and amenities to residents. It is all still developing.

Ms. Lipscomb stated perhaps the HDNA Board could be invited to a DNN meeting or the DNN could be encouraged to attend a monthly potluck meeting in the future. We must be intentional about building bridges. This provides a way for better collective impact overall.

Ms. Buller will come up with a specific numbers budget and will share that with members soon. The budget will be presented to the DDA next week for approval. There will be a lot more questions of what's on our budget because of the pandemic right now.

7. Grand Rapids Police Department update

Ms. Buller stated Officer Grooms injured his Achilles tendon and will be off duty for a while. We will see if Officer Martin, who is a new community officer, or another officer is able to attend the meetings.

8. Next Meeting Dates:

- DNN Advisory on May 7, 2020 11:30am
- Goal 2 Alliance on May 11, 2020 at 1:00pm

9. Member discussion

Ms. Buller stated please reach out to friends, family, and colleagues during this challenging time and to take care. Also, if you have a great idea or something that would be impactful for Goal 2, DNN or DGRI to do, please let Ms. Buller know. We are open and looking to innovate to help support our residents, our stakeholders, our businesses, and employees during this time.

Ms. Lipscomb asked if the May meetings are in person? Ms. Buller stated it is unlikely but stay tuned.

Mr. Terwee stated it would be great to have a phone number to call if we see something that needs attention downtown. Ms. Buller stated you can contact 311 for city related questions. The new Community Officer is Pat Martin. You can contact Officer Martin at (989) 450-1485. Community Officer Jenny Rood's phone number is (616) 292-1595. You can also call the Downtown Ambassadors at (616) 250-8263. 211 is a great number to call for those looking for help housing, food scarcity, or in need of a job.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.

Minutes taken by:
Mandy McDaniel
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

2.2 SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT IMPROVE DOWNTOWN LIVING FOR EXISTING RESIDENTS & ATTRACT NEW DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS

Downtown Grand Rapids's most valuable asset is its people. As the Downtown population grows steadily and residents are turning districts and areas into neighborhoods, local leadership is tasked with ensuring that civic infrastructure, programs, and services are improving in step with this evolution. The following strategies should be considered to continue cultivating growth and encourage Downtown residents to put down roots.

FOSTER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES DOWNTOWN

The numbers of people who participated in the GR Forward process in various ways speak for themselves: Grand Rapidians are eager for opportunities to be a part of the future of Downtown Grand Rapids. Community members who participated in the process also spoke for themselves: at the public open house, public forums, and other engagement events, the planning team regularly heard individuals voice the need for continued community engagement and input beyond the horizon of the planning process itself. City leaders are encouraged to create regular and structural opportunities for the community to be a part of shaping the future of Downtown and the Grand River.



>>Support efforts to establish a Downtown residents council

Many Grand Rapids neighborhoods have formalized civic groups to establish formal representation within city-level dialogues and leadership structure among neighborhood residents. Efforts recently begun to assemble a Downtown residents council should be supported in order to create more opportunities for community building and social interaction among Downtown residents, many of whom are living in disconnected pockets of the Downtown area; and establish a venue for community dialogue about change Downtown. Among the roles the council may decide to take on, it may consider ways of welcoming new residents, creating a communications infrastructure to facilitate information sharing specific to Downtown among residents, and ensuring that the views of Downtown residents are being represented in major decisions by Downtown leadership.

“Having lived in Heritage Hill for 27 years and loving the “neighborhood.” I would love to see the same “community” environment shared with Downtown residents.”

- Public forum participant

>>Educate residents about ways to be engaged in discussions around change Downtown

Outside of a comprehensive planning process, how will Downtown residents be able to continue taking part in guiding change Downtown?

