



## MINUTES

**Date/Time: Thursday, February 21 (3:30-5:00pm)**  
**Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce**  
**250 Monroe Ave NW - Suite 150 – Downtown Grand Rapids**

### **MISSION**

*Our mission is to provide Kent County hospitality-related businesses an opportunity to meet professionally with a common interest to better serve our industry and community while furthering the overall tourism landscape of our region.*

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Welcome & Introductions: Ross Bartlett – KCHA Vice President

Approval of January 2019 Minutes Angela - 1st, Jane - 2nd

Approval of January 2019 Financials Jane - 1st, Ed - 2nd

Topic of Discussion: Proposition I and its impact on the Local Hospitality Industry – Grand Rapids Chamber

Presenters: Andy Johnston ([johnstona@grandrapids.org](mailto:johnstona@grandrapids.org)) and Joshua Lunger ([lungerj@grandrapids.org](mailto:lungerj@grandrapids.org))

- Recreational Marijuana - effective 12/6/18 - must be figured out and for sale by
- December of 2019. First retail sales expected in 2020. Must be 21 years or older. Can possess 2.5 ounces - 140 joints.
- Medical Marijuana - rules have been amended. Communities have to opt in. there are 5 types of licenses. Once you are opted in medically you cannot prohibit recreational sales.
- Kent County - Most communities in GR have opted out at this time.
- Set zoning descriptions to limit density and total number of sites. This includes distances from childcare, another facility, commercial, etc. This leads to a limited set of possible locations.
- GR applications are opening Monday 3/4/19 - First draw is 4/12/19
- What it means for employees: employers retain the ability to ban marijuana use and possession in their facilities. It is up to the employer to make decisions regarding their policies related to marijuana. Drug testing, prohibition, employee discipline, etc. Consider liability and workers compensation. Any business which contracts with the federal government, must comply with the drug-free workplace act of 1988.
- What does it mean for guests: This law does not allow a prohibition of lawful possession or consumption (other than smoking). Smoking rooms. Cannabis tourism (420 friendly, where to consume?). Public consumption subject to \$100 fine.
- Overall - Be intentional when setting policies. Communicate clearly to employees and customers what the expectations are to remove uncertainty.

Vote for 2019 Board of Directors (active lodging members only; one vote per property)

President - Kyle Holst

Vice President - Elizabeth Naber

Secretary - Aimee Misiewicz

Treasurer - Doug Brogan

## Monthly Reports

**Experience Grand Rapids:** Partner invoices went out a few weeks ago. Annual meeting is 3/27/19 - reach out to Kate if you didn't get the invite. Beer city eats is a new video series that was launched - a teaser was released today. CTA - we just crossed over the 4,000 CTA mark in West MI. Kate goes on maternity leave in June - get with her before that.

## Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA)

**West Michigan Sports Commission:** Sales is on the road this week. E-Sports is a focus for growth. List of events in on their calendar online. MJCAA is in March along with Special Olympics and MHSAA girls' basketball. Rock City BMX will be hosting its first event coming up bringing in about 800 riders and their families - leads to follow. They are moving offices to 300 Ottawa on 6/1/18. Possible host for October meeting.

**Grand Rapids Diversity & Inclusion:** Governor's Conference will have a panel featuring GR leaders locally to talk about the apprenticeship program as well as the partnership with GRPS. NSMH conference in Atlanta was just attended - 6 GVSU members attended. Angela promoted GR and our career exploration event in October/November 2019 - focus is to grow this program. EXGR was the only CVB at the event. Hyatt, Hilton & Drury brand reps were at the event. Angela would like to get hotels' open jobs and internships to send out to the students.

**West Michigan Tourist Association** 150,000 views of digital travel book per year. Goats are eating recycled Christmas trees!

**Women in Leadership-Grand Rapids:** Social is at Grand Rapids Brewing Company at 3:30 PM. relaxed event to reconnect and refocus for 2019!

## Grand Valley State University

**Ferris State University:** Finishing up internship week. Monday there were LinkedIn sessions, Tuesday was headshots, Wednesday was resumes, and Thursday is presentations and interviews along with a reception for the professionals and students to mingle. Ferris is utilizing Handshake as their software now.

**Michigan Hospitality Educators Alliance:** Career fair location has not been decided. May be hosted in Big Rapids due to the low attendance of any other university students. Continuing to have break out tables, etc. Possible headshot clinic.

**Experience Pink:** Event is 3/15 at the GR drive. Ben Wallace bobble-heads will be given out and he will be in attendance. Price is \$15 per ticket. You can purchase tickets on Eventbrite. There will be an area for us to sit in - family friendly event. Other events are being planned. There is an Experience Pink FB Page you can follow.

**Golf Outing:** 6/3 - Stonewater - Meetings to be ramping up shortly to get the details sorted out for the event.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events (2019 Meeting Schedule Printed Separately)

- February – Experience Pink
- February 15 - March 15 – Beer Month GR
- March 5-7 – Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism (Traverse City) Pure MI Governor's Conference - There will be GR ribbons - see Dianna at the event to get yours!
- March 15 – Experience Pink Game with Grand Rapids Drive

## Round Table Discussion

## Adjournment

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[www.KentCountyHospitality.org](http://www.KentCountyHospitality.org)