



415 Ethel Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
616.451.3025

ECA Board Meeting
December 13, 2021 @ 6-7pm
In-Person & Virtual

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84820630473?pwd=ZGEzTXBVV1hEREw4T1ZFM3puSjlVZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 2063 0473

Passcode: 552842

Minutes

1) Welcome & Call to Order (President, 2 min.)

- Meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

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

- **Motion by Pamela Goderski. *Seconded* by Mike Bopp.**
 - i) *Motion carried unanimously - Agenda & Minutes approved*

3) [Financial Report](#) (Treasurer, 2 min.)

- According to the November [Financial Statement](#), there is a net revenue of \$12,830.80 (compared to \$9,422 in October and -\$19,125.13 at this same time last year) as of November 30, 2021. There is a cash balance in the bank accounts totalling \$60,707.87 (compared to \$59,936 in October) as of Dec. 13, 2021.
- Cozy Streetfair revenue currently stands at \$1,673.29
- We are in much better shape than last year and better than budgeted. Better than 2020 and 2019.
- \$642 in Paypal
- \$61,341.88 total cash on hand

4) Board Elections (President, 5 min.)

- 5 members are up for election this coming February
 - i) Staci
 - ii) Mike
 - iii) Pamela
 - iv) Noah
 - v) Simon
- Brigid and Noah have decided to leave the ECA board at the end of this year. We thank them very much for her time, commitment, and support of the ECA!
- As Brigid is leaving mid-term, the board can appoint someone, or it can be put up for election.
 - i) Discussion on whether to appoint or elect. Given it is ½ a term,
 - ii) Bylaws state the board does not need to fill vacancies mid-term, but can. Terms are set when elected, so the end of the term would hold.
 - iii) Everyone running will run as standard. Brigid's spot will not be filled during the election, but post-election the board will appoint a person to fill the remainder of her term.
 - iv) The executive committee will put together a list of what we are looking for (skills, knowledge, representation, etc.), for help in recruiting candidates.

- v) **ACTION:** If board members have any suggestions for candidates, please pass them on.
- vi) **ACTION:** Rion will include info in Access for how to apply, board elections, etc.

5) ED Hiring update (President, 10 min.)

- Position was made to Erin Wilson, based on several rounds of interviews. Due to lack of healthcare, he was not able to accept the position.
- After the first of the year the ECA will either re-post for the position or look for other creative options.
- Executive Committee will be meeting to discuss more sustainable options, while honoring our grant committees.
- Liz provided some suggestions including this being a part-time role or leveraging Uptown for event planning or general staffing activities
- Brigid suggested leveraging the rental property as part of a package for a 2-year graduate position where the rent would be included, and the ECA would provide a stipend but healthcare would not be provided.

6) Report out on Cozy Streetfair (5 min.)

- Raised \$1,960 during event!
- Event went very well.
- The biggest challenge is we have not procured the swag that we “sold” as part of the packages.
- Brigid will be putting together a summary in the Access and we want folks to be able to continue to donate and get the swag.
- Steven provided good perspective on expectations around the delivery of the swag for the streetfair.
- Steven volunteered to do the order. Team will send the necessary information to Steven.

7) Operating Updates (President, 10 min.)

- Whiteness at Work (Staci)
 - i) Reminder the Foundations need to be done by end of December.
 - ii) Access has been extended through June, but the decision is to keep the current schedule as-is.
 - iii) Staci will send more information in the coming months.
- Proposed [2022 ECA Schedule](#)
 - i) The goal is to have a clear set of expectations for board members moving forward
 - ii) Dakota reviewed the details with the board and outlined those events that are encouraged and required for board members.
 - iii) Discussed moving the February board meeting a week earlier from Feb 14 to Feb 7.
 - iv) **ACTION:** Rion will provide details for the board applications, dates, lists.
 - v) Per bylaws, applications must be in 7 days prior to the annual meeting (Feb 12), and application must be available 30 days before the annual meeting (Jan 20).

8) Annual Meeting Update (5 min.)

- Proposing Feb 19, 2022 - preference for virtual due to COVID numbers and planning.
- The attendance at the 2020 virtual meeting was very high and the feedback was very positive
- Liz asked if there was a way to do some sort of to-go pancakes, or something similar?
- The Executive Committee will be spearheading the annual event, but will be reaching out to the events committee for support / ideas.
- **Motion by Pamela Godesrki. Seconded by Steven Martinez-Thiel to have the Annual Event be virtual on February 12th.**
 - i) *Motion carried unanimously - Annual meeting to be on February 12, 2022.*

- Brigid asked about the annual appeal, and more discussion needs to be done there.

9) Committee Updates (2 min. ea.)

- Executive Committee (Staci)
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 2nd quarter report due January 15.
 - Review of the requirements and how we can meet our grant deliverables
 - Public Safety - Training and Safety issues
 - Neighborhood Development / Civic engagement
 - **ACTION:** Staci will send out an email summary so the board can generate ideas
- Bricks & Mortar (Christian/Liz)
 - No updates
 - Pamela stated there were some surveying crews out looking at overhead power, etc which is assumed to be related to the Wheeler Development.
- Community Engagement (Noah)
 - Meeting held last month - Only Gavin and Noah
 - Meeting will be held this month
- Events/Fundraising/Marketing (Pamela/Brigid)
 - See above Cozy Streetfair update
- Garden (Mike/Gavin)
 - No updates
- Uptown (Dakota)
 - Requesting board members to think about businesses or buildings that could use facade improvement grants.
 - There is also a public arts program, with grants for murals, etc. on buildings. This can also apply to City right-of-ways.
 - Crosswalk painting is illegal, and the City of GR has been getting frustrated with the “unofficial” painting of the crosswalks.
 - Uptown is working with the City on some guidelines on “appropriate” right-of-way artwork.
- EBA (Steven)
 - Jay from Spirit Dreams is staying with the EBA, while they look for new leadership. Steven may be looking to take that role
 - Feb 16 for Annual meeting, hosted at Basalt and lead by Steven
 - Looking at the same date for a mixer to recruit new members as membership and participation has been waning in the past few years
 - EBA has terminated the contract with Eastown Financial Services effective end of Dec. Uptown will be taking over the books for EBA.
 - EBA is looking to be more directly involved with the ECA.

10) Other Business/Action Items (2 min.)

- No other business

11) Adjournment

- **Motion** by Dakota Riehl-Davis. **Seconded** by Noah Joseph Adjourn the meeting.
 - Motion carried unanimously - Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Next Meeting Date: Jan 10 @ 6pm

In attendance: (7 required for quorum - Those checked were present)

- Dakota Riehl-Davis, President
- Staci Rickman, Vice President

- Steven Martinez Thiel, Treasurer
- Rion Hollenbeck, Secretary
- Brigid Avery
- Mike Bopp
- Gavin Cornwell
- Liz Girgen
- Pamela Goderski
- Noah Joseph
- Christian Verley
- Simon Hu