- > Once established, the regular meetings of a Downtown residents council would act as appropriate venues for the City and Downtown leadership to engage the community in opportunities for input in decisions and priorities when appropriate.
- > Though some long-time residents may be familiar with channels of civic engagement, Downtown’s growing base of new residents will need some orientation. Grand Rapidians care deeply about the future of their City and form online discussion boards around development, transportation and green space among other topics. The opportunity is to spread this knowledge further and empower others across the City to better understand, and engage in, local planning and design issues. One example of this kind of initiative is Philadelphia’s Citizen’s Planning Institute [CPI], the education and outreach arm of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission. CPI offers courses and events designed to inform civic-minded community members about planning principles and municipal procedures around development and City decision making, including how to engage in opportunities for public input. Other cities pursue this idea outside of City government relying instead



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on local non-profits and development agencies. The City, DGRI and their partners should consider tapping into local expertise to develop a program focused on citizenship education. More informed and engaged citizens would benefit Downtown and communities across the City as well. As with the Citizen's Planning Institute, accommodations must be made to ensure the broadest participation possible across incomes and neighborhoods. CPI tracks participation in their programs in order to identify and address gaps in their services.

Downtown Resident Steering Committee 2018:

Resident name, building and duration residing in current property:

1. **Laurie Craft**, Riverhouse (Bridge Street) 8 years
2. **Erica Curry VanEe**, Union Square (Broadway Street) 11 years
3. **Chadd Dowding**, Prospect Street and Lafayette Street 5 years
4. **Dave Hill**, Front Row (Monroe Center) 9 years
5. **Michael Hoogeboom**, Tapestry Square (Wealthy Street) 2 years
6. **Meegan Joyce**, Riverhouse (Bridge Street) 5 and half years
7. **Carl Kelly**, Boardwalk (North Monroe Avenue), 8 years
8. **Latesha Lipscomb**, Division Park Avenue (South Division Avenue) 7 years
9. **Ada Mbonu**, Hopson Flats (Grandville Avenue) 2 years
10. **Kelli Jo Peltier**, Plaza Towers (Monroe Avenue) 2 and half years
11. **Eddie Tadlock**, Fitzgerald (Library Street) 10 years
12. **Mark Tagan**, The Lofts (Sheldon Blvd), 6 years
13. **Maria Zache Starkey**, Peck Building (Monroe Center) 4 years

Gender

7 Women, 6 Men

Race

White- 9
Black- 4

Age

25-34- 2
35-44- 3
45-54- 3
55-64- 3
65-74
75-84- 1

Place of Work

Downtown- 10
Outside of Downtown- 2
Retired- 1

Downtown Neighbor Network Steering Committee Schedule 2017-2019

Committee History:

November 17

Informal meeting/ data collection/ planning for the process

- **Steering Committee informal meeting on November 14, 2017 from 11-12:15pm**
 - Meet possible steering committee members- Who else needs to be in the room?
 - 6-8month commitment, role of the committee member
 - Review resident survey and brainstorm possible questions needed
 - Facilitator selection- 3 considered, group selected Steve Faber
 - Schedule information for monthly meeting.

Met with near Neighborhood Associations and organization to let them know about the process

- Near Downtown Neighborhood Associations, CID's, Business Associations invited to Informal meeting on November 7, 2018 from 11-12:15am
 - Downtown Resident Organization Background
 - Overview of GR Forward points of collaboration
 - Current process plan

December 17

- Resident survey created from feedback.
- Confirm committee that is representative of Downtown Residents.

January 18

- Plan process with Steve Faber for each monthly meeting- what materials?
- Find out if we have a presentation at the Neighborhood Summit
- Downtown Resident Census survey:
 - What are the main questions we want answered by the broader community?
 - Figure out plan for survey distribution and timeline.
 - Outreach to building managers about how best to survey residents
- Deploy Downtown Resident Survey- Sent 1/23/2018- close 2/23/2018- purpose to inform committee
 - Email/ survey monkey to resident list of 450.
 - Target different stakeholder groups to increase the outreach.
 - Attend community meetings and resident meetings- printed copies entered manually
 - Direct contact with major property owners
 - Goal of 400surveys to help inform the Downtown Resident Steering committee in their decision making for the Downtown Resident Steering planning purposes.

