Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) Organizing Committee
September 9, 2019
Minutes
Community Room, City Hall
241 West South Street

Members Present: Mayor Bobby Hopewell, Don Cooney, Brenda Hughes, Patrese Griffin, Sholanna Lewis, Kym Hollars, Cyekeia Lee, Tim Ready

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, Ben Damerow, Carol McGlinn

Guests: Steve Brown, Richard Cherry

Call to Order

Mayor Hopewell 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

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

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

Ms. Lee supported by Ms. Hughes – moved to approve August 5, 2019 minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Hopewell asked members if there were any objections for September 9, 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

New Business

- **Expungement opportunity (Steve Brown, Richard Cherry)**

Mayor Hopewell introduced Mr. Brown and Mr. Cherry, both city staff. Mr. Cherry is the Deputy City Attorney and Mr. Brown is the Foundation for Excellence Coordinator.

Mr. Brown begins explaining minor details of the new expungement law that will be carried for the state of Michigan. The new law is an expungement opportunity for those who are being released back into the community/society. This will assist them improving their life in a more positive way without the burden of their priors.

Mr. Cherry clarifies the stipulation of the new expungement law, which include:

- Only Two Misdemeanors
- Only Two Non – Related Misdemeanors
- Only One Felony

This is a very restricted and limited qualification for eligible applicants. The misdemeanors cannot result with endangerment and the waiting period is five years. Currently there are several draft bills being reviewed, The Clean Slate Bill and The Expansion Bill. Mr. Cherry briefly explains the two bills. Mr. Cherry explain that the only stipulation with the Clean Slate Bill would be that it increased the waiting period from five years to ten years.

Mr. Cherry explained that the new marijuana bill also legalized marijuana to a certain limit/amount in procession, he began discussing other minor details of the bill as well.

Mayor Hopewell mentioned that the draft bills are a step further to improvement and progress of the committees' focus for the community.

Mr. Cherry mentioned that there will be an expungement screening event at the library on October 10th from 3 pm – 6 pm , this is a first come first serve bases. They will screen the applicants and determine if they're eligible based on their background of priors and other specification for qualifying determination. If they qualify, they will pay a $50 application fee for the applicants. This will be based on the current law. If they are more then forty eligible individuals there will be a waiting list.

- **Austin site visit debrief (Cyekeia Lee, Kym Hollars, Laura Lam, Kevin Ford)**

Mr. Ford briefly summarized the information and pamphlets he gathered from a seminar he attended in Austin, TX. He presented a video to the committee that was shown for the group at the seminar. This video was a united way video explaining some of the work they are accomplishing working/Partnering with United Way. He explained that Austin, TX is also expressing a moment of growth, challenges such as Homelessness, Poverty etc… They are also working with various organizations to come up with resolution for their challenges.

Ms. Lee explained some of the examples that the City of Austin is doing for the community that she felt was incredible, she gave an example that they give their communities an incentive for attending a certain number of meetings and/or all the meetings and as well mentioning their community schools that they have available.

Ms. Hollars expressed that aside of the community schools she was also impressed with their program called The Spiral that assists with parent talk, parenting skills and assisting accomplishing educational goals.

Ms. Lam added that from her experience from the trip in Austin, TX is that she was impressed that they are committed to taking care of their residents with their available programs and as well as the vouchers they provide for their communities.

Unfinished Business (unfinished or pending matters)

Miscellaneous

Public Comments - General

None Responded

Adjournment

Mayor Hopewell adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:40 pm

Submitted by: Jennifer Gutierrez Dated: 10.7.19
(Recording Secretary)

Reviewed by: Kevin Ford Dated: 10/07/19
(Staff Liaison)

Approved by: Dated: 10/7/19
(SPK Organizing Committee Chair/Vice Chair)