



MINUTES

Date/Time: Thursday, August 18 (3:30pm)
ArtPrize / Start Garden – 40 Pearl St NW #200, 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: **Lisa Calhoun, KCHA Vice President**

Approval of May 2022 Minutes: **Tabled due to Secretary Resignation in May**

Approval of Summer 2022 Financial Report: **Tabled due to Treasurer Resignation in June**

Presentations

- **ArtPrize 2022 – Craig Searer**
 - **ArtPrize is back to an annual event.**
 - **This year is elevated beyond past years, in terms of art and artists, as well as geographical boundaries.**
 - **GVSU will be assisting in compiling data for an economic impact study.**
 - **KickOff Event will be September 16 at Calder Plaza.**
 - **Voting has changed, it is more virtual.**
 - **Maps are available and will be distributed to hotels by the end of August or early September.**
 - **Craig's info deck PDF is attached for more information.**
 - **<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15TQDegKU4kv6nkrKo4IrGn9sUyiNKdGG/view?usp=sharing>**

Monthly Reports

- **Experience Grand Rapids – Jaylyn McCloy**
 - **A 2-day staff / board retreat is taking place 8/19-20 with a focus on workforce development.**
 - **Restaurant Week will be November 4-12**
 - **There is an open job for Marketing/Social Media Manager (as well as interns):**
<https://www.experiencegr.com/about-us/job-opportunities/>
- **West Michigan Sports Commission – Dianna Stampfler (on behalf of Katy Tigchelaar)**
 - **We attend Connect Sports conference last week and came back with quite a few good RFPs that we can work on to bring to GR.**
 - **Our Annual Luncheon with Coach Izzo is on August 29th at the JW and tickets are on sale until the 22nd on our website at westmisports.com**
 - **We're getting ready to launch our campaign for phase 2 of the Meijer Sports Complex with another quad, championship softball field and pickleball courts.**
 - **Jr Gold Bowling went really well, but if you have any feedback from a hotel perspective, please share it with Katy.**
- **West Michigan Tourist Association**
 - **NA**
- **Women in Hospitality Leadership-Grand Rapids – Elizabeth Nabor**
 - **November 16 – WIL & MRLA will host a statewide conference at the JW from 10am to 3:30pm with 11 speakers, including Norina Cadili as the keynote. Register: <https://www.wihlcon.com/tickets.html>.**

- Grand Valley State University – Kari Czarnecki
 - Michigan Cares for Tourism is coming up soon (see report below).
- Ferris State University – Kaky Wolfer
 - A career fair will be held on Thursday, February 16 in Big Rapids.
- Michigan Cares for Tourism (<https://michigancaresfortourism.com/>)
 - Coming up Sunday, September 11 and Monday, September 12 at Cambridge Junction. The bus will pick up participants at 7am on Sunday at the Cascade Meijer.
 - KCHA will reimburse any members who attend (the registration fee). Just save your receipt and submit it by the end of September.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Monday, August 29 – West Michigan Sports Commission Luncheon (KCHA has a table)
- September 11-12 – Michigan Cares for Tourism (Cambridge Junction)
- Thursday, September 15 – Monthly Meeting @ Revel Hospitality Staffing
- September 15-October 2 – ArtPrize
- Thursday, October 20 – Monthly Membership Meeting “Haunted Grand Rapids” w/ Tours Around Michigan
- Save the Date: March 27-29, 2023 – Pure Michigan Governor’s Conference on Tourism (Grand Rapids)

Round Table Discussion

- Please note that KCHA has a new PO Box address (below).
- We are looking for meeting locations, topics of discussion and speakers for 2023.

Adjournment (Motion: Jane | Second: Liz)

Kent County Hospitality Association

NEW: PO Box 2014 — Grand Rapids, MI 49501

www.KentCountyHospitality.org

www.facebook.com/groups/KentCountyHospitality