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Members Present: Ben Damerow, Bobby Hopewell, Don Cooney, Cykeia Lee, Patrese Griffin, Carol McGlinn, Linda Snyder, Brenda Hughes, Matt Lynn, Sholanna Lewis, Tim Ready

City Staff: Dorla Bonner, Community Investment Manager; Laura Lam, Assistant City Manager; Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator, Jennifer Gutierrez, Community Investment Secretary,

Members Absent:

Guests: None

Call to Order

Mayor Bobby Hopewell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:37 pm

Roll Call

Mr. Ford conducted roll call of organizing committee and determined quorum existed

Approval of Absences

Approval of (regular/special) minutes of the last meeting

Ms. Carol McGlinn and supported by Ms. Brenda Hughes – moved to approve minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Hopewell asked members if there were any objections. Seeing no response, he stated that a consensus had been reached. No formal motion was made at that time.

No changes consent-

Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees
2018 Action Items

Ms. Bonner explains the results of the 2018 action plans, of The Increase Access to Good Jobs, Promote Strong Families, Promote the Healthy Growth, Development and Learning of Children and the Cross Cutting strategies. She went over the details of the activity and status of each goal, as well as other minor details of the report. The goal is to have this done by the spring.

Mayor Hopewell requested that we receive the demographics of the thirty-eight homes that were renovated and who reside in those homes. As well as for the other nine homes that are under construction. He expresses his concerns about making sure we’re assisting low-income families and fulfilling our due diligence and objectives.

There was a discussion of the reduction of foreclosures in the Northside neighborhoods and wanting to reach out to other neighborhoods and assist in avoiding foreclosures. It was asked if there will be a variety of entities of data for the foreclosures. It was clarified that it was tax foreclosure and not mortgage foreclosure and that it is being looked into of collecting all the data different information of foreclosures. It was also discussed as a concern of why the process for preventing foreclosure for the Northside why it was not simultaneously done for the Eastside. It was understood by the committee that it is a slightly different process that is being looked into so it can be resolved; that it also has to do with marketing to communities more. Ms. McGlinn recommends that we should make a public piece or synopsis to market to the communities.

All Goal Teams Meeting

Mr. Ford explains about a meeting on the 23rd of January at Goodwill and how beneficial it was for him and the goal team. They separated in three groups and each group came up with different recommendations and exchanged ideas and analysis. The goal team members agreed how beneficial the experience and research was for them at the meeting.

The committee and the goal team discussed their different outlook about the proposals from the meeting.

Ms. McGlinn expresses how beneficial it is to get the neighborhoods input. That early childhood can’t be funded, that we can impact neighborhoods and who are we going to support. The committee and the goal team continue the discussion with their different opinions on the topic and the SPK program. Ms. Bonner informs them that early childcare is in the plan.

Mayor Hopewell gives the floor to the committee for additional comments and updates. Ms. Snyder explains that there will be another goal team meeting the third Thursday of the month. The meeting will consist of discussing implementing the assistance program and the navigation plan and possibility of discussing homelessness issues.
Ms. Lee explains that her team will meet next Wednesday February 13th at 1 pm. There have been numerous requests for funding proposals from the Eastside for educational programs purposes. Ms. Lee and Mr. Ford will be getting the goal team together to address the concerns.

Mr. Damerow explains that his team will be meeting Wednesday February 6th and 20th from 1 – 2:30 pm they will continue review proposals and potential PILOT’s that are available. He explains he went to a site visit and observed potential options that could possibly be available to be implemented in place for our objective.

**New Business**

- **Community Schools**

  Mr. Cooney discusses a proposal/project of having schools open through the night, weekends and summer and utilizing them as community centers. There are other cities, such as New York that already implement this. He continues with minor details of ideas how to utilize the idea and implement this for our goal. The committee discusses in small detail of their views on the idea and the pros and cons.

- **SPK Awareness**

  Ms. Griffin expresses her concerns that we need more materials and information about SPK to make the community more aware of the initiative in general and its efforts.

  Mayor Hopewell requests that two volunteers from the committee to meet with the coordinator to discuss a communication/marketing strategy in order to resolve the issue. Mr. Hopewell and Ms. Griffin volunteer. He requests that Mr. Ford set up a meeting and initiate the process.

**Unfinished Business (unfinished or pending matters)**

None Responded

**Miscellaneous**

Mr. Cooney recommends that the committee gets the City Commission to review the Housing and Homelessness proposal. Mr. Hopewell requests that Ms. Griffin and Ms. Lam meet and discuss this matter from a policy stand point.

Mr. Ford mentions that Ms. Snyder will be retiring.
Ms. Bonner discusses the interest of looking into incorporating a program to assist those who need to get a contractor’s license. That the other goal is to also get contractors business cards as well with the technical assistance funds.

Mayor Hopewell discusses about offering affordable manufactured homes and working with Champion Homes to implement this.

Public Comments—General

None Responded

Adjournment

Mayor Hopewell adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:05 pm

Submitted by: Kevin Ford Dated:  
(Recording Secretary)

Reviewed by: Kevin Ford Dated: 6-4-19  
(Staff Liaison)

Approved by: Betty J. Date: 6-3-19  
(SPK Organizing Committee Chair/Vice Chair)