

DWELLING PLACE OF GRAND RAPIDS
RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

November 20, 2019

Committee Approved June 2, 2020

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Annamarie Buller, Leah Carpenter, Thomas Carpenter, Tommie Wallace
- STAFF PRESENT** Jessica Beeby, Kim Cross, Heather Ibrahim, Zoe Post, Jenn Schaub, Latrisha Sosebee, Haley Stichman, Dennis Sturtevant, Alonda Trammell
- The meeting was convened at 9:33 AM by Ms. Buller.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **Minutes of the Resident Engagement Committee meeting of September 23, 2019 were approved by motion of Tommie Wallace, supported by Thomas Carpenter and carried unanimously.**
- REVIEW OF GRANTS** Ms. Schaub distributed a breakdown of grant funding for resident engagement programming, including, but not limited to, the following:
- \$10,500 (MCACA) for community art projects
 - \$15,000 (NeighborWorks) for strategy impact work
 - \$50,000 (Republic Services) for exercise park in Muskegon Heights; the department will reapply for the grant this year as well
 - \$3,800 and \$3,445 (DGRI) for Pekich Park gardening and window activation project in Heartside
 - \$10,000 (United Way) for Census 2020 work
- These grants will go to cover CB&E department costs of about \$240,000 (not including salaries or support services). Continued reporting and metrics will demonstrate the essential nature of this high-mission work to the board.
- FINANCIAL COACHING BETA TEST PLAN & TIMELINE** Ms. Stichman presented a pilot program still in development that will provide residents with eviction prevention coaching and financial capability classes. Four individuals will attend a NeighborWorks training in December on behalf of Dwelling Place and will help plan the program, which is set to begin in the summer of 2020. The pilot will target both PSH and non-PSH properties with high rates of eviction due to non-payment of rent, then possibly expand to other properties.
- REVIEW OF ANNUAL TRACKING TOOLS** The CB&E uses three primary means of tracking resident engagement: sign-in sheets, surveys, and sharing impact through storytelling. Ms. Schaub demonstrated how this manifests using two events: an ice cream social at Verne Barry Place and a mental health first aid training. The number of attendees, CIM/event surveys completed, and persons completing the course were all tracked; further documentation of the events included photos taken and event reports. After the events occurred, stories were shared with the community via photos, social media, and Rapidian articles. All of this reporting informs the planning process for successful CB&E programs in the future.
- UPDATES & OTHER BUSINESS** The diverse Community Leadership Institute (CLI) team from Roosevelt Apartments attended a NeighborWorks training in October and will use skills developed there to activate the new park space in Muskegon Heights.
- ADJOURNMENT** The Resident Engagement Committee was adjourned at 10:59 PM by Ms. Buller.

