

415 Ethel Ave SE Grand Rapids MI 49506 616.451.3025

ECA Board Meeting November 8, 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 6:03 p.m.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda & Minutes (2 min.)
 - *Motion* by Rion Hollenbeck. *Seconded* by Pamela Goderski.
 - Motion carried unanimously Agenda & Minutes approved.

3. Hiring update (15 min.)

- Moved up in the agenda as prospective ED is in attendance
- This is not a formal interview, simply a venue for him to listen in and see how the meetings go
 - Turned in all of the information
 - Aligns with the ECA mission
 - Eastown Resident
- Several phone interviews have been done, one candidate has come to the top, and this is the person who went forward in the process
- The interview process is NOT complete and continues. The hiring committee is continuing to go through candidates
- Erin prospective ED candidate
 - Former ED of Wealthy Theatre, business owner, artist, etc.

4. Board Elections (10 min.)

- Please note Drew Fisher resigned from the ECA Board effective October 31, 2021
- Introductions to Simon Hu, first runner-up in 2021 Board elections
 - Eastown resident last 4 ½ years
 - Loved Eastown following move from Chicago
 - Loves the walkable community & people
- Drew's term is up in February, so the executive committee is asking for immediate appointment to the board for the remainder of Drew's Term
 - Motion to appoint Simon Hu to the remainder of Drew Fisher's Board term
 - Motion by Pamela Goderski. Seconded by Gavin Corwell
 - No Discussion
 - Motion carried unanimously Simon Hu appointed to the board of directors for the remainder of Drew Fisher's term.
- 5. Financial Report (Treasurer, 2 min.)

- According to the August <u>Financial Statement</u>, there is a net revenue of \$9,422 (compared to \$9,948 in Sept and -\$21,160 at this same time last year) as of October 31, 2021. There is a cash balance in the bank accounts totalling \$59,936 (compared to \$73,989 in September) as of Nov. 08, 2021.
- Howl-O-Ween revenue currently stands at \$2,074.39
- Steven is still learning the intricacies of the ECA's finances and will continue to work with the Executive Committee & EFA to keep things running smoothly.
- Additional deposits should be coming in over the next weeks
- Budget is set in February, voted in March.

6. Operating Updates (President, 5 min.)

- Transition responsibilities/to-do's
 - Steven has taken control of the Finances. As with any transition, much is being learned around the intricacies of the processes.
 - Rion took over the publication of the Access Newsletter
 - Dakota has taken over many parts of the ED role, which align to her day job, which helps.
 - Mike & garden team cleaned up the backyard very well
- Insurance claim update
 - BizBaz participant fell and was injured
 - The board is trying to limit the communication between the board and the claimant, we are relying on the insurance company to work directly with her.
- Board member appointment Action Item
 - 5 members are up for election this coming February
 - Staci
 - Mike
 - Pamela
 - Noah
 - Simon
 - Members are reminded
 - If any board members are not running again, please inform the executive committee by December so recruitment can begin.
- Whiteness at Work
 - Nation online training which grant funding paid for for Board members to participate
 - 7-10 hours of content to review
 - Race/Equity curriculum focusing on microaggressions & implicit bias
 - Goal is shared understanding, shared language.
 - Access to online portal through March 1, 2022
 - Foundations portion
 - working between now and end of the 2021 calendar year
 - Some folks are doing this on their own, some in group discussions
 - Starting in January, discussions will be together
 - Next Discussion group is Nov 15
 - Should be through "Shared Language modules 1-2"

7. Report out on Howl-Oween Event (5 min.)

- The event made money!
 - Insurance went way up as liquor liability cost went up from \$300 to \$650
 - \$1,500 in expenses total including park rental and \$300 on a bathroom
 - Challenges working with the City miscommunications, lessons learned (bathrooms, etc)
- Howl-O-Ween revenue currently stands at \$2,074.39

- Community feedback has been positive
- Other feedback was around duration, food, selling of cider/donuts, etc.
- Beer fundraiser may not be the best option as folks struggled with getting beer and holding on to their dogs/pets.
- The annual sponsorships did not cover as much of these events as we would like, so a room for improvement
- Event is very popular in the neighborhood
 - Brigid raised the question on whether this needs to be a fundraiser in the future, and can we focus on it being just an event. Beer?

8. Annual Appeal/Virtual Streetfair Event (10 min.)

- Streetfair is typically held in September, and is our biggest fundraiser of the year
- The board decided to do a live stream Cozy streetfair
- The event is aligned to Giving Tuesday, and various giving levels will get certain levels of swag, etc
 - Items for the various tiers
 - Campfire mugs
 - Beanie
 - Blanket
 - Video with Harmony, Cheryl Grant, Uptown, and Rebel
- Getting community members to do pre-recorded segments to include in the stream what they love about Eastown, etc.
 - Ron Lichtenstine
 - Cindy Laning Burch
 - Tony & Teresa Martin
 - Chris LaPorte working on him
- Request for each committee to provide a pre-recorded segment on what each of the committees do and encourage people to join don't need to be board members
- Next Monday 6-7 pm to record if you want at the ECA
 - Exec Dakota
 - Events Brigid / Pamela
 - Bricks & Mortar Liz / Christian to determine
 - Governance Staci
 - Community Engagement Noah
 - Access Rion
 - Garden Mike (Done)
- All board members are encouraged to get friends, family, Eastown residents to join and learn about what Eastown does
- ACTION Rion to send marketing info to Liz for Instagram

9. Committee Updates (2 min. ea.)

- Executive Committee (Staci)
 - Many topics covered above
 - Executive Committee continues to review process and work through ED hiring, and keeping things moving forward
- Bricks & Mortar (Christian/Liz)
 - Access newsletter covers 4 ongoing developments
 - Wheeler Development
 - Working on updating architectural drawings
 - Looking to advocate to the city to help deal with traffic
 - Eastpoint Commons
 - Building is purchased looking to start construction summer of 2022

- They want to do more community engagement
- Eastown Place
 - Have not heard back to requested updates
- Community Engagement (Noah)
 - No meeting last month
 - Next Meeting is November 18, agenda to come
 - Drew to be removed as co-chair
 - Any and all volunteers appreciated
- Events/Fundraising/Marketing (Pamela/Brigid)
 - Weekly on Thursdays Noon-1pm until the streetfair is done
 - Brigid suggested looking at how the committees are set up due to the time-intensive nature of the Events committee
- Garden (Mike/Gavin)
 - Wrapped up the garden and things cleaned up for the season
 - Want to start discussing what we want to make the garden for 2022 to make it more relevant to the community
- Uptown (Dakota)
 - Uptown represents 4 regions
 - Wealthy st corridor
 - Fulton Heights
 - Easthills
 - Easttown
 - The group is looking to be more holistic in how they operate, wanting to be more resident-focused
 - Have been very involved with neighborhood associations, business associations, and police
- EBA (Steven)
 - Steven had to leave the meeting early

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

- Erin Wilson introductions and any questions
 - Pamela question: How long have you lived in Eastown and where
 - Family has lived in Eastown since 2001
 - 5 houses east of Fuller on Dunham
 - ECA covers all the way to Plymouth

11. Adjournment

• Adjournment at 7:07 pm

Next Meeting Date: Dec 13 @ 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