

Present:

Corey Cagle
Justin Bristow
Don Garchow
Chris Rupp
Amanda Rogers
Heather Warren

Executive Director:

Courtney Mead



**April 17, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Absent:

Jerry Robinson Jr

Absent

Bryonna Barton
Jerry Robinson

Guests:

Yvonne Ridge

Meeting call to order by Don Garchow @ 7:30 AM @ ER City Hall

Next meeting May 15, 2025 @ 6:00 PM @ The Northfork Estate

Secretary's Report

Justin presented the meeting minutes from March's board meeting for review. ***A motion was made by Corey Cagle to accept the meeting minutes as read. Heather Warren seconded. Motion passed.***

Treasurer's Report

Justin presented the financials ahead of time before the meeting. The current balance in the checking account is \$9,711.18. ***A motion was made by Corey Cagle to accept the Treasurer's report and seconded by Amanda Rogers. Motion passed.***

President's Report

FOX 47 Campaign – Don discussed how FOX 47 will be providing live broadcasting for one of the days at Urban Air. He is currently looking into combing the advertising package for Urban Air and Hometown Family Christmas. At the next meeting, Don will ask the chamber for approval of funding for the campaign

Golf Outing – Don received a quote from Alex for \$75 per golfer including lunch. Rates were raised for memberships. Everyone discussed how they will need to work hard to get sponsorships and teams to cover the cost. Courtney also spoke to Bonnie View to let them know we will be rotating between the two courses.

Pickleball – Don plans to redo/update the graphics for the tournament soon. Courtney will be updating the Zeffy information for sponsorship and signups. Chris suggested we find a state pickleball tournament calendar to the event on for a bigger audience. Heather suggested delegating some jobs to help Don, so he isn't too stressed leading up to the tournament. Don will forward Courtney the contact for the Food Truck.

It is the **MISSION** on the Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to promote and advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Eaton Rapids area so that its citizens and all areas of its business, civic, cultural, educational and farming community shall prosper.

Director's Report

Monthly Report

- 2 walk arounds (1 with Jesse)
- Talked with Chamber members at the Eaton County Expo; Sold 1 Monopoly game
- 1 new member from Expo: **Heart Quality Painting**
- Foster Coffee plans to open on Friday, April 25. Early RisERs is that morning and we are hoping to combine that with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- Bryonna sent statistics for the new website for everyone. Website has been used a lot more especially for event and nominations.
- Courtney met with Choose Lansing. The Chamber is now a trade member with them and showed her how to use the portal for our bigger events.
- Jesse has 1 more week with the Chamber
- Zeffy is now being used for the Chamber Dinner