



415 Ethel Ave SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49506  
616.451.3025

## **ECA Board Meeting**

**June 13, 2022 @ 6-7pm**

**Hybrid - ECA Office & Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83901582783>

Meeting ID: 839 0158 2783

Passcode: 657480

One tap mobile

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### **Agenda**

- 1) **Welcome & Call to Order (President, 2 min.)**
  - a) call to order at 6:01pm
  
- 2) **Approval of the [Agenda](#) & [Minutes](#) (2 min.)**
  - a) movement by Pamela, seconded by Gavin
  - b) unanimous approval
  - c) Dakota reviewed the structure of Board Meetings for attendants
  
- 3) **City of Grand Rapids Comptroller - Max Frantz**
  - a) joined by Jackie from the comptroller dept.
  - b) the comptroller is one of 8 elected positions that acts as the city's independent auditor; the role has been in place since the conception of the city. they are a city-wide resource.
  - c) pays every bill that comes out of the city & does the annual city financial audit
  - d) Max brought materials for neighbors, including the "citizens guide to the city's finances"
  - e) spoke about the Better Government Tip Line - anonymous line for any member of the public to report fraud or misuse of city resources (flyers left at the ECA office)
  - f) a question was asked by a neighbor (Amanda Sterling) regarding comparisons to similar sized cities
    - i) the guide provides a general breakdown of spending, but does not include comparisons to other cities
    - ii) the comptroller is happy to help the public find this kind of information
  - g) the comptroller's office can be reached at:
    - i) email - [mfrantz@grcity.us](mailto:mfrantz@grcity.us)
    - ii) phone - 616-456-3193
  
- 4) **attendee introductions (2 min)**
  
- 5) **[Wealthy & Robinson Project Letter](#) (President, 2 min)\***
  - a) Lynee Wells drafted a letter on behalf of the ECA to be sent to the City regarding the proposed loss of parking
  - b) Dan from Rebel / Sticky Fingers spoke on how the loss of parking is devastating and how the construction may prevent truck deliveries. significant concerns about being able to keep their businesses in Eastown

- c) Liz proposed adding language to the draft letter regarding the impact on local businesses for deliveries, etc.
  - d) Lynee proposed adding the drawing date to the draft letter as well as addressing the timing of construction on both Wealthy & Robinson
  - e) Gavin commented regarding the car-centric nature of the letter and does not support the letter in it's current form
    - i) Steven responded to Gavin's comment stating that many of the businesses rely on non-pedestrian
    - ii) Dakota proposed language that acknowledges the ECA's extensive history of supporting pedestrian friendly projects
  - f) Amanda commented on the low visibility and availability of bike parking
    - i) proposal to add language regarding the addition of bike parking
    - ii) Dakota commented that Uptown, Inc has a bike plan that includes Eastown
  - g) motion to approve the letter at 6:37pm
    - i) motion as stated with addition of proposals re: trucks & timing
    - ii) motion by Pamela, seconded by Jean
      - (1) Staci & Liz do not feel comfortable voting until the letter is completed
      - (2) 3 approve, 3 opposed, 3 abstain
    - iii) new draft will be completed by June 15 for a new vote to be completed by the board via Slack
- 6) BizBaz Update + Board Expectations (President, 5 min)
- a) Bizarre Bazaar is on June 25 from 9am - 5pm
  - b) Eastown Pride t-shirt will be sold at the event, designed by Lydia Wrightsgood & printed by Transfigure Print Co. - all profit goes to the GR Pride Center. if all shirts sell, we expect to be able to donate about \$700
  - c) Dakota reviewed Board Member expectations for volunteering at ECA Events
  - d) There is still a need for volunteers
  - e) Amanda spoke about attempting to get an elected official to speak at BizBaz about ballot initiatives
- 7) Late Night Activity Update (President, 2 min)
- a) Dakota offered a brief summary of activity since the last full board meeting
  - b) a letter was sent to City Leadership regarding the violent activity and lack of appropriate police response; a public statement was made in support of the EBA's letter of preferred business hours
  - c) a meeting took place on Thursday, June 2 where evidence was presented and an incident took place the following night that Liz was able to attend
  - d) a notice was served to the Hookah Lounge by the city as was an eviction notice from the building owners
  - e) there is concern that the gap in response time by GRPD has fostered an environment that promotes criminal behavior
  - f) the ECA is looking for alternative ways to improve safety including better lighting and blocking access to known areas of dangerous activity
  - g) no further conversations with GRPD are scheduled at the moment
- 8) [Financial Report](#) (Treasurer, 2 min.)

**Budget Notes:**

- According to the May [Financial Statement](#), there is a net revenue of \$3,580.65 (compared to \$4,947.04 in April and (\$525.63) at this same time last year) as of May 31, 2022. There is a cash balance in the bank accounts totalling \$69,842.61 (compared to \$70,308.81 in May) as of June 12, 2022.

**Financial Highlights as of June 12, 2022:**

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Gross Revenue	\$23,410.06	\$98,200.00	\$99,382.05	\$109,306.00	\$82,982.93	\$113,611.62
Gross Expenses	\$19,829.41	\$111,526.67	\$87,412.05	\$131,074.27	\$99,072.23	\$127,715.00
Total Net Revenue	\$3,580.65	(\$13,326.67)	\$11,970.00	(\$21,768.27)	(\$16,089.30)	(\$14,103.38)

**Account Balances as of June 12, 2022:**

Checking:	\$7,465.49
Savings:	\$52,341.51
PayPal:	\$880.16

Building (New):	\$6,155.45
Sponsorships (New):	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$69,842.61</b>

**\*the ECA earned nearly \$600 from Dumpster Day**

**9) Operating Updates (Executive Team, 10 min.)**

- a) Property Management
  - i) the executive committee is interested in learning about a 3rd party property management company to manage the residential unit above the ECA Office
  - ii) call for recommendations
- b) Upcoming Events - National Night Out
  - i) the board is looking for feedback about how / if to participate
  - ii) more conversation after BizBaz

**10) Committee Updates (2 min. ea.)**

- Executive Committee (Rion)
  - nothing to report
- Bricks & Mortar (Christian/Liz)
  - Dakota received a call from the GRBJ stating that the Robinson Flats project has fallen through
  - Dan commented that the original developer backed out of the project and that the owner is looking for tenants to replace those that have left
  - A new business is opening sometime in the old Allegro Coaching space with work happening for a "retail, wine, and spirits" under the trademark "Pursuit of Happiness"
- Communications (Rion/Steven)
  - next communications meeting on Thursday June 28
  - Access content due date is this coming Friday, June 17
- Events (Pamela/Hannah)
  - Pamela & Jean will be featured on a Sunday morning Fox Morning Show (June 19)

- Garden (Mike/Gavin)
  - a lawnmower was donated by Devon from yesterdog
  - Dan is going to speak to his staff about having a volunteer day to help with maintenance of the yard
- Uptown (Dakota)
  - Uptown sponsored the Pride Crosswalk in front of The Early Bird which was completed this past Sunday
- EBA (Steven)
  -

**11) Other Business/Action Items (2 min.)**

**12) Adjournment**

- a) 7:16pm

**Next Meeting Date: July 11 @ 6pm**

**Commented [1]:** Can you please add the names of the board members present? We need these for recording purposes