February- 18 (Month 1)

- February 1, 2018 11:30-2:30pm-----Meeting
 - Orientation on Downtown, organizational structures in place Downtown (neighborhood, business district, CID, DDA, DGRI), demographics, relevant history, GR Forward, needs and gaps.
 - Process overview.
 - Ground rules/ expectations
 - Scenario Planning:
 - Driving forces & needs
 - Uncertainties
 - Linkages

Downtown Neighbor Network Steering Committee Schedule 2017-2019

Neighborhood Summit March 3, 2018- committee and downtown residents encouraged to attend. No presentation this year.

March 18 (Month 2)

- March 1, 2018 11:30-2:30pm-----Meeting
 - Share Downtown Resident survey results with committee- 300 completed survey
 - Scenario Planning- Three Scenarios with a limited range of futures created from brainstorming exercise from previous meeting.
 - What if this scenario is the future?
 - What actions could we take today to prepare?
 - Are there significant different implications in each scenario?
 - Do these differences highlight any strategic choices we need to address?
 - Group Consensus: Is there a need? If so, what structure should this organization take?
 - Nonprofit
 - Joint Venture
 - Loose Network
 - Need to connect with Near Downtown Neighborhood Associations next month to ask about partnerships and collaborations and update on the process.

DGRI budgeting for 2019 begins- identify budget from previous year

April 18 (Month 3)

- April 5, 2018 11:00am- 12:15pm-----Meeting with near Neighborhood Associations, CID's and Business Associations and Steering Committee members present to observe and ask questions.
 - Background on Resident Steering process to date
 - In areas of overlap or near Downtown Boundaries what the challenges to serving those areas?
 - Points of collaboration and partnership discussed
 - What could a Downtown Resident organization do to add value to near neighborhood organizations?
- April 5, 2018 12:30-2:30pm-----Meeting with Committee Members
 - Near Downtown organization debrief and discussion
 - Review structure question

Downtown Resident Network Event Wednesday, April 25 5-7:30pm at the BOB. Partnership with Downtown Dwellers GR: Mix, Mingle and Share with your Downtown Neighbors. Share Downtown Resident Network history and background, survey results and progress to date.

DGRI budgeting for 2019 begins- identify budget priorities

May 18 (Month 4)

- May 1, Meeting with Connie Bohatch about CDBG funds and organization progress to date
- May 24, 2018 11:30am-2:30pm---- Meeting
 - Review findings from engagement event in April
 - Review process to date
 - Heartside Neighborhood Association update

DGRI budget goes to City Commission for approval

June 18 (Month 5)

- June 7, 2018 11:30am-2:30pm----- Meeting
 - Mission, Vision, Values discussion and brainstorming

Downtown Neighbor Network Steering Committee Schedule 2017-2019

July 18 (Month 6) – Comment Phase

- July 12, 2018 11:30-2:30pm----- Meeting
 - Heartside Neighborhood Association update- boundary proposal
 - First draft review of Mission, Vision, Values
 - Review process
 - First draft 1-2 page organization recommendation for review
- **Meetings with various stakeholder groups for feedback**
 - Goal 2 Alliance- **July 17 3:30-5:00pm**
 - DGRI Board of Advisors- **September 4, 2018**
 - DDA Board- **September 12, 2018**
 - DID Board- **October 4, 2018**
 - Near Neighborhood Association, CID's, City of GR, Business Association group
 - Stacy Stout Jordan Eastman and Neighborhood Connectors with the City of Grand Rapids
 - **Set date:** 1st and 2nd Ward Commissioners
 - **Set date:** MNTIFA Board- ? No July or August dates yet
 - **Set date:** City Commission Meeting

New fiscal year begins at DGRI

August 18 (Month 7) – Comment Phase

- August 2, 2018 11:30-2:30pm----- Meeting
 - Second draft of 1-2 page organization recommendation for review
 - Top priorities for 2019.
 - Committee member description
 - Committee member/ brainstorm/ recruitment
- **Meetings with various stakeholder groups for feedback**
 - Near Neighborhood Business and Neighborhood Association engagement

Event: Bridge Street Market preview event- Tentative date: August 23, 2018 from 7-9pm

