

**ECA Board Meeting
July 12, 2021 @ 6-7pm
@ ECA Backyard!**

Minutes

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

- Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by Dakota Riehl-Davis

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

- **Motion** by Liz Girgen . **Seconded** by Pamela Goderski .
 - *Motion carried unanimously - Agenda & Minutes approved*

3. Guest Introduction(s)

- No guests this month

4. [Financial Report](#) (Treasurer, 5 min.)

- According to the June [Financial Statement](#), there is a net revenue of \$2,746.66 (compared to -\$1,823.09 in May) as of June 31, 2021.
- The CDBG Grant Agreement was signed by Friday, July 9 for the 2022 fiscal year starting July 2021.
- The ECA Request for Proposals for DREI consulting deadline has passed and no consultant proposals were received. ECA was granted an extension for the previously awarded Uptown DREI grant funds (\$2,000) for possible workshops with the [Adaway Group](#).
- There is a cash balance in the bank accounts totalling \$67,444.64 (compared to \$64,129.71 in May) as of July 7, 2021. We have received almost \$3,000 in BizBaz vendor fee payments and over \$11,000 in 2021 event sponsorship commitments (all events). Sponsorship outreach is still needed from all Board members.
- Staci and Emma met with the [Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan](#) to discuss possible conflict resolution [strategies](#) for the neighborhood on 6/29. There is a [Rotary Grant](#) that may fit with this initiative (due 7/15) in addition to possible [ARPA](#) funds (due TBA). This would likely require a request for proposals for selection of a consultant.
 - There are a lot of options to consider, but we don't have anything concrete enough to really submit for a grant.
- The ECA is applying for a Special Events Sponsorship through the City for funding for Street Fair in the amount of \$10,000 submitted by 7/9.

5. Operating Updates (Executive Director, 5 min.)

- Dispute resolution work and discussions
- Event planning has been a lot of the time spent
- Compiling the feedback from the Wheeler development for further discussions and review by the board

6. Committee Updates (2 min. ea.)

Executive Committee (Staci)

- Reviewing the capital campaign and decided to table until after Street fair.
- DREI work
 - Originally discussed doing a book club

- Adaway Group - provides a training called “Whiteness at Work”
 - 7 hours of training
 - Training directed toward White Folks and talks about how white supremacy shows up in work and in communities
 - \$200/person for the training
 - All training is on demand until March 2022
 - Each module has resources to follow-up
 - Total is \$2,400, \$400 out of pocket for the ECA (\$33/board member)
- Proposal to do this training prior to the book club discussions over the summer, starting beginning of August. This is highly recommended.
- Motion to sign interested ECA board \$2,000 of grant funding to fund the Adaway group courses for the ECA board.
 - **Motion by Pamela Goderski. Seconded by Noah Joseph.**
 - *Motion carried unanimously - Motion passes*
- DL / Jazz for additional micro aggression training and other DREI-related items
- Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan
 - Staci & Emma met on 6/29/2021 with the center
 - There are grants out there that can support this type of work
 - Trained staff, integrated with Wyoming Public Schools
 - Designed to help work with people on resolution, separating the issue from the people
 - Using the Restorative Practices model
 - They charge on a sliding scale
 - Could be a lot of different options
 - ECA board training
 - Host neighbor training
 - Would start as a gathering, discussing the training, prior to the training
 - Providing information to neighbors to contact the center directly
 - They don’t provide the solution, they work with the people to come up with the resolution
 - 70% resolution rate
 - Rotary grant and Covid Relief funds are available
 - We may need to do an RFP for the funds
 - There were concerns around commitment and over-committing the board.
 - We could look at customizing for residents, business owners, short commitment
 - Recommendation is to not apply for the Rotary grant this year, but do some work this year, pilot program, and apply next year.

Bricks & Mortar (Liz & Christian)

- Wheeler development hosted 2 community engagements to solicit feedback
 - 6/21, 6/28
- The feedback fell into 6 main categories
 - Facade
 - Density and Height
 - Traffic & Parking
 - Environmental impact
 - Affordability
 - Overall Neighborhood benefit

- All of this was provided to the developers and architects - they were very open to the feedback
- Plan is to vote on a letter of support in either August or September pending updates from Wheeler
- MLive article came out which aligns to the feedback provided
- This provides an opportunity for the board to articulate our development priorities
 - Affordable housing is a priority (not something we can require)
 - What other areas do we feel should be part of what ECA prioritizes
 - Create a development value statement to help drive us
- There was a decent amount of negative feedback around renters
 - ECA EC discussed needing to be vocal around re-articulating that Renters are our neighbors and are invested in the neighborhood
 - Board should think about ways to be welcoming to all neighbors
- There were discussions that the feedback we received was not necessarily representative of the neighborhood, they were mostly older, home owners
- Are there ways for the board or host neighbors to help advocate on their behalf
- Discussion of a welcome packet for renters, can we highlight the ECA, benefits of the neighborhood.
- Gavin raised concerns around the letter of support, and the goal of that letter would be to help them in their brownfield application, to save money. We as the board need to balance the needs and priorities of the board.
- Steven raised concerns around affordability and should that have more weight in the decision to support the development
- Brigid brought up concerns around sustainability and where that fits into the priorities
- Michael asked if there is any detail on the previous Wheeler developments and how that process went, how the community felt afterward.
- Emma raised that we as the board need to have the priorities in place such that we don't have to battle each development ad-hoc
- Dakota reviewed the development rent calculations, how this applies to the median income calculations.

Community Engagement (Noah, Christian)

- Meeting on Thursday July 15
- John Wikowski from GRPD from the Homeless Outreach Team is coming to talk to the committee
- Meeting will be remote, this time due to the guests
- Will add the conflict resolution discussion to the agenda
- Will add feedback

Events/Fundraising/Marketing (Pam & Brigid)

- BizBaz
 - Big ask for volunteers for the day and week before
 - Wed-Thurs lot clean-up needed - big ask
 - Suggested using BoyScouts as an option for labor
 - We are at or above the number of sponsors we had in the past years, which is great
 - Rebel is a big sponsor for all of the events
 - All vendors are selected, some additional folks were added this morning
 - Press release went out today
 - Fox 17 zoom appearance is scheduled
 - Team has been meeting weekly for the event
- Upcoming Event Summary

- Bizarre Bazaar Pop Up Art Market - July 24 @ 9am - 5pm (Ethel Lot)
- *Tentative* Eastown Cookout -August 7 @ 5:30-9pm (Sigsbee Park)
- Eastown Streetfair - Sept. 11 @ 9am-10pm (Wealthy St)
- Howl-O-Ween Pawty - Oct. 16 @ 12pm-5pm (Wilcox Park)
- Bourbon Day - TBD

Garden (Mike)

- Working on keeping things cleaned up, and ready for BizBaz
- Not a lot of involvement, but core team is keeping it going
- Looking for someone to help with the hardscaping

Uptown (Dakota)

- Met with May Mobility, and voted to sponsor for access to data
- Finished DREI work - Earle James was hired. His services will be offered to member associations

EBA (Steven)

- Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday - focus of the meeting is the challenges with late-night issues - Billy's and Hookah Lounge
- GRPD is not responding to non-priority calls, which these apparently fall.

7. Other Business/Action Items

- No other business

8. Adjournment

- **Motion** by Steven Martinez-Thiel . **Seconded** by Pamela Goderski.
 - i. *Motion carried unanimously - Motion passes*
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: August 9 @ 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~~