



## MINUTES

**Rescheduled Date/Time: Thursday, April 20 (3:30pm)  
Ronald McDonald House – 1323 Cedar St NE, 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 President

Approval of March 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes: With Edit Jane/Todd Approved

Financial Report – David Jibson, KCHA Treasurer: \$5,300 month beginning balance; \$8,500 month ending balance.

#### **Ronald McDonald House Overview**

- 4 houses in Michigan- Ann Arbor, Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids
- Capital Campaign (\$2.5 Mill) which is for a renovation to add 8 rooms and renovate common areas. Have not expanded in 33 years.
- 90% of families with kids at Devos- Lots of NICU patients.
- This is free to families, with a typical waitlist is 5-10 families; they have partnered with Hampton for a discounted stay for these families. There is an additional house through Trinity Health Hospital
- Ways to support: Volunteer, Meals & Treats, Shuttle, in house, and cleaning up the yard

#### **Monthly Reports**

- **Experience Grand Rapids**
  - Pure Michigan Ads; Family-Centric; Friend groups
  - Dreams Grand Golf Giveaway
  - Flights of Flavor
- **Grand Rapids Diversity & Inclusion**
- **West Michigan Sports Commission**
  - Katy: Golf outing is June 12 and they're looking for volunteers
  - Annual Luncheon-Steve Yzerman Sept 6 \$125 per person and \$850 per table.
  - Julie is taking over the Meijer State Games from Eric
  - They won the Collaborative Award @ Pure MI Conference
  - Connor: There is an Industrial Conference Next Month (TBD)
  - Sports Complex-56% of fundraising with private donors
  - \$11 Million goal maybe having a groundbreaking in the fall
- **West Michigan Tourist Association**
  - Erin Murphy no longer marketing director
  - Paige (intern): new marketing manager middle of May.
  - Travel guides handed out for 2023. Up to date. Festivals, events, etc. West side to upper peninsula.
  - Lighthouse map and circle tour. New off the printer today.
  - Go to website request bundles of both to be delivered
- **Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association**
- **Women in Hospitality Leadership-Grand Rapids**
  - State-wide conference - November 15 @ JW
  - The GR chapter is strong and great. Pickleball event to be planned for the summer

- **Grand Valley State University**
  - Exams next week, summer coming up.
  - Internships still open- and needed.
  - Students at the Governments conference.
  - Double the turnout from last year in Detroit V this year the conference being in Grand Rapids!
- **Ferris State University**
  - No updates
- **Michigan Cares for Tourism**
  - Byron Center Charter Schools, awesome event! Got a lot done.
  - Baseball teams in Kalamazoo and battle creek in May are partnering with the Visitors Ber for a volunteer event.
  - Porkies in the first part of September.
  - Online registration is now open

#### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thursday, April 20 – Monthly Membership Meeting @ Ronald McDonald House
- Monday, April 24 – MRLA Hospitality Mixer @ Big E's Sports Grill (next to the Embassy Suites)
- May 10 MRLA Legislative Day
- May 7-13 – National Travel & Tourism Week
- Thursday, May 11 – Experience Grand Rapids Toast the Town @ JW Marriott
- Thursday, May 18 – Monthly Membership Meeting @ GVSU (Topic: Cannabis Tourism)
- Monday, June 12 – West Michigan Sports Commission Golf Outing
- Friday, June 16 – Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association Golf Outing

**SAVE THE DATE: Michigan Cares for Tourism – September 11-12, The Porkies in the Upper Peninsula**

Round Table Discussion Michigan.org (Pure Michigan website). Make sure you log in to the extranet and sign the photo release. Photos are getting more and more legalese with documentation.

Adjournment

**Kent County Hospitality Association**  
P.O. Box 1046 — Grand Rapids, MI 49501

**[www.KentCountyHospitality.org](http://www.KentCountyHospitality.org)**  
**[www.facebook.com/groups/KentCountyHospitality](https://www.facebook.com/groups/KentCountyHospitality)**