September 18 (Month 8)

- September 6, 2018 11:30am-2:30pm----- Meeting
 - 3rd draft for organization recommendation
 - Committee structure and recruitment
 - Proposal on website and distributed to all downtown residents in our network
- DGRI Board of Advisors- **September 4, 2018**
- DDA Board- **September 12, 2018**

October 18 (Month 9)

- October 3, 2018 11:30am-2:30pm----- Meeting
 - Final draft of the organization recommendations
 - Committee structure and recruitment plan/ event planning for November event
 - Thank you! Final Downtown Resident Steering Committee meeting.
- DID Board- **October 4, 2018**

Downtown Resident Steering Committee
Downtown Neighbor Network Recommendation
9/5/2019

1. Background:

The GR Forward Downtown and River Activation Plan identified the goal to create a downtown neighborhood that is home to a diverse population. To that end, DGRI looks to support initiatives that improve downtown living for existing residents and attract new downtown residents in order to foster civic engagement and strengthen community ties downtown. GR Forward specifically identifies the opportunity to establish a downtown resident council. In early 2018, an ad-hoc Downtown Resident Steering Committee was formed to explore the creation of a stand alone organization that would represent downtown neighbors.

The Downtown Resident Steering Committee was constituted to represent various viewpoints and perspectives on the unique challenges and opportunities of living in or near downtown Grand Rapids. Although DGRI convened the group, it was made explicit that there was not a predetermined outcome and that the group had the authority to determine if there was need or desire for a downtown neighborhood group and what form that group might take. The group began with an extensive “data dive” to better understand who was living in downtown, what groups currently (or potentially) exist in and near downtown, what concerns residents have, how is downtown changing, and what type of organization might be the best fit to represent the unique voice of downtown living.

2. Process:

- a) Recruitment of Steve Faber, Byrum and Fisk to facilitate the independent process for the Downtown Resident Steering Committee, supported by DGRI Stakeholder Engagement Specialist Annamarie Buller
- b) Research and Data:
 - i. Resident survey
 - ii. Housing analysis
 - iii. Scan of organizations and associations
 - iv. Focus group discussion with existing neighborhoods (November 2017, April 2018)
- c) Scenario Planning: No growth, slow growth, high growth
- d) Structure Pros/Cons: Nonprofit vs Joint Venture
- e) Heartside residents reorganizing the Heartside Neighborhood Association (HNA) propose expansion.
- f) Downtown Resident Steering Committee Recommendations Engagement

3. Mission/Vision/Guiding Principles:

Mission:

The DNN exists to foster a community of downtown neighbors that are connected, informed and empowered to improve downtown living.

Vision:

The DNN envisions a neighborhood that is vibrant and culturally diverse, active, safe and full of opportunity and experiences unique to downtown living.

Downtown Resident Steering Committee
Downtown Neighbor Network Recommendation
9/5/2019

Guiding Principles:

Accessible & Inclusive – We desire to be a network that is open to all neighbors

Empowering – We desire to be a network that supports downtown neighbors and provides an avenue to advance collective interests

Collaborative – We desire to be a network that brings people and groups together across boundaries

Equitable – We desire to be a network that is intentional about listening to our neighbors and elevating the voices of those who have been historically marginalized

Unique – We desire to be a network that embraces the peculiarities of living downtown and convey that perspective with the broader community

Key Programs:

Improved communications and greater awareness

- **Communication** - share information relevant to living downtown
 - Identify neighbors who want to join the Downtown Neighborhood Network
 - Outreach to building owners and property managers
 - Implement a communication tool that allows for information to be pushed out
 - Implement a communication tool that allows for information to be pulled in/ feedback
 - Find opportunities to tell the stories of downtown neighbors
 - Develop a brand and marketing materials for DNN

Increased participation in events, surveys and committees

- **Events** – organize events that bring downtown neighbors together
 - 4-6 events a year
 - Event opportunities for education and welcoming new neighbors
 - Feature Downtown and near neighborhood assets
 - Recruitment events to grow the DNN

