
City Staff: Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator; Beth Cheeseman, Executive Administrative Assistant, *Laura Lam; Deputy City Manager; Antonio Mitchell, Community Investment Manager; Neal Conway, Communications Coordinator; Joe Ulery, Deputy Chief Information Officer

Members Absent:

*Brenda Hughes, Sholanna Lewis, and Don Cooney logged in after roll call was taken.

Guests: None

Call to Order

Director Hopewell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 pm.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Absences

No formal motion was made at that time.

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

Director McGlinn made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2020 as presented; seconded by Vice Mayor Griffin. A voice vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Director Hopewell asked if there were any additions or changes. There were none.

Agenda was approved as presented by consensus.
Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees

None.

New Business

SPK Funding process

Mr. Ford spoke of developing a uniform, standard process for the public to access SPK dollars. He presented a timeline of first having discussion (October and November meetings), then finalizing and launching the application at the end of the year. The application deadline would be in January 2021 and funding decisions would be made in March 2021. Mr. Ford indicated that grant management software would be required to assist this process. He noted that there isn’t any physical place to point people to if they ask about SPK funds. Mr. Ford believed they can establish two cycles and have the application, scoring rubric and all components online. From the funding processes he investigated, he believes the timeline presented is within range of common practices. Mr. Ford said he will send the documents for the board’s review.

Director Lewis asked about the application being publicly available vs only available to the Goal Teams. Mr. Ford stated that he will send a guideline document which includes the eligibility criteria. That criteria are what would be made public.

Director Hughes expressed confusion. She didn’t think they were going to take proposals like they did before. Director Hopewell expressed concern about putting the application out publicly and becoming a granting foundation instead of a partnering organization.

*Deputy City Manager Lam entered meeting while Bobby Hopewell was speaking.

Mr. Ford agreed that they were not going to be a traditional foundation, but he felt there were some similarities with dollars being disbursed. He felt that a standardized process would improve upon their previous experience. Mr. Ford said he included language in the guideline document regarding their goals of black led social change, narrative work, and 2Gen work. He felt they can still achieve the outcomes they want in a more efficient manner.

Director McGlinn stated that this is more about having a process and deciding on the grants. They would still have the ability to invite people to send letters of intent around the areas they want to fund. Mr. Ford responded that was correct. Currently there’s nothing in place to trigger a process. He didn’t feel they managed expectations well last time.

Director Hopewell advised caution. He said they had discussions clarifying that they are a partnering organization. The board members would bring people together with the co-chair or three chairs to work on specific issues. Director Hopewell reported they had previously said they
would not be in this place with an application. He said if it was a conversation about how someone new enters that realm, then he would be comfortable. He was concerned that if they put the application out to the public, it would sound like they’re leading with money compared with leading with intent and strategy.

Mr. Ford voiced concern about having a closed process vs a transparent process.

Director Lee agreed that you never want to lead with the money. She felt that even with the Goal Teams in place, they struggled and missed the mark on the community voice. She felt the application process could be a bridge to that. She didn’t want to eliminate the connection to the Goal Teams.

Director Cooney shared his understanding that the board would be setting the direction on moving forward on 2Gen and then they would invite people to put in proposals.

Director Lee agreed with Director Cooney, but she was concerned that people wouldn’t know about the proposal or process. She said they missed the mark with some things previously and she wanted to find a way to close the gap.

Director Stewart thought a first step would be to bring people together to figure out potential collaborations. From there they could give access to an application. She wanted to try to find a way not to lead with resources, but to be transparent about resources and make people feel they are accessible. Director Stewart discussed the need for balance between the power of the committee to determine strategy and the community’s ability to inform strategy.

Director Hopewell stated that the bottom line was they were not all in alignment with how to move forward. He felt they needed to have a full, clear strategy before an application was put out in public or on the website.

Director Lewis wondered what role they should play in helping to cultivate the request and in implementation. She asked what the process would look like from idea stage to implementation.

Director Ready stated that he didn’t think they agreed to go through another round of proposals. He felt their role as a committee was to generate vision, checking in with the community as they do with the dialogue process. Now their vision includes 2Gen programming, jobs, healthy growth development and learning of kids, access and strong secure families.

Director Damerow suggested a small committee of the group get together with Mr. Ford and draft a revised proposal for them to react to at the November meeting.

Director McGlinn thought they had jumped to a place they were not ready to go. It depends on how they set the guidelines. She wasn’t opposed to the software Mr. Ford talked about, but she thought they had a lot of work before they got to that point.
Director Hughes wondered what the subcommittee decided after the last meeting. She felt things changed between that meeting and the present discussion. She requested to know what the subcommittees talk about.

Director Lee said if they do something for black folks, nothing about us without us. She felt they needed black people who are community leaders for the areas they are trying to impact. Those who are knowledgeable of what’s going on in the community. She nominated as tribute to look at that with Mr. Ford.

Director Lewis said they had been talking about 2 Gen narrative change as well. She indicated she was happy to join any meetings if she was available.

Director Hopewell suggested the chairs get back together with Mr. Ford to recommend a path forward. Mr. Ford said he would schedule that meeting with the Chair, Vice Chair and Goal Team Chairs.

*Neighborhood Block Clubs*

Mr. Ford shared that the CEPD Director approved a small dollar amount from the shared community engagement pool of money to launch neighborhood block clubs. He said they want to do that in the SPK core neighborhoods to increase information flow between City residents and the City organization. They also want to offer opportunities for residents to be trained in community organizing.

*Bylaws amendment—conflict of interest*

Mr. Mitchell recommended adding language in their bylaws around conflict of interest. Mr. Ford said they need a 2/3 vote to amend bylaws and then it would go to the City Commission. He will send out language for the board to review and they will discuss it at the November meeting.

Director McGlinn cautioned that you have to make things clear when you’re talking about grants.

*Unfinished Business (unfinished or pending matters)*

*2Gen project update*

Mr. Ford informed them that United Way has a draft recommendation for the City to work with them to establish a two-generation network. When that document is finalized, he will get that document to the board. They will then start steps to build out the 2Gen network. Mr. Ford said there are also opportunities to establish roles for the committee in terms of community and co-creating with community as they build out that network.
Miscellaneous

- Mr. Ford reviewed some work he has been doing with Children’s Saving Accounts. He also spoke of a journalism collaborative with regards to the narrative change piece.

- Director Hopewell talked about the US Conference of Mayors program. He encouraged staff to get with the current Mayor and look at that opportunity.

Public Comments - General

None.

Adjournment

Director Hopewell adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:22 pm

Submitted by: Beth Cheeseman Dated: 10/12/2020
(Recording Secretary)

Reviewed by: Kevin Ford Dated: 10/12/2020
(Staff Liaison)

Approved by: Bobby Hopewell Dated: 10/12/2020
(SPK Organizing Committee Chair/Vice Chair)