

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 •

January 2, 2019

11:30pm- 1:00pm

29 Pearl Street, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

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| 1. | Call to order/ introductions | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 2. | Approval of minutes | Kelli Jo Peltier |
| 3. | DNN November Analytics | Sam Suarez |
| 4. | DNN Engagement | Annamarie Buller |
| | • Action Planning for Community Change 1/25 | |
| 5. | DNN Budget update, Goal 2 Alliance Update | Annamarie Buller |
| 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.





Downtown Neighbor Network December 5, 2019

1. Call to order:
Ms. Skentzos called the meeting to order at 11:35 am
2. Members Present:
Daniel Drent, Wilma Banks, Latesha Lipscomb, Amy Skentzos, Drew Terwee, Jane Reynolds, Laurie Craft, Mark Tangen, Rose Martinez White, Mike Dorney, and Myric Harris

Members Absent:
Christopher Billmeier, Kelli Jo Peltier, Kathy Steindler, and Eddie Tadlock

Others Present:
Annamarie Buller, Marion Bonneaux, Andy Guy, Mark Miller, Melvin Eledge and Amanda Sloan (DGRI)
3. Approval of Minutes: November 7, 2019
Jane Reynolds, supported by Daniel Drent, motioned to approve November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented. None opposed. Motion passed.
4. 2020 Schedule
Ms. Buller presented the meeting schedule for 2020, noting the July meeting will take place on the 9th as opposed to the 2nd of July.
5. Next meeting: January 2nd 11:30-1:00pm
6. DNN Analytics
Ms. Buller presented statistics on the DNN Newsletter stating we have had continual growth in contacts reaching 931 in December. Top click links in October and November included subscribing to the newsletter, the DNN Survey, and the DNN Happy Hour. The DNN Facebook page launched in July and currently has 165 members with

engagement up 35% over the last month. Thank you for contributing to the page with relevant posts. The DNN project page received 46 views in December with the average viewing time 3 minutes and 19 seconds. Mr. Dorney stated he feels the DNN page is somewhat buried in the website. Ms. Buller agreed and stated it is a project at this time but potentially that is something we can address down the road.

7. DNN Engagement

Mr. Drent stated the November Civicize.Me course covered a lot of information and was certainly worth attending. Mr. Tangen wished we could have had expanded time to address strategies for specific work. Ms. Buller agreed that was general feedback and stated for the next course we will create our own, a bit more specialized. She believes the time spent on governmental hierarchy could be provided in a handout or spreadsheet so that more time can be spent on building an action plan. 'Action Planning for Community Change' will be held on January 25th from 9 am to 4 pm at DGRI. This workshop will provide support (with partners or teams) to build an action plan in creating change in our communities. Ms. Buller stated she expects to have a panel discussion with representatives from different governmental institutions to assist in this journey. Ms. Skentzos stated this would be a good follow up course, and favors partnering up on action plans. Others agreed. Ms. Buller stated instead of having an open invite she will request neighborhood associations seek to invite specific people in hopes of a successful course.

Ms. Buller stated a Citizen Planner Course will be available to take next spring. This 6-week course is intended for folks that do not have planning degrees and want to better understand complex issues with zoning, planning, etc.

As of now, 240 residents have completed the Resident Survey. Ms. Buller shared the list of larger buildings that had less than 2 respondents. Palm cards have been distributed and posters have all been delivered. Ms. Skentzos suggested hosting a party for the larger buildings to take the survey in person. Ms. White stated piggy backing off other building events might be helpful. Ms. Buller stated she will send another request for property management to forward the survey out. Mr. Drent stated next week Thursday Herkimer will hold their holiday party. Ms. Reynolds stated Fitzgerald will hold their holiday party next Saturday. Ms. Buller agreed to attend these events. She presented some of the results of the survey stating we have received some good feedback. Some of these results could change drastically with an influx of different participants, but as of now, just over 30% of residents work downtown. 70% of respondents drive a car and many have never taken the DASH. The biggest quality of life complaint was the lack of a grocery though parking is still a huge issue. Members voiced their concerns about crosswalk safety and parking issues they regularly face. It was decided the survey will remain open for the time being. Please continue to share with friends and neighbors as we seek to meet our goal of 500 respondents.

8. DNN Events
Ms. Buller stated the Real Estate Happy Hour went well. Multiple participants suggested next time a breakfast would allow for better attendance. The DNN Holiday Happy Hour had 55 attendees at Max's South Seas Hideaway. Feedback was that the food and atmosphere was great. Members suggested doing this again more regularly to build a stronger connection with other members. Ms. Lipscomb suggested hosting at new locations each time to keep it exciting.
9. Advisory Member Discussion
Go and support new businesses openings downtown. Ambiance GR is having a soft opening this month, The Meat Up Gastropub will be going into the J Gardella's building with a tentative January open, and GRNoir will be opening soon as well.

Mr. Drent stated Wave cards will be free on Friday (with a \$3 minimum load) so be sure to purchase that if you haven't already; transfers will no longer be available through the bus drivers come June.
10. Public Comment
None
11. Reimage Ottawa, Ionia, and Fulton
Ms. Buller shared the dates and times that the City is hosting discussions on the upcoming Ottawa, Ionia, and Fulton Streets project. In GR Forward, Ottawa Avenue is called for being a two-way street. Open Houses and presentations are scheduled for December 9th and 10th at GRPL, December 10th at DGRI, and December 12th at City Hall to obtain community participation.

Mr. Miller provided a highlight on the aspects of this street project planning and the group proceeded to walk the route.
12. Adjournment
Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 1pm.

Minutes taken by:
Amanda Sloan
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.