



***Economic and Workforce Development
Meeting #3 Notes***

August 6, 2015
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
City of Grand Rapids Parking Services
50 Ottawa Avenue, NW

WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Armstrong Cusack, Tracie Coffman (Co-Chair), Sue DeVries, Deborah Eid, Ashley Garrigan, Betty Beth Johns, Ruth Kelly, Angela King, Denavvia Mojet, Kurt Reppart, and Kevin Stotts (Co-Chair)

STAFF PRESENT: Erin Banchoff, Connie Bohatch, Emily Madsen, Johanna Schulte, and Kara Wood

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Tracie Coffman led the group through introductions.

Notes from the July 23, 2015 meeting were reviewed.

REVIEW OF GOALS:

Ms. Coffman reviewed the goals identified at previous meetings. Betty Beth Johns mentioned it is also important to provide cultural education to employers moving to Grand Rapids. The group discussed ensuring businesses and employers have intentional corporate citizenship programs in place. The Chamber of Commerce was mentioned as a resource.

GOALS, INDICATORS, AND STRATEGIES:

The group discussed the two ways to make housing affordable – lowering the cost of housing and increasing income. Jeremy DeRoo explained this workgroup's focus on increasing income. Employer assisted housing was identified as a tool to discuss.

Employer incentives for homeownership or rental assistance programs were discussed.

Grand Rapids Public Schools enrollment and improvement was highlighted as an important indicator. The group also agreed that it is important to monitor the success of all Grand Rapids area educational institutions.

The group plotted the strategies identified at the July 23rd meeting on a complexity and impact chart.

A Community Conversation about the Future of Grand Rapids Housing

<p>Impact</p> <p>Co-op business development</p>	<p>Complexity</p> <p>Wage legislation</p> <p>Incentivizing racism free education</p> <p>Ensure every child at GRPS graduates from college career ready</p> <p>Employer housing incentives (matching funds, forgivable loans, foundations)</p> <p>Social services in schools, expand KSSN model</p> <p>Mobility: transit, complete streets, 24/7</p> <p>Expand college support programs (like Challenge Scholars)</p> <p>Reform sentencing guidelines, drug policy reform</p>
<p>Incentives for urban fresh food markets, year round access to fresh produce</p> <p>(survey) Provide support to small employers to address their needs</p> <p>9-12 grade teacher training/ exposure to growth industries</p> <p>Survey College students about what they're looking for to attract knowledge sector employment</p> <p>Emphasize the need for Grand Rapids Public Libraries as community anchors</p>	<p>Expansion and awareness of youth employment programs</p> <p>Expansion of ESL/ABE education</p> <p>Internships, especially minority</p> <p>Incentivizing education and job training for employers</p> <p>Incentive employers that require basic skills to locate near neighborhoods with high unemployment</p> <p>Emphasize early college enrollment programming</p> <p>Employee training — Community Ventures</p> <p>Emphasize the need for a post-secondary credential or high school diploma or GED</p>

The group decided that the strategy of accelerating the process to return foreclosed homes to the housing market would be better addressed by another workgroup.

Food programs, like the one located at Home Repair Services, were discussed. The group also discussed the importance of dual-enrollment (especially early college) programs.

NEXT MEETING:

Kevin Stotts and Tracie Coffman will continue reviewing the strategies listed on the complexity and impact chart. At the last meeting, there will be actionable items to prioritize and craft recommendations.

The final meeting will take place on August 20, 2015 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at Parking Services (50 Ottawa Ave. NW).