



415 Ethel Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
616.451.3025

ECA Board Meeting May 10, 2021 @ 6-7pm

Action Items

- **ACTION:** Dakota to update temporary use permit support letter to include Street Fair dates
- **ACTION:** Emma to confirm how long the temporary use permit will be good for and how
- **ACTION:** Emma/Dakota to confirm hours of operation and whether Strike Back has talked to the neighbors
- **ACTION:** Emma/Dakota will post information on Facebook around the temporary use permit to let neighbors know.
- **ACTION:** Board to review Host Neighbor Corner write-up for ECA Newsletter

Minutes

1) Welcome & Call to Order (President)

- Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Dakota Riehl-Davis

2) Approval of the Agenda & [Minutes](#)

- **Motion** by Pamela Goderski. **Seconded** by Drew Fisher.
 - *Motion carried unanimously - Agenda & Minutes approved*

3) Guest Introduction(s)

- Board ice-breaker / open discussion on summer plans

4) [Financial Report](#) (Treasurer)

According to the April Financial Statement there is a net revenue of \$1,832.29 (compared to \$4,923.98 in March) as of April 30, 2021.

The 2022 CDBG grant application was approved \$15,800 for Community Leadership and \$18,000 for Public Safety (similar to 2021) pending contract paperwork.

The NPTA grant application for DREI Strategic Planning was tabled to July by the NPTA Board pending consultant selection. An ECA Request for Proposals for DREI consulting was sent out on April 28 with responses due by May 31.

There is a cash balance in the bank accounts totalling \$68,194.80 (compared to \$69,589.63 in March) as of April 30, 2021.

Rent has increased month-to-month due to the addition of the dog.

5) Operating Updates (Executive Director)

- The basement clean up is nearing completion in preparation for the May 22 Dumpster Day. Pamela is helping out with yard maintenance (mowing).

- Finalizing this week on the rest of the work
- An amendment was made in the lease for the tenants to have a dog (with stipulations). There will be a rent increase in the next lease and a premium for month to month thereafter for the current tenants.
- Access newsletter going out next week
 - i) [May/June Newsletter](#)

6) Committee Updates

Executive Committee

- Rich App presented information to the EC on the proposed Ethel Lot Temporary Use Permit for Strike Back Fight club to operate classes outdoors during business hours.
 - No alcohol permitted. ECA has access to the lot for our events.
 - We have requested the business owner reach out to the neighbors to let them know
 - A draft support letter was distributed for review and approval.
 - [Ethel Lot Support Letter](#)
 - Motion to approve the support letter
 - **Motion** by Steven Martinez-Thiel. **Seconded** by Christian Verley.
 - Discussion
 - Asked for clarification on which portion of the lot
 - Pam asked about who is responsible for blocking off spots and maintenance.
 - Strike Back is responsible for signage and blocking off the particular spots.
 - Pam asked about contact to confirm about ECA use of the lot for events and that ECA events take precedent
 - We do have a contact, but the dates are listed in the letter
 - **ACTION:** Dakota to update letter to include Street Fair dates
 - Brigid asked about the end date of our support, suggested we tie it to when gyms are 100% capacity
 - **ACTION:** Emma to confirm how long the permit will be good for
 - Liz asked about hours of operation, this is forthcoming as there is concern around when the classes would be hosted (early morning, late)
 - Michael & Steven raised concerns around ensuring neighbors were made aware.
 - **ACTION:** ECA will post information on Facebook around this to let neighbors know.
 - Pamela stated the direct neighbors would probably not have an issue.
 - Several board members agree the hours are key and we need to be sensitive to early morning classes, specifically the music.
 - *Dakota proposes we table the vote until we hear back clear hours of operation and confirmation the business has reached out the neighbors*
 - The EC is brainstorming about fundraising for a Capital Campaign and 50th Anniversary. More info to come.
 - Were able to make progress on the building improvements, including carpet, paneling, etc.

