

DWELLING PLACE OF GRAND RAPIDS
RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
December 1, 2020
Committee Approved January 20, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT Bill Anderson, Annamarie Buller, Leah Carpenter, Dondrea Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT Kristin Moretto

STAFF PRESENT Heather Ibrahim, Zoe Post, Jenn Schaub, Latrisha Sosebee, Denny Sturtevant, Grace Thuo, Alonda Trammell

The meeting was convened at 10:02 AM by Ms. Buller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES **Approval of the October 2, 2020 and November 3, 2020 were approved by Dondrea Brown, supported by Annamarie Buller and carried unanimously.**

FACILITATING COMMITTEE MEETINGS Following October’s discussion about DEI goals, Ms. Buller asked the committee if anyone would be willing to facilitate a future meeting. Mr. Anderson volunteered, and will meet with staff to plan the January committee meeting.

MINDFUL MONEY COHORT UPDATE Ms. Thuo and Mr. Brown gave an update on the mindful money cohort, a program that provided financial coaching to six Dwelling Place residents. Group coaching via Zoom, discussions based on lessons from My Money & Me Academy, and individual coaching sessions with Ms. Thuo and Ms. Tammy Karas and all assisted residents in pursuing their financial goals and graduating from the program.

For the 2021 program, Gil Segovia of the Dwelling Place board and an additional staff member will coach a new group of about 10 residents to allow Ms. Thuo and Ms. Karas to continue their work with the previous cohort. Dwelling Place will also partner with Project GREEN to provide residents the opportunity to build credit through rent reporting. More focus will be placed on measurable outcomes such as credit score to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and improve NeighborWorks reporting.

UPDATES

Larry Bratschie Award

The resident award has been slightly altered from previous years to include a more robust committee to review applicants, a single writer to describe the accomplishments of each applicant (to ensure that residents are evaluated on their community contributions rather than writing style), and a larger list of nominees to be shared via social media. The winner of the award will be announced at the December board meeting and featured in the January newsletter.

Schedule

The committee changed its standing meeting time to 10:00am on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be January 20, 2021.

Additional Committee Members

As the committee is in need of resident representation, staff will discuss the list of Bratschie Award nominees to see if any would be a good fit for service on the Resident Engagement Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Resident Engagement Committee was adjourned at 11:04 AM by Ms. Buller.