

City of Grand Rapids

Affordable Housing Fund Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 Noon-2:00 pm

City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave NW, 49503, Room 601

- I. Call to Order by Vice Chair Brown at 12:03pm
- II. Roll Call-Absent Talen, Williams
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approval of Minutes from July 12th motion to accept by App, second by App, all approved, motion carried.
- IV. Action Items
- V. Discussion Items
- VI. Updates
 - a. Round One RFP Status, Kate Berens
 - i. Connie Bohatch from Community Development shared list of the Round One funding status. Ms. Bohatch explained the process of utilizing ARPA funding and vetting projects.
 - b. Fund Accounting, Kate Berens
 - i. Over \$1M in the AHF held at the Community Foundation, which needs to maintain a balance of \$250k. Additional funds coming from PILOT funds that are earmarked to go into AHF, also sale of 201 Market property, est. spring of 2024, second payment about a year after that when the sale has closed. Ms. Bohatch will follow up with estimated PILOT numbers for the board. Brown asked for the most recent report to be available at the retreat.
 - c. Community Engagement and Coordination, Tammy Vincent
 - i. Ms. Vincent is the Homeless Outreach Coordinator and reviewed the Continuum of Care that encompasses the Grand Rapids/Wyoming/Kent

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County CoC with Heart of West Michigan as its fiduciary. Core responsibilities in the Housing First Model were discussed along with project types such as Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Housing with over 60 members that comprise the CoC/Homeless Response System. She referred to a presentation made by Ms. Bohatch to the Public Safety Committee on February 7, 2023 with the director of CoC. Those links will be sent to the board following the meeting. Discussion of the CoC ensued within the group. Ms. Bohatch explained how the CoC is required to exist by the federal government and is a collaborative of many organizations. Mr. Brown asked for the CoC meeting schedule to be shared. Mr. Washington asked about areas of greatest needs, which were identified as Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing. One of the functional zero initiatives is called Built for Zero and it has a goal of 90% of unsheltered folks to be known to the CoC. Ms. Reames said functional zero has unintentional consequences, meaning that we still have homelessness but no longer have access to resources, as if we have enough resources and don't need them anymore.

d. Retreat Overview and Office Hours, Kate Berens

- i. Agenda and background links were sent out last Friday. Office hours are available for Kate and Ryan. For the retreat, bring your parking ticket with you to get it validated.

VII. Public Comment

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- a. Judith Transit, GR affordable Housing advocate-she's interested in coming to the retreat. She finds the meetings helpful to learn about gaps in funding and where to look for money.
- b. Michelle Trizowski, GR Affordable Housing advocate-sometimes she feels like there's no progress and LLCs are buying up homes. She has someone close to her who volunteers at the veteran's facility and it's hard to get into the facility if you need services.
- c. Dain Gates, GR Affordable Housing advocate-words matter. She doesn't know what functional zero means but zero means zero. Veterans purchased her freedom, and she would like to see veterans housed. She is confident that we will move the needle.

VIII. Adjournment by Vice Chair Brown at 1:16pm.