



Recap – March 3, 2020 Grand Rapids City Mgr Mark Washington

Meeting started at 12:17pm by PID Gary Anderson with a welcome & prayer
Broke for lunch

Reconvened at 12:50pm by VP Ben Eavey (16 members & 2 guests)

Announcements:

1. Bowling Report given by PID Gary Anderson. Last night there were only 4 bowlers but they still bowled and had a good time.
2. Tail-twister (PID Gary Anderson): Several Happy Bucks for vacations in Marathon Florida, new member joining, paying back for staying longer in the University Club Parking Ramp, vacation in California & learning pickleball, meeting our guest speaker & for the pistachio pudding for lunch.
3. Blind Dinner Date: VP Ben Eavey – committee meeting after lunch today and meeting every week after lunch until event. Lions need to buy tickets for the dinner and there was a sheet passed around at lunch. Any ideas for sponsors?
4. Guests at the meeting: Mark Washington & Sue Muallem
5. Raffle – no winner
6. GR Lions welcome new member Lion Pam Van Overloop & sponsor Lion Anne Baird



PID Gary Anderson presenting pin to Pam



Anne Baird receiving
Sponsor pin



Lion Anne Baird, Lion Pam Van Overloop
PID Gary Anderson

Program: Mark Washington Grand Rapids City Manager

Mr. Mark Washington came to Grand Rapids with his wife and two daughters Oct 1, 2018. He was previously in Austin, TX (10 years) and the City Director in Ft Worth, TX (14 years). He currently has a city budget of \$540 million dollars for all departments of Grand Rapids. This \$540 million is \$40 million less than the 2019 budget. Mr. Washington was exposed to Grand Rapids back in 2016 when he was working on a committee of several cities around the country, including GR,

addressing diversity. Mark is currently working on a vision for the community. Calder City is for an iconic piece of work or landmark. Should the name for Grand Rapids be associated with; furniture city, run city or beer city. It has become known internationally for its medical mile. The medical mile is growing and evolving but not one of these named identities is the iconic name they are looking to us. Like Bourbon Street in New Orleans or Park Avenue in New York City. We need to associate our town to a nickname! It may happen after GR develops the street along the river. Something might stand out and GR will use it.

There is also a strategic plan about the values and vision to be accountable, sustainable and economic stable for the mobility and environment health of the city. His office is working with retailers to relocate businesses to Grand Rapids proper. Grand Rapids has only 44 square miles to the city. The city is responsible to work with the environment and with green areas for parks and open spaces. Housing is processing, with the assessment, of how many more building/areas are available to developers that is adequate but will not over run the city. This housing project is for all types of housing, not just low income. The goal is to have 10,000 people living downtown. Parking also has its issues; meters, lots, dash or to use scooters etc. He went on to explain the mobility issues and investing in continuous sidewalks to get around town.

Public Safety for Grand Rapids, a new police chief was his first hire. The police chief had to build trust in the community. There had been 5 police officers added to the second shift, where more incidents occur. A victim assessment officer was added to the force. (This Assessment Officer is the next in line after the first responders.) There is also a person that was hired to help police with trauma for victims and employees.

A new superintendent is on board to promote higher education by offering two free years of college after high school. The student has to work to earn this right to free schooling by earning high marks.

Meeting adjourned at 1:38

Respectfully Submitted,
Lion Cheryl Anderson
GR Lions Club Secretary