

AGENDA



DNN Advisory

Members:

Christopher Billmeier • Daniel Drent • Latesha Lipscomb • Kelli Jo Peltier • Neil Sly • Kathy Steindler • Eddie Tadlock • Jim Talen • Mark Tangen • Celeste McDonald • Paul Skentzos • Emma Suarez Pawlicki • Teresa Haggerty • Hal Froot

May 5, 2022

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MEET AT BRICKYARD TAVERN: 940 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Introductions (5 mins) | All Members |
| 2. Approve April 2022 Meeting Minutes | |
| 3. Community Norms (3 mins) | Kendsie Channing |
| 4. Get to Know Your Neighbor Lunch! (60 mins) | All Members |
| 5. Updates from committees, boards, groups (5 mins) | All Members |
| 6. Asks (5 mins) | Kendsie Channing |
| o Tabling volunteers: one event each month. | |
| o Active Commute Week: create a DNN team? | |
| o Thoughts on the subcommittee idea? | |
| 7. Public Comment | |
| 8. Adjourn | |

*Our next meeting will be held **in-person** on June 2, 2022, at 11:30 AM.*

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





Downtown Neighbor Network Advisory

April 7, 2022

1. Call to order: Ms. Peltier called the meeting to order at 11:34 am

DNN Members Present: Celeste McDonald, Daniel Drent, Kelli Jo Peltier, Jim Talen, Eddie Tadlock, Emma Suarez Paul Skentzos, Mark Tangen, Latesha Lipscomb, Christopher Billmeier, and Kathy Steindler.

DNN Members Absent: Hal Froot, Teresa Haggerty, and Neil Sly

Others Present: Kendsie Channing, Corey Mathein, James Peacock, Kimberly VanDriel, Mandy McDaniel, Melvin Eledge, Mark Miller (DGRI Staff).

2. Community Norms

Mrs. Channing revisited the Downtown Neighbor Network values: to get connected, stay informed, be involved, and build community for *all* neighbors downtown.

3. Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes

Kelli Jo Peltier supported by Daniel Drent, motioned to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.

4. Issue of Concerns to Neighbors – Group Activity

Groups and Takeaways:

- Pedestrian Safety, Walkability: Kelli Jo, Celeste
 - Personal experience walking at night is not safe.
 - Need for additional lighting
 - Space for bikes and scooters, etc. outside of sidewalks
- Neighbor Events & Service Opportunities: Latesha (and Caius!)
 - Opportunities for kids – outdoor STEM center, place to congregate, involved on the River, playground Downtown
 - Grants to neighbors – Amplify does this, can Downtown?
 - Ways to engage in a way that includes all and take experiences of all into account.

- Housing & Homelessness: Daniel, Mark, Jim, Kathy
 - Central resource center – jobs, health, housing, etc. Downtown and open at hours that people actually need services.
 - Support through employment – major projects coming to Downtown need to employ neighbors
 - Day time recreation center - Need for things to do during the day, when not allowed in the shelter, as well as extended hours to enjoy the world past 6 PM. OR resources for members who don't make it to the shelter by 6 PM.
 - Need accountability of orgs to community members
- Retail / Business Partnerships: Eddie, Christopher, Paul
 - Density of shopping is needed (being done on Monroe Center, but where else?)
 - Tap into the Convention crowd
 - When someone comes to a conference and has extra time, they want to explore the City. Give them stuff to explore, do, see!
 - Develop a communication strategy, marketing, promotion specifically for Downtown:
 - what brings people here? What keeps people here?
 - Advertise Downtown – WYCE, WGVU, Michigan Radio, Hispanic Radio, The Pulse
 - Inconsistent hours of stores create an inconsistent experience
 - Neighbors need hours beyond 9 – 5.
- Absent: Neil, Emma, Hal, Teresa.
- Follow Up Action:
 - Host a design session with elected officials, city manager, department leaders.
 - Host a design session with neighbors when Rosa Parks Circle opens.
 - Official opening planned for June 17. Same day?
 - May meeting: focus on planning for larger session, leading and distribution of roles/responsibilities for DNN Advisors.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Next meeting May 5, 2022

Adjournment: 1:01 pm

Minutes taken by:

Mandy McDaniel

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.