Members Present: Don Cooney, Brenda Hughes, Patrese Griffin, Sholanna Lewis, Ben Damerow, Tim Ready, Kym Hollars

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

Members Absent: Matt Lynn, Mayor Bobby Hopewell, Cykeia Lee, Carol McGlinn

Guests:

Call to Order

Mr. Damerow called the meeting to order at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Absences

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

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

Ms. Hughes supported by Mr. Cooney – moved to approve June 3, 2019 minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Damerow asked members if there were any objections for July 1, 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

Mr. Ford introduced Ms. Kym Hollars, who will be replacing Linda Snyders position in the committee. Ms. Hollars is a navigator from Goodwill.
Ms. Hollars mentioned that they cancelled the last goal team meeting due to the flood situation and that they meet the third Thursday every month. Everyone introduced themselves to Ms. Hollars.

Mr. Ford mentioned that the jobs goal team finalized the after action review as well as the youth goal team. All the goal teams are currently on summer break for the month of July and will be meeting again towards the end of August.

**New Business**

- **Ad Hoc Work (All)**

Mr. Ford explained that some of the issues that were mentioned in the after action review have been similar to previous conversations. He recommends establishing some Ad Hoc working groups to address some of the issues that were brought up. Mr. Ford reviewed briefly the After Action Review. He mentioned that he sent out the by – laws for the committee to review. Mr. Ford mentioned that the By – Laws will be the primary focus for the Ad Hoc Group, there will also be one for the Advocacy. The goal is to be ready to present to the organizing committee by the next meeting in August for them to begin making decisions. In agreement with the committee; Mr. Damerow, Ms. Hughes and Mayor Hopewell will be working with the By – Laws Development; Mr. Cooney, Mayor Hopewell, Mr. Ready, Ms. Hollars, Ms. Lam, Mr. Ford and UpJohn will be working with the SPK Working Definitions. For the Advocacy portion, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Griffin and Mr. Damerow will be focusing on that matter. Mr. Ford explained the purpose of the SPK working definitions portion for the committee, that the purpose to be able to clarify certain terms, especially if there are to be solutions to certain situations.

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

None Responded

**Miscellaneous**

Ms. Bonner updated the committee in regards to the affordable housing project. The last two weeks they have had two meetings, and have been working with the Community Investment Act (C.I. A.), to address the issue of minority not receiving housing. They discussed a program idea that would assist the minorities getting comfortable with the idea of homeownership. Mr. Ford mentioned that at the C.I.A. member mentioned it would be a good idea to do an event in Kalamazoo, similar to a play that was recently conducted in Grand Rapids that was set around the Red Lining. They discussed the idea and what it may look like to bring the play to Kalamazoo.

Ms. Bonner mentioned the landlord fair expo that occurred recently. She explained that every landlord that attended received a gift card and an entry to a drawing. The event
turned out better than expected, landlords filled out a feedback survey. Housing Vendors were there to answer questions for the landlords and offer support for issues the landlords are currently having.

Ms. Bonner also updated the committee on the minority contractors’ class. They are three weeks into the class, and there are roughly fifteen students in the class.

Ms. Lewis mentioned that they are working with employers to develop an employer network, Michigan Works are one of the employers that are involved. They are also working with Bronson and discussing with Western Michigan University in being involved with the project. Mr. Damerow suggested another possible employer that possibly could be involved. Ms. Hughes questioned about involving the public schools.

Mr. Damerow also stated that Governor Whitmer recently signed an executive order to restructure the talent in the talent economic development, talent investment agency and or enforcement agency; she is consolidating the three departments into one, the department of labor and economic opportunities.

Mr. Damerow added that there was a discussion with KVCC and their partnership with Momentum. Their grant ended recently and they have run out scholarship money for the students they were training. Mr. Damerow spoke with Mayor Hopewell about potentially presenting a proposal that SPK would fund.

Mr. Damerow mentioned that the State of Michigan has put out funding for the industry collaborative. They have been working with The Kalamazoo Promise, Kalamazoo RESA, West Michigan Construction Alliance, LISC and additional organizations to help add staffing and capacity.

Ms. Lewis mentioned that they will be doing their second police academy (T.H.T. Day) with the cadets on August 23rd. She briefly reviewed minor details of the program. They will be expanding their invite list to local lawyers, the community justice system and the community.

Mr. Damerow expressed his gratitude for all the hard work from the committee with the proposals and everything they have been accomplishing.

**Public Comments—General**

None Responded

**Adjournment**

Mr. Damerow adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:20 pm