

GRAND RIVER INC.

Board Meeting Notes

August 29, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

1. Call to Order – Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM

Attendance

Members Present: Brian Harris, Kayem Dunn, Mark Washington, Megan Rydecki, Bo Torres, Linda MacDonald, Traci Montgomery, Ron Yob, Sam Moore, Tom Welch, Chris Muller

Members Absent: Al Vanderberg

Others Present: Daniel Tellalian, Rob Alcantar (Brand Robear), Andy Guy, Mark Miller, Mandy McDaniel (DGRI Staff)

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2022
Motion: Member Dunn, supported by Member Moore, moved approval of the July 27, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Equity Framework Project Update
Mr. Guy introduced Daniel Tellalian, overviewed the purpose of the Equity Framework project and stated several listening sessions have taken place to date – with more coming soon both virtually and in-person.

Member Torres thanked those who have attended/participated in the listening sessions.

Mr. Tellalian provided an update on the project schedule, previewed community feedback received to date and posed two strategic questions to the board (below). He also shared an overview of the Grand River Voices website anchoring the project. Presentation attached.

Two questions Tellalian presented to board members:

1. Assuming the Equity Framework product is clear, how will GRI endorse/integrate it into its mission and advocate for a more broadly endorsed equity plan across multiple networks and institutions?
2. Is GRI ready to take on engagement assets? Will GRI committee maintain communication and feedback loop with Grand Rapidsians over the life of the project?

Member Harris asked what remaining work needs to be completed before the final deliverable.

Tellalian replied they are wrapping up community engagement and will compose an initial draft Framework document by end of year.

Member Moore inquired on engagement outside of the core city.

Tellallian stated the vast majority has been within the city and has been focused on South and East side.

Moore suggested broadening the scope of work. Conversations continued among members on how to establish boundaries and connecting with rural communities.

4. Approve Organizational Purpose Statement

Guy stated additional conversation with stakeholders encouraged amending the language of the Grand River Inc. purpose statement from “voices to work together...” to “voices to advocate for...”.

Motion: Member Dunn, supported by Member Rydecki, moved approval of the Organizational Purpose Statement. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approve Terms Agreement: Grand River Inc. and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc

Guy presented a draft of Essential Elements and Terms for a memorandum of agreement between Grand River Inc and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

Guy reminded members there was conversation at the July 2022 Board meeting around who specifically plays the role of fundraising. Staff addressed the matter for now by stating GRI and DGRI will play an “as needed” fundraising role in the initial terms. Staff expects roles will clarify as more is learned about the overall portfolio of Greenway-related projects and implementation efforts.

The DGRI Board of Advisors meets next month and will be presented the Terms as well.

Member Winn, supported by Member Moore, moved approval of the Terms of Agreement between Grand River Inc and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approve Greenway Project Technical Advisory Committee

Guy stated the Term of Agreement defines how DGRI and GRI initially work together. The Agreement states that GRI will establish Greenway Project Technical Advisory Committee.

The primary responsibility of the Committee is to advise the Grand River Inc Board of Directors on capital project priorities, including development of a draft Priority Plan for Action to guide the Grand River Greenway investment.

Guy presented a Charter to establish and guide the Committee. He also presented a slate of prospective candidates and a chart summarizing how those candidates’ skills and experience align with the previously determined committee composition. Both the Charter and the slate were developed and recommended by Governance Committee. Guy also stated the Governance Committee recommends appointing Member Moore as a GRI representative on the Committee and Liaison back to the Board.

Member Washington stated he appreciates the slate but observed it is not a very diverse group of ethnicity. Guy stated there are 4 spots to be filled and staff will continue to explore the possibility of presenting additional qualified candidates. He also stated significant community representation has occurred over ten years of public engagement and community planning to identify prospective Greenway projects, as well as the composition of the Grand River Inc Board.

Member Winn, supported by Member Dunn, moved approval of the Greenway Project Technical Advisory Committee and the initial slate of members. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Branding Project Update

Guy stated the Communications and Engagement Committee and community stakeholders participated in one day workshop to explore various perspectives that inform the identity for the organization.

Rob Alcantar presented an update stating the project is currently in the discovery phase with the second workshop recently completed. Next steps include refining final Foundational Language/key messaging for the organization, and then moving into exploring potential names for the organization. Presentation attached.

The goal is to bring a recommended name for the organization for consideration at the next Grand River Inc Board meeting.

Once the name is solidified, Brand Robear will move into the creative process of developing visual assets for the organization ie brand mark, etc.

8. Staff Report

Guy shared highlights from a Staff/Project Update summary. Attached.

9. Board Member Discussion

Members requested staff include Committee minutes in future Board packets as a way to share information on the work flow across the organization.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.

Staff / Project Updates August 2022

Development & Finance Committee

- Next meets September 8, 2022

Communications & Engagement Committee

- Participated in Organizational Branding Workshop #2 (August 24, 2022)
- Next meets September 16, 2022

Governance Committee

- Finalized draft Terms for Greenway partnership with DGRI, framework for Greenway Project Technical Advisory Committee and prepared committee slate (July 25, 2022)
- Next meets September 26, 2022

Grand River Inc. Projects

Equity Framework

- Advisory Board
 - Met August 18 to discuss Framework themes and content
 - Next meets Sept. 22, 2022
- Consultant visit Sept. 10-12, organizing follow up visit in October
- Upcoming Community Listening Sessions:
 - [Virtual session September 8, 2022](#)

Greenway Grant Project Organizing

- Greenway project discovery/inventory process approximately 95% complete (Kennari Consulting)
- Organizing Greenway Project Technical Advisory Committee
 - Anticipate first meeting in late Sept/early Oct
- [Awaiting draft Grant Agreement from Michigan DNR](#)
- [Kent County Trails Leadership meeting, Wednesday, September 28, 2022](#)

Key River-Related Project Updates

Restore the Whitewater Rapids in the Grand River

- Lead: Grand Rapids Whitewater in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids
- Revised state (EGLE) permit application submitted July 22, 2022

Lyon Square Opportunity Site

- Lead: Downtown Grand Rapids Inc in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids, Convention/Arena Authority and Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
- Revised state (EGLE) permit application submitted July 26, 2022

Grand Rapids Public Museum Opportunity Site (river edge, trail and greenspace enhancements)

- Lead: GR Public Museum in partnership with City of Grand Rapids
- Revised state (EGLE) permit application submitted in August 2022

- Secured \$11M appropriation in state budget

Amphitheater (201 Market Opportunity Site)

- Lead: Convention/Arena Authority in partnership w/ Grand Action, City of Grand Rapids, DGRI
- CAA holds option on property, anticipated to close by end of 2022
- Secured \$30M appropriation in state budget

Leonard-to-Ann River Edge Trail Connection

- Lead: City of Grand Rapids with fundraising support from West MI Trails & Greenway Coalition
- [Finalizing request for right of way/easement to Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad](#)
- State (EGLE) permit application expected to be submitted by end August 2022

Sixth Street/Canal Park Opportunity Sites

- Lead: City of Grand Rapids
- Finalizing new Parks Master Plan and preparing Construction Documents

Ah-Nab-Awen Park Opportunity Site

- Lead: City of Grand Rapids
- Reviewing Master Plan with Indigenous Community and preparing Construction Documents

Event/Activation Highlights

[Inaugural RE\(TURN\) to the River event was a big success!](#)

- Saturday, August 27, 2012

Middle Grand History Walking Tour

- Monday, August 29 starting on the Blue Bridge, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Upper Grand River History Walking Tour

- Tuesday, August 30 starting at 555 Monroe Avenue, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Stewardship Day(s) at Millennium Park

- September 8 & 21, 2022 at Millennium Park from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Millennium Park Fall Cleanup

- September 10, 2022 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Chief Hazy Cloud Park Invasive Control Day

- September 10, 2022 at Chief Hazy Cloud Park from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[Mayor's Grand River Cleanup](#)

- [Kickoff Event, Saturday September 30 on Gillett Bridge, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM](#)

[61st Annual Traditional POW WOW](#)

- [Saturday/Sunday, September 10 & 11 at Riverside Park](#)

Oktoberfest GR

- Friday/Saturday, September 23 & 24 at Riverside Park