

DWELLING PLACE OF GRAND RAPIDS  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
October 20, 2020  
*Committee Approved November 17, 2020*

**MEMBERS PRESENT** David Byers, Juan Daniel Castro, Holly Jacoby, Rick Stevens, Lee Nelson Weber

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Annamarie Buller

**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT** Zoe Post, Denny Sturtevant

Kellie Kitchen, Muskegon Heights City Council

The meeting convened via conference call at 9:01 AM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting of September 15, 2020 were approved by motion of David Byers, supported by Lee Nelson Weber and carried without objection.**

**BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEW** The committee interviewed Kellie Kitchen, a social worker with the State of Michigan and member of the Muskegon Heights City Council, where she serves on the building and lands committee. Ms. Kitchen was also part of the Dwelling Place CLI group to help incorporate Roosevelt Apartments into the broader community. She would be interested in serving on the Resident Engagement Committee of the board.

After concurring that Ms. Kitchen’s qualifications and enthusiasm make her an excellent board member, **the committee voted to recommend her appointment to the board of directors by motion of Rick Stevens, support from Lee Nelson Weber, and carrying without objection. Mr. Castro will notify Ms. Kitchen of her nomination.**

**BOARD CANDIDATE UPDATES** The committee has contacted board candidates Kim Sims, Joyce Starr, and Mo Townsend but has not been able to secure an interview. If these candidates reach out to the committee to pursue board membership, the committee will continue the interview process. Ms. Nelson Weber suggested Gustavo Rotondaro of Michigan United Way as a possible candidate. Mr. Castro will submit his name to the board for review before extending an interview invitation for the November meeting.

**DEI WORK PLAN** The committee shared the follow ideas on how to integrate DEI goals into board governance:

- Create more equity in board attendance by allowing for more virtual attendance of meetings and rotating the sites where the meetings are located, including outside Grand Rapids
- Increased measurement and evaluation of current initiatives, such as the board mentorship program
- Adjust board/committee meeting times to accommodate board members with less flexible schedules

- Research best practices for creating an inclusive environment during virtual meetings
- Make the DEI Committee a standing board committee and consider how staff might contribute more directly in other committees as well
- Look closer at community connections of board members and potential board members to build a stronger network
- Create and promote activities and volunteer opportunities for board members to get to know staff and the organization better

**Recommendation to designate the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee as a standing board committee was made by Rick Stevens, seconded by David Byers, and carried without objection. This will be added as a separate item on the December board agenda.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Both Renee Williams and David Byers have expressed interest in serving as the board Vice Chairperson. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Governance Committee meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.