The DNN exists to foster a community of downtown neighbors that are connected, informed and empowered to improve downtown living.
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
  o Central resource center – jobs, health, housing, etc. Downtown and open at hours that people actually need services.
  o Support through employment – major projects coming to Downtown need to employ neighbors
  o 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.
  o Need accountability of orgs to community members

• Retail / Business Partnerships: Eddie, Christopher, Paul
  o Density of shopping is needed (being done on Monroe Center, but where else?)
  o 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!
  o 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
  o Inconsistent hours of stores create an inconsistent experience
  o Neighbors need hours beyond 9 – 5.

• Absent: Neil, Emma, Hal, Teresa.

• Follow Up Action:
  o Host a design session with elected officials, city manager, department leaders.
  o Host a design session with neighbors when Rosa Parks Circle opens.
    ▪ Official opening planned for June 17. Same day?
  o 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.