Members Present: Bobby Hopewell, Don Cooney, Tim Ready, Cyekcia Lee, Brenda Hughes, Carol McGlinn, Patrese Griffin (late)

City Staff: Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator; Jennifer Gutierrez, Community Investment Secretary

Members Absent: Matt Lynn, Sholanna Lewis, Ben Damerow,

Guests: Amanda Sutherland and Cheri Puryear

Call to Order

Mayor Bobby Hopewell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:36 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Absences

Mr. Cooney supported by Mr. Ready – moved to approve Absences. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

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

Mr. Cooney supported by Ms. McGlinn – moved to approve April 15, 2019 minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Hopewell asked members if there were any objections for April 29, 2019 agenda. Seeing no objection, a consensus had been reached. No formal motion was made at that time.

No changes consent-

Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees

Ms. Lee mentioned that Mr. Ford meet with two members of the youth goal team to discuss the early childhood proposals and that she was not present at the meeting but will be meeting with them to be updated of what was discussed.
Mayor Hopewell questioned if the members are specifically involved in the proposal and Ms. Lee confirmed that they are.

Mr. Ford mentioned that he spoke with future chair Kym Hollars to inform her about the city commission vote and is planning on meeting with her to layout the scheduling for the families meeting and the next steps with the family goal team.

New Business

- VITA Proposal Discussion

Mr. Ford introduced Amanda Sutherland and Cheri Puryear from Y.O.U to the committee.

Ms. Sutherland that explains the details of what Y.O.U is and how they work. She mentioned that they have not taken over the VITA grant just yet but that their goal with the grant and with the additional funding that they requested is hopefully expand in their Kalamazoo communities. They oversee the Michigan Works Southwest. They staff the employment services at Michigan Works. They offer G.E.D training programs and Credit deficiency programs for students to graduate and depending on the situation, expelled students may also participate in their program. They have a classroom staffed with year round certified teachers, and they do offer both youth and adult programs.

Ms. McGlinn questioned rather there would be changes in the program, Ms. Sutherland explained that there will not be any changes in the program itself because it is a two year grant which has been approved that they take over. She will have to reapply for the IRS portion of the grant on May 1st.

Ms. Lee questioned how they can assure that with the SPK funding, it supports the communities and residents in the city limits that are their prime focus.

Ms. Puryear explained that the funds can be marked specifically to support the city where the city needs assistance and or growth, similar to AARP.

Ms. Puryear mentioned that they focus on thoroughly training and recruiting their volunteers.

Ms. Puryear indicated minor goals that she would like to implement and achieve.

1. Triple the capacity to serve within the city
2. Expand the drop off service
3. Increase the number of sites for supervised sit downs between the volunteers and individuals.
4. To connect individuals with financial coaches.
Ms. Sutherland and Ms. Puryear continued to explain details of the program and clarified questions and concerns.

- **Other Proposal Submissions for 2019**

Mr. Ford mentioned that with the VITA and Early Childhood proposal, he doesn’t believe it would be ready by May 6th, Mayor Hopewell does not see a reason why the proposal will not be ready by May 6th.

Commissioner Ready questioned the goals of the proposal and would like to see measureable goals of the proposal.

**Commissioner Cooney supported by Commissioner Lee to approve the funding of the VITA Program and present it to the City Commission. Roll Call was taken and the motioned passed.**

- **SPK Definitions**

Mr. Ford presented poverty definition guide for the committee to review and refer to. The Committee discussed their thoughts on the idea and their recommendations and suggestions. It was clarified to the committee that the point and focus of the discussion is to understand the difference between poverty and prosperity.

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

- **Organizing Committee Schedule for year**

The Committee discussed the schedule for the SPK Committee for the rest of the year. There were mixed thoughts amongst the group on continuing to meet bi – weekly vs. monthly.

**The Committee agreed to change the meeting schedule from bi-weekly to monthly, leaving the next meeting on June 3rd.**

**Miscellaneous**

Mayor Hopewell recommended considering changing the method proposals are received, that all proposals are presented by the individual requesting/organizing the proposal moving forward.
Mayor Hopewell recommended getting information of individuals that the city and the committee work with, basically the two generation and/or assessment formality that was introduced to the committee.

Mayor Hopewell also mentioned that he has requested with the city they start branding things with the SPK, as well needing the committee work on something to brand.

Ms. Griffin mentioned that they had their fair housing conference and that the turnout was better than expected.

Mr. Cooney mentioned that an individual applied for an apartment and after paying the application fee, they were informed there were no available apartment rooms.

Public Comments—General

Ms. McGlenn was presented was presented with an appreciation certificate for her time on the school board of education.

Adjournment

Mayor Hopewell adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:10 pm

Submitted by: Jennifer Gutierrez Dated: 6/3/19
(Recording Secretary)

Reviewed by: (Staff Liaison) Dated: 6-3-19

Approved by: (SPK Organizing Committee Chair/Vice Chair) Dated: 6-3-19