

DWELLING PLACE OF GRAND RAPIDS
RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

June 2, 2020

Committee Approved August 4, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT Annamarie Buller, Tommie Wallace

MEMBERS ABSENT Leah Carpenter, Thomas Carpenter

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT Jessica Beeby, Brian Bruce, Heather Ibrahim, Zoe Post, Jenn Schaub, Latrishia Sosebee, Dennis Sturtevant, Alonda Trammell

Kristin Moretto, GVSU

After some technical difficulties, the meeting was convened at 10:22 AM by Ms. Buller. All attendees introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the November 19, 2019 and May 5, 2020 meeting minutes were approved by motion of Tommie Wallace, supported by Annamarie Buller, and carried unanimously.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Ms. Schaub presented how resident engagement has adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Resident Assessment: Based on a model by a NeighborWorks affiliate, CB&E staff have contacted over 640 residents and organized their responses to help connect residents with the resources they need. Residents have reported difficulties related to isolation, mental health needs, and miscommunication regarding rent. Staff have regularly distributed county-specific resource lists via email, mail, lobby postings.

Community Gardens

Staff has put together a plan reviewed by the health department to reopen several community gardens at Dwelling Place properties. Resident gardeners were provided with kits including gardening essentials and information on social distancing.

Virtual Heartside Historic Tour

Originally conceived of as a walking tour bringing those who live and work in Heartside together, the six-part Zoom series version of the tour has been a success—use of the platform doubled the expected number of participants.

Community Leadership

With participation from CLI alumni and residents at Roosevelt Apartments, the exercise park at the property will be named A Little Slice of Heaven Park. The team is also collaborating with a local artist on a public art installation at the site.

Community Arts

Summer projects are still moving forward with some modifications. Staff will cover this topic more fully at the next committee meeting.

Support of Neighborhood Associations

Staff has been working to support the Heartside and Bethlehem Park Neighborhood Associations, creating websites, sending e-newsletters, and hosting board meetings. The Heartside group has been especially active in engaging local government to discuss issues concerning food insecurity, schools reopening, and community policing.

Staffing Additions

New AmeriCorps Volunteers Emma Henkel and Jeileny Tenorio have started at Dwelling Place and will be working in neighborhood organizing and volunteer engagement.

ADJOURNMENT

The Resident Engagement Committee was adjourned at 11:12 AM by Ms. Buller.