

City of Grand Rapids

Affordable Housing Fund Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 Noon-2:00 pm

City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave NW, 49503, Commission Chambers

- I. Call to Order by Chair Talen at 12:06pm
- II. Roll Call – Washington, Townsend and Drent Absent
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approval of Minutes from June 7th, 2023 – moved by Williams, seconded by App.
Motion carried.
- IV. Action Items
- V. Discussion Items
 - a. Housing Commission Presentation – Jose Capeles
 - i. Presentation highlighted many of the services that are being offered by the Grand Rapids Housing Commission. The presentation provided updates on each program and how they fit the unique needs of their clients in Grand Rapids.
 - b. Proposed work plan: RFP #1 Lessons Learned – Kate Berens & Ryan Kilpatrick
 - i. Ms. Berens presented on recent RFP feedback from the Affordable Housing Fund Board. The areas of focus were Policy and Process Guidelines, Education and Communication, Affordable Housing Strategy, and Developer Support and Inclusion. Regarding Policy and Process Guidelines. Mr. Talen suggested that in future RFP's the board should consider coordinating with other departments in the city to maximize impact and change in the city by sharing resources. Mr. Talen also suggested possible changes to the scoring matrix and the possibility of subcommittees involving individuals that aren't board members. Ms. Berens agreed to investigate the suggestion and come back with more information. A document of City Commission Policy was presented to the board. The document provides clarity about the mission for the Affordable Housing board. Ms. Reames found the document helpful but suggested that the board tailor it to the unique needs of the city. Ms. Berens

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agreed and stated the document would be helpful in the creation of a 3-5 year plan for the board with their goals and objectives. During the discussion of developer support and inclusion, Mr. Brown stated that there is a national incentive to focus on minority led development projects and that would be a great cause to support. The board agreed with the focus areas from Ms. Beren's presentation and would like to proceed with implementing them. Next steps for the board include organizing a retreat or informal meeting to create vision-based goals and explore additional funding opportunities.

VI. Public Comment

a. Dain Gates with Grand Rapids for Affordable Housing

- i. Ms. Gates expressed appreciation for the work and time dedicated to affordable housing. She called for collaboration between the city and county, specifically focusing on development without displacement.

VII. Adjournment by Chair Talen at 1:10pm