

Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) Organizing Committee

November 4, 2019

Minutes

Community Room, City Hall
241 West South Street

Members Present: Mayor Bobby Hopewell (late), Don Cooney, Brenda Hughes, Tim Ready, Ben Damerow, Carol McGlinn, Sholanna Lewis (conference call)

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, Kym Hollars, Cyekeia Lee, Patrese Griffin,

Guests: Bernice Cunningham, Mattie Jordan - Woods

Call to Order

Ms. McGlinn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:36 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Absences

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

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

October 7, 2019

Mr. Damerow supported by Mr. Ready – moved to approve October 7, 2019 minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. McGlinn asked members if there were any objections for the November 4, 2019 agenda.

Ms. Hughes supported by Mr. Cooney – moved to approve the November 4, 2019 agenda. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees

None Responded

New Business

- **SPK High Impact Fund Update (Kevin Ford)**

Mr. Ford introduced Mrs. Bernice Cunningham from People of Change and Ms. Mattie Jordan – Woods who is the executive director of the Northside Association for Community Development to the committee, which currently has the patient care academy taking place.

Mrs. Cunningham updated the committee what People of Change are currently working on. She mentioned that they work with ex – offenders and assist them with finding employment and they also work individuals from Gang Violence Intervention (G.V.I.) Mrs. Cunningham mentioned that they have not had any issues with the individuals that they work with, just small minor issues but nothing vital. Mrs. Cunningham explained that they refer those needing employment to Goodwill because Goodwill has a good impact. They do get paid for working there. The individuals that enter their program take classes with People of Change and graduate before being referred for employment. Their class is a nine-week program. There is another class starting soon. They've had a few women attend the class currently the majority in the classes are men. Mrs. Cunningham mentioned that they have assisted a few individuals in finding a place to stay.

Mrs. Cunningham mentioned that they keep in touch with the individuals that enter in their program.

Mrs. Cunningham continued to explain the process of their program.

Mr. Cooney discussed about working with KINEXUS and working with Ms. Cunningham's husband with assisting the individuals that need help with employment and shelter.

Mr. Ford questioned how many of the individuals that they work with had children, Mrs. Cunningham responded that all the individuals had children and roughly five of them had children that were infant and minors.

Ms. Jordan – Woods explained that NACD partnered originally with Kalamazoo Promise, City of Kalamazoo, Bronson, Michigan Works, Urban Alliance and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC). KVCC informed NACD after nine months that they were not aware they could not do a satellite site. The open suggestion would be to come to their location which would not have worked for NACD when it was previously determined to be a neighborhood-based training.

Ms. Jordan – Woods continued discussing the different issues they were having trying to start their training program. She mentioned that currently NACD is currently partnered with

Kalamazoo Promise, City of Kalamazoo, Bronson, Michigan Rehab Services, Michigan Career & Technical Institute, Michigan Works & Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Ms. Jordan – Woods mentioned that there are currently eight students scheduled to graduate the program on November 21st.

Ms. Jordan – Woods continued discussing the challenges and feedback regarding their program. Some of the issues were timing & daycare. Ms. Jordan – Woods mentioned that they are looking into making the Northside a testing site. She mentioned that she will keep them updated with the progress/status for the program.

- **SPK 2020**

Mr. Ford read off some details and information give to him from the planning team. Mr. Ford mentioned that he reached out to Urban Alliance, the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Academy headed by Eastside Youth Strong. They have a planning team that has been meeting monthly, and they will be meeting in December. He mentioned that they have added additional planning team members and a few members have left. Mr. Ford also indicated that Eastside Youth Strong, Boys and Girls Club, and Northeastern Elementary are organizing/coordinating a recruitment for the youth for the summer of 2020. Mr. Ford will update the committee on more dates and details for the events.

Mr. Ford mentioned that VITA currently obtained new sites, which include EL Concilio, Washington Square, Eastside, Interfaith Homes and few more areas have been determined to be a site for VITA.

Mr. Ford recommended that the committee cancels their meeting in December and meets again in January 2020.

Ms. McGlenn questioned if they will be disbursing SPK High Impact funds starting in January 2020. Mr. Ford responded not at this time.

The committee agreed to meet in January 2020 and conduct a SPK Retreat Meeting within the first quarter of 2020.

Unfinished Business (unfinished or pending matters)

Miscellaneous

Public Comments - General

None Responded

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Adjournment

Ms. McGlenn adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:50 pm

Submitted by: Jennifer Gutierrez
(Recording Secretary)

Dated: 1-6-2020

Reviewed by: Kevin Ford
(Staff Liaison)

Dated: 01/06/2020

Approved by: [Signature]
(SPK Organizing Committee Chair/Vice Chair)

Dated: 1-6-2020