Bricks & Mortar (Liz & Christian)

- Meeting on June 1 @5:30pm with Wheeler Development

- Looking at doing a new Eastown project, and will be getting more information
- This group has built 3 projects already
 - Flats on Wealthy
 - Fulton apartments (Fulton & Carlton)
- Looking at the following parcels: 1407, 1409, 1417 Robinson Rd
 - Retail, housing, underground parking
 - Affordable housing is a key, so this will be brought up
- Dakota reviewed the process
 - Developer presents to the Bricks & Mortar committee to get details
 - Presents to the full board for review
 - Provides for public comments

Community Engagement (Noah, Christian)

- Meeting: March 15 @4pm - Recap
 - Discussed doing more comms with Host Neighbors
 - Monthly email from a different person each month, as an example
 - Reach out to Host neighbors to confirm they want to be part of the program
 - **ACTION:** Board to review Host Neighbor Corner write-up for ECA Newsletter
 - Discussed the community police relationships, but no conclusions
 - What is the ECA relationship with GRPD?
 - Discussions around doing a survey to understand what the role should be
 - Staci is looking for a survey instrument that has a community-focus
 - Christian stated there were concerns around recent policing issues
- Next Meeting: May 20 @4pm

Events/Fundraising/Marketing (Pam & Brigid)

- Meeting: April 22 @ 5:30pm - Recap
 - It's My Park Day: April 17 @ 10am-1pm (Wilcox Park) - Recap
 - Had around 20 people show up for clean-up activities
 - Great day, great event
- Dumpster Day: May 22 @ 8am-12pm (Ethel Lot) - Volunteers needed
 - [Dumpster Day Flyer](#) [Dumpster Day Map](#)
 - Reviewed Dumpster Days and logistics around
 - Around 8-10 volunteers needed for the full day
 - Christian will confirm if players are available
 - We are suggesting a \$5.00 donation to drop stuff down
 - Hoping to cover the cost of CompRenew
 - Other funding options were looked at, but without success
 - Dumpsters to be delivered by 7:00 am
 - Comp Renew to be there at 7:00 am
 - Drew is working on getting some hands free sanitizer stations
- Biz Baz Pop Up Art Market: July 24 @10-3pm (Ethel Lot) - Approval requested
 - [Biz Baz Flyer](#) [Biz Baz Map](#) [Biz Baz Budget](#)
 - Using Ethel st (from Wealthy to lot)
 - 20 vendors @ \$100 per
 - The plan is to net just under \$5K
 - Requesting the board to vote on go/no-go
 - Not planning on having beer, the regulations are too costly
 - Can we do 6-packs or growlers
 - **Motion by Noah Joseph. *Seconded* by Gavin Cornwell. to agree to support current budget / plan for Biz Baz Pop-up Art Market**

■ Discussion

- Noah recommended we find a way to bring the beer.
- *Motion carried unanimously - Planning will proceed with Biz Baz Pop-up Art Market as planned*
 - Board members should be expected to attend / volunteer
 - Looking at performers to create a farmers market / carnival type atmosphere
- Next Meeting: May 27 @5:30pm @ Pamela's house

Garden (Mike)

- Meeting: April 22 @ 6pm - Recap
 - Garden was cleaned up and is ready for planting
 - Next stage is getting plants in the ground
 - Urban Roots will be the main source of the plants plus donations from community members
- Next Meetings: May 6 and 20 @ 6pm
- Volunteers needed to help with some outside of building landscape improvements for drainage (i.e. vegetation cleanup and mulch, removal of water spout)
- Pamela suggested using the tall grass cuttings as a path "mulch", as well as managing the "path" to the garden.
- Pamela may have a lawnmower to have available

_____ Uptown (Dakota)

- Dakota helped create a new grant program for public art in Uptown
- If any businesses are interested in adding murals, public art, etc there are grants available
 - Uptown no longer coordinates this
- Uptown is doing a lot of DEI work as well

7) Other Business/Action Items

- No items

8) Adjournment

- *Motion by Pamela Goderski. **Seconded by Noah Joseph.***
 - i) *Motion carried unanimously*
- Meeting adjourned at 7:16p.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 7, 2021 @ 6pm

In attendance: (7 required for quorum)

- ✓ Dakota Riehl-Davis, President
- ✓ Staci Rickman, Vice President
- ✓ Steven Martinez-Thiel, Treasurer
- ✓ Rion Hollenbeck, Secretary
- ✓ Brigid Avery
- ✓ Mike Bopp
- ✓ Gavin Cornwell
- ✓ Drew Fisher
- ✓ Liz Girgen
- ✓ Pamela Goderski
- ✓ Noah Joseph
- ✓ Christian Verley
- ✓ Emma Heemskerk, Executive Director

(Left click twice on an individual box, then right click and select check mark)