Increased opportunities to inform policy and projects impacting

- **Advocacy** – provide opportunity for downtown neighbors to speak into and influence decisions that impact their quality of life
 - Conduct an annual survey of downtown neighbors to identify trends and issues
 - Develop tools to help neighbors organize and navigate systems
 - Provide a space for issues\ opportunities to “bubble up” that need action

Downtown Resident Steering Committee
Downtown Neighbor Network Recommendation
9/5/2019
DNN Structure:

- An affinity group/ network for people who identify as downtown neighbors but may already be in a neighborhood
- Downtown **Resident** Network name change to Downtown **Neighbor** Network
- The DNN has blurred boundaries to be more inclusive- including Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods in its boundaries
- Work collaboratively with DGRI and near neighborhoods

Governance Structure: the Downtown Neighbor Network Advisory

The proposal is that the DNN Advisory will live within DGRI for at least two years. The DNN Advisory is most aligned to help the DGRI's Goal 2 Alliance achieve their outcomes, however, there is a desire for the DNN to exist outside the hierarchy of being under any specific committee. This will give the DNN Advisory a level of autonomy and recognize that the voice of downtown neighbors is valuable to all DGRI committees. The DNN Advisory may establish ad hoc committees to direct their work as need.

DGRI Alliance Representation:

The DNN Advisory will present to each Goal Alliance annually (winter each year)

- The DNN's Advisory Committee members will:
 - Live in or in a near neighborhood that is Downtown adjacent
 - Live in a multi-unit building
 - Be a mix of renters/owners
 - Embody values of the DNN
 - Represent full diversity
- The DNN Advisory Committee Recruitment process:
 - September 2018-Outreach to property owners to solicit residents to apply
 - November 1- DNN Event to announce structure and recruit board members
 - October 2018-Online application/ paper application for engagement events
 - November 21-Deadline for applications due by Thanksgiving
- The DNN Advisory Committee will be determined by:
 - Staff of DGRI
 - Members of the Downtown Resident Steering Committee
 - Representatives from the DGRI Goal Alliances

Partnerships:

- DGRI to provide staffing and direction
- Neighborhood Associations – interaction with near neighborhoods
- City of Grand Rapids

Downtown Resident Steering Committee
Downtown Neighbor Network Recommendation
9/5/2019

Timeline:

Year One Milestones- October 2018- October 2019

Fall 2018

- Final engagement with near neighborhoods, City Commissioners, Committee and Chair recruitment, DGRI Board Approval
- Data enhancement
 - Outreach target downtown properties, condo leadership and property management each month

Winter 2019

- Selection of DNN Advisory
- DNN Announcement and Recruitment Event
- January 2019-First convening of the DNN Advisory
- January / February 2019-Focus on Board Governance for DNN
- January/ February 2019-Update and overview, planning with the 5 DGRI Alliances
- Bring communication tools online
 - First monthly newsletter with announcement of first meeting
- Downtown/ Near Downtown Resident Survey updated and deployed

Spring 2019

- Identify project opportunities shaped by the survey and issues identified throughout the year, look to budgeting and planning for 2020
- Events
 - Decision to continue to convene DRN Events Committee or reorganize
 - Building previews, education events, speakers etc.
 - Set remaining events for the year
 - Mix, Mingle and Share 2019 date tentatively set-April 10, 2019

Year Two Milestones- October 2019- October 2020

Fall 2019

- Evaluate year 1 progress
- Data enhancement
 - Outreach target downtown properties, condo leadership and property management each month
- November 2019 Event/Recruitment next wave of committee members

Winter 2020

- December 2019-Selection of new DNN Advisory members
- January 2020-First convening of the new DNN Advisory/ Strategic Planning
- January/ February 2020-Update and overview, planning with the 5 DGRI Alliances
- February/ March 2020- Downtown/ Near Downtown Survey updated and deployed
- Events 4-6 per year
- Issue advocacy, project implementation

Spring 2020

- Mix, Mingle and Share with your Downtown Neighbors
- Begin evaluation and make recommendation for the future of the DNN Advisory in 2021