# KALAMAZOO FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE
# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MINUTES

Meeting of October 25, 2021

A meeting of the Kalamazoo Foundation of Excellence (KFFE) Board on October 25, 2021 held by video conference in accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020 amending the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261 *et seq.* was called to order by Acting President Ritsema at 2:01 pm.

Board members present: Ritsema, Anderson, Hess, Carrel, Hoffman, Lonberg, Miller, A. Taylor, C. Taylor, and Washington.

Board member absent: Calderone-Huezo, Urban, and Hopewell

City staff present were Legal Counsel/Recording Secretary Clyde J. Robinson, Deputy City Manager Laura Lam, FFE Manager Steve Brown, Parks & Recreation Director Sean Fletcher, Youth Development Director Chad Wendt, Parks & recreation Program Coordinator Peter Aerts, and Recreation Manger Ashton Anthony. Additionally, Paige Daniels, of MyCity/YOU, and Eleanor Huston and Will Cernanec, both of CCS were present.

The minutes of the Board Meeting held September 13, 2021, were moved for approval by Director Washington and seconded by Director Hess. There being Director Carrel pointed out the need for corrections in the draft minutes, the motion to approve the minutes as corrected was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Messrs. Wendt, Aerts and Anthony provided updates on Parks and Recreations programs impacting local youth which were funded in whole or in part by FFE 2021 funding and planned programs for 2021-22. Note was taken of improvement made to Kik Pool, the creation of a Youth Action Council comprised of 13 student members aged 13-18 to provide input and advice to the Parks & Recreation staff, and work on a feasibility study for a proposed Youth & Teen Facility.

Ms. Daniels provided information on the MyCity/YOU 2021 programs.

Mr. Brown and Ms. Lam provided information on efforts to assist homeless individuals, particularly through the Lantern House and The Lodge programs. Note was also made of efforts in the private sector to provide below market rental units through The Creamery and Harrison Circle projects which the benefit of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) status due to City Commission action.

Ms. Huston engaged Directors in how to tell the FFE story and its impact on the lives of community members. Board members commented on people want to know the names of donors, but explain that such is not important; that once a board member engages with people about the work of the FFE it becomes easier to do.

Mr. Brown presented information on the proposed 2022 FFE budget and the transmittal memo to the City Commission. The proposed budget for FY 2022 is $26,200,747 of which $13,872,339 covers the reduction in the City's millage rate providing tax relief to property owners (and is comparable to other cities in the region), $4,370,908 for budget stabilization to make up for State revenue sharing shortfalls, and $7,957,500 for aspirational activities. The aspirational activities to be funded in 2022 focus on neighborhood infrastructure, youth development, and shared prosperity efforts/economic development efforts. Director Hoffman moved the approval and transmittal of the FFE 2022 Budget memorandum to City Commission; Director Hess seconded the motion. Upon unanimous voice vote the motion was adopted.

Mr. Brown presented the Board with a proposed schedule of Finance Committee, Executive Committee and Board of Director meetings for calendar year 2022. Adoption of the Calendar of Meetings was moved by Director Carrel and seconded by Director Washington. Upon unanimous voice vote the motion was approved.

Mr. Brown requested that the Board direct staff to undertake the process to permit the reappointment of Board Members whose terms were ending and to fill vacant seats on the Board. Director Washington moved to authorize staff to move forward regarding board reappointments and vacancies, seconded by Director C. Taylor. Upon unanimous voice vote the motion was approved.

Acting President Ritsema inquired as to whether any Public Comments had been received; he was informed that there were none. Acting President Ritsema asked if there were any Board Member Comments. There were none.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm by Acting President Ritsema.

Minutes Drafted: October 28, 2021

Minutes Approved: Dec 20, 2021

Clyde J. Robinson

Clyde J. Robinson, Recording Secretary