Members Present: Ben Damerow, Patrese Griffin, Bobby Hopewell, Carol McGlinn, Jonathan Pulley, Cyekeia Lee, John Oliver, Brenda Hughes, *Alyssa Stewart, *Don Cooney

Members Absent: Kym Hollars

*Joined after Roll Call was taken

City Staff: Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator; Jaime Marsman, Community Investment Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m.

Roll Call

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

A motion was made by Mr. Damerow to excuse the absent members, seconded by Ms. Hughes. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

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

A motion was made by Ms. McGlinn to approve the minutes of October 4, 2021 as presented, seconded by Ms. Hughes. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

It was noted that the New Business item will move to the end of the agenda due to time constraints of the guest. The agenda moved forward, with the change as noted.

Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees

None.

Unfinished Business (unfinished or pending matters)

None.

Mr. Hopewell asked for any updates on the City Budget. Mr. Ford stated that the budget is under review. The City Commission will make final decisions in January.
Mr. Hopewell asked for an update on the Pod project. Mr. Ford stated that our Housing Development Coordinator, Sharilyn Parsons, may have more information on this project. Mr. Ford explained that housing pods are being discussed as a possibility on Stockbridge in the Edison Neighborhood to address housing instability challenges.

Ms. Stewart stated that the Continuum of Care is housed at United Way. She stated that there are two projects – the Pod project being led by HRI. Fifty pods have been purchased, 16 are two person and the remainder are one person. These are transitional housing pods. They are secure, lockable, heated and air-conditioned. They are self-anchoring and self-leveling. They can be assembled and disassembled very quickly. They are designed to last 15 years. HRI thought that these were another option for folks in our community who have been camping. Also, separately, the City purchased the Stockbridge property and is considering an emergency action at this evening’s meeting that would allow for that property to be used for responsive emergency housing. Ms. Stewart encouraged everyone to attend the City Commission meeting this evening for more information.

Mr. Hopewell stated that, as we think about prosperity, we need to provide ways for shelter for those who need that, but we also need to think about moving folks towards success with next steps. He stated that we also need to be discussing jobs and workforce development as that is the pathway out of poverty. Mr. Hopewell expressed his concern that this piece sometimes feels left out and stated that we need to look at the connective pieces to success. Ms. Stewart affirmed that this is part of HRI’s thinking and consideration. This temporary pod housing would provide a mailing address for folks which is critical to obtain and sustain employment and there would be a wraparound approach for connective services. There will also be 24/7 staff onsite for assistance and safety.

Ms. Lee inquired if families were navigated to other options as this appeared to be an option for singles/couples. Ms. Stewart stated that we know that families are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. She affirmed that families will continue to be navigated to other resources and supports that are more appropriate for families with young children.

Ms. Griffin stated that the Emergency Housing Ordinance is what is being discussed this evening, which creates the framework/outline of the program, but does not include the specific location. She shared concerns that the pod project is only for adults. Ms. Griffin stated that a lot of our emergency solutions have been geared towards singles/couples and it needs to be clarified what is being done for families.

Vice Mayor Cooney stated that this is not the answer to the problem, but rather an emergency solution to prevent people from freezing. It is to get folks through the winter. We have a much deeper problem. There are many people & families who are homeless. Vice Mayor Cooney affirmed the development of the requirements/restrictions.
Mr. Ford stated that he will send everyone the link to HRI’s website, which has all of the information currently available.

Ms. Stewart stated that transitional space is not intended for long-term use. To be considered for permanent housing, bathrooms & kitchen space would be required. Ms. Stewart suggested that we ask HRI to present to this group at a later date.

**Public Comments—General**

None.

**New Business**

**American Rescue Plan Presentation**

Kerry Lynn Williams, Grant Specialist, City of Kalamazoo

Mr. Ford introduced Ms. Williams and explained that some SPK resources will be coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

Ms. Williams thanked the group for the opportunity to speak today. She shared that she works with Steve Brown with the Foundation For Excellence (FFE) as half of her position, with the other half of her position being the Grant Specialist for the City of Kalamazoo. She has been with the city for a year and a half.

*Presentation:*

Ms. Williams stated that she is here to explain how the ARPA Funding may impact SPK in 2022.

The City of Kalamazoo received $38.9 million (two tranches)

Funding must be committed by 2024 and spent by 2026.

ARP Funds can be used to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response
- Support immediate economic stabilization
- Replace lost public sector revenue
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges
- Administrative costs

Community Shared Priorities through Surveys NCS, Stimulus, ARP, IK2025, CC Priorities
- Economic Impact/Economy
  - Promote economic health, economic and business development and address job loss
- Infrastructure
  - Motorized and non-motorized transportation systems, utilities, water and sewer
- Housing
  - Affordable housing, addressing homelessness, assisting with arrearages/repairs
- Youth
  - Places and supports that help young people succeed
- Safety
  - Preventing crime and violence, including gun violence and other public safety initiatives

Program Quality Factors
- Equitable Outcomes
  - Close gaps, serve underserved groups, equitable access, address barriers
- Use of Evidence
  - Evidence-based or plan to build evidence
- “Shovel-Readiness”
  - Ready to start and show progress in 2022
- Aligned with IK2025
  - Show clear alignment with community plans
- Level of Impact
  - Significant in number of people served and impact
- Past Performance
  - Data shows track record of success
- Financial Sustainability
  - Create lasting change with investment or have sustainable funding plan for operations
- Mandates
  - Required based on legal or compliance requirements

Ms. Williams stated that they received 111 proposals, one was for SPK funding in 2022. Their goal is to look at how to make the most impact.

ARPA Funding and SPK
- It is likely that approximately 50% of 2022 SPK funding will come from ARPA.

The goal today is to let you know:
- What that might mean for applicants
- How it might impact the funding decisions you make and
- Answer any questions you may have

Ms. Williams stated that the ARPA funds should not change who SPK would like to fund. All SPK neighborhoods are in the Qualified Census Tracts.
There are 66 Expenditure Categories

Alignment with SPK Priorities

- Educational Assistance
  - Early Learning, Academic Services, SEL Services, Other
- Healthy Childhood Environments
  - Child Care, Home Visiting, Services to Foster/Child Welfare Involved, Other
- Housing Supports
  - Services for unhoused persons or other housing assistance
- Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- Social Determinants of Health
  - Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators, Community Violence Interventions
- Household Assistance
  - Food Programs, Rent/Mortgage Assistance, Internet Access, Eviction Prevention
- Job Training Assistance

ARPA Compliance Requirements

- Risk/Support Assessment
  - To determine level of support needed in order to have capacity for Federal grant
  - If a business doesn’t score well in this, additional technical support would be offered. This would prepare organizations to have better outcomes applying for federal funding in the future. This is a great opportunity to build capacity.
- Clear Scoring/Selection Criteria
  - Can build off those presented before or be unique to SPK – Consistency and eligibility
- Training on Reporting (eCImpact)
  - SPK staff will equip and prepare applicants to be successful and to comply throughout their project
- Monthly Reporting (eCImpact)
  - Upload documents for expenditures, reviewed to ensure compliance and provide support early on
- Quarterly Reporting (eCImpact)
  - Total funds expended, progress and outputs/outcomes
- Ongoing Technical Assistance
  - Kevin and others will offer ongoing support and assistance as needed.
  - Ms. Williams stated that there will be ongoing support for all applicants.

Mr. Hopewell stated that we look forward to hearing more about the budget process. There were no questions for Ms. Williams. Ms. Williams stated that SPK will receive approximately $1.2 million with 50% coming from FFE and the remainder coming from ARPA.

Mr. Hopewell reminded everyone that SPK is a partnering body, not necessarily a granting body. He stated that if there are efforts that we think need to move forward, we can assist with moving
that work forward. Mr. Hopewell stated that significant conversations are already happening around childcare and workforce development.

Mr. Pulley asked about the budget and ARPA Funding. Ms. Williams stated that it is flat-funded. Mr. Pulley questioned what supports for community partners/organizations may look like and how that would affect current and future grantees, knowing that these can be seen as barriers? Ms. Williams stated that the Committee can decide if they want to do separate things with each portion of money. FFE Funds could be designated in one direction with the ARPA Funding going towards organizations that have the capacity to meet the requirements. Ms. Williams stated with the first round of funding through United Way had 90 minute training sessions and applicants were walked through each step. They also provided assistance on obtaining a SAMS and DUNS number. This was done with the intentionality to build capacity.

Mr. Hopewell thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation and explanation.

**Miscellaneous**

None.

**Public Comments—General**

None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.