

# GRAND RIVER NETWORK

## Board Meeting Notes

February 1, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

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1. Call to Order – Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM

### Attendance

Members Present: Brian Harris, Kayem Dunn, Linda MacDonald, Sam Moore, Chris Muller, Megan Rydecki, Bo Torres, Al Vanderberg, Mark Washington, Rick Winn and Mark Van Putten.

Members Absent: Ron Yob, Tom Welch and Steffanie Rosalez.

Others Present: Daniel Tellalian (Angel City Advisors), Mandy McDaniel, Andy Guy (DGRI Staff).

2. Approve November 30, 2022, Board Meetings Minutes  
*Motion: Member Dunn, supported by Vanderberg, moved approval of the November 30, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

3. Financial Report  
Member MacDonald, Chair of Finance Committee, stated there are ongoing conversations to operationalize the Finance Committee. At this point there are no funds, so no financial activity to report at this time.

4. Election of Board Members  
Member Dunn presented on behalf of the Governance Committee a slate of members up for reappointment; Kayem Dunn, Mark Washington, and Al Vandenberg.

*Motion: Member Torres, supported by Member Moore, moved approval of the election of Kayem Dunn, Mark Washington, and Al Vandenberg to serve a three-year term on the Grand River Inc. Board of Directors, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Governance Committee also recommends the election of Steffanie Rosalez and Mark Van Putten as new members to serve a three-year term, effective immediately.

*Motion: Winn, supported by Torres, moved approval of the election Steffanie Rosalez to serve a three-year term on the Grand River Inc. Board of Directors, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion: Moore, supported by Vanderberg, moved approval of the election Mark Van Putten to serve a three-year term on the Grand River Inc. Board of Directors, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. Election of Officers

Member Dunn presented on behalf of Governance Committee a recommendation of individuals as Board Officers to serve a one-year term:

- Board Chair: Brian Harris,
- Vice Chair: Adnoris “Bo” Torres
- Treasurer: Linda MacDonald
- Secretary: Chris Muller

*Motion: Winn, supported by Moore, moved approval of the election of Brian Harris for Chair, Adnoris “Bo” Torres for Vice-Chair, Linda MacDonald for Treasurer, and Chris Muller for Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.*

6. Equity Framework Update

Guy introduced Daniel Tellalian, Angel City Advisors, who provided an overview of the Equity Framework Document, an 85-page framework which includes vision & values statement, six thematic goals, honed into 15 common sense strategies, hundreds of recommended actions and metrics, 42 priority outcomes, and recommendations for near-term implementation.

Tellalian recommended a series of next steps:

1. Grand River Network publicly endorse and adopt the Framework.
2. Embed equity outcomes into GRN governance and structure. Initiate implementation plans to drive Framework strategies.
3. Advocate to other institutions, including those represented by Network Board members, to endorse the framework alongside GRN and seek ways to implement.
4. Take custody of the GRV communication assets and develop a robust two-way engagement plan that creates a stakeholder feedback loop. Engagement should exist over the life of the project.
5. Start now. Outcomes are attainable now. Incorporate priority outcomes into current project implementation planning and encourage others to do the same.

Members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Tellalian’s work and the clear and actionable document deliverable. Conversation continued around an implementation plan and sharing of the document with other organizations and stakeholders. It was suggested the document reside with the Communications committee to chart a course for continued conversation with stakeholders and to focus on how to move forward with a roll-out plan.

7. Greenway Investment Update

Guy presented a brief overview and next steps for organizing to allocate the Grand River Greenway funds allocated by the State of Michigan. The Greenway Committee appointed by the Board has met several times, he said, and is working on its charge to develop 1) recommendations for investing the Greenway funding over the next 3 years and 2) Developing a longer-term Greenway Priority Plan for Action to guide future collaborative efforts to implement the Greenway concept. He reiterated the Greenway funding is not designated for in channel river improvements. Guy shared the committee has overseen a local project inventory that identified 36 known projects across the county along the river corridor or adjacent/connected to it. A potential 21 of the projects can be completed by 2026, the deadline for expending the Greenway funds. He also shared the Committee’s current thinking around a methodology for evaluating capital priorities and potential criteria for recommending Greenway

grant allocations. He stated the Committee next meets in late February/early March. He also stated one near-term goal is to bring an initial tranche of funding recommendations to the Grand River Network Board in March.

He reiterated that both the Greenway Committee and the Grand River Network Board are charged with advancing recommendations to the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Board of Advisors, which holds responsibility for final funding decisions and fiduciary duty to manage the grant funds.

Harris confirmed next steps and encouraged Board members to review the list of Greenway projects.

8. Committee Reports  
Postponed until the following meeting.
9. Staff Report  
Guy reminded members Daniel will be here in-person next week to continue conversation with the community around the Equity Framework.
10. Board Member Discussion  
None.
11. Adjournment  
Harris adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Minutes taken by:  
Mandy McDaniel  
Downtown Grand Rapids, INC