



ECA Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024

Hybrid - ECA Office & Zoom

Board members present: Derek, Ron, Rachael, Kelly, Hal, Jonathan

Staff members present: Steve

Guests present: Nicole Rapacki, Cynthia Burga, Chris Kantner, Paul Koops

** indicates Action item*

1. Treasurer Rachael called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. The meeting started without a quorum.
2. Affirmation Statement
Derek read the affirmation statement for the group.
3. Due to not reaching quorum, we have held off on approving November 2023 meeting minutes and the January 2024 agenda until the February 2024 meeting.
4. Nicole Rapacki from the Department of Public Works shared more information around the city's goal of increasing recycling rates. Grand Rapids is currently at a 30% recycling rate and the goal of the city is 45%. Visit the city of Grand Rapids public works [website](#) for more information!
5. Annual meeting / pancake breakfast - we will be meeting tomorrow at 6pm to discuss and plan for the annual meeting.
6. Steve shared information about the two community conversation events that we are planning to host. The meetings will be hosted this Thursday (1/11) at Wolfgang's at 10-11:30am and next Thursday (1/18) at Little Bird at 5:30-7pm.
7. Staff report: Steve shared more information on a "Winter Bleus" champagne and cheese tasting event / fundraiser at Pursuit of Happiness on January 21st. He also outlined ongoing challenges between Aquinas College and neighbors on Norwood Ave due to noise pollution. There is a fan which makes a loud noise which can be heard inside the house all day (until 9pm). There is a neighbor with expertise in HVAC fans who would be willing to take a look and hopefully repair the fan. The board decided that a good next step



eastown community association

would be to reach out to Katharina Häusler-Gross at Aquinas to see if there is a potential path forward. Steve also discussed challenges that Eastown residents are facing in terms of extremely bright street lights. The proposed action plan is for individual residents to ask for special ADA accommodation. Steve has a template / resources available for neighbors interested in pursuing ADA accommodation.

8. 2023 financial update: We ended the year negative \$2,600 in net income. Cash balance is \$62K.

9. Committee updates

Executive committee: Call to action for current board members to reach out to folks in existing leadership positions for more information.

Bricks and Mortar: No update

Communications: No update

Events: Shorts Brewing has agreed to sponsor the ECA's 2024 marquee events as they have in years past.

Garden and environmental: No update

EBA: No update

10. Final Board Member Remarks: Ron asked that we get ahead of events like the MLK event for next year.

11. Public Comments

None

12. Other Business

None

13. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:48

Next Meeting: Monday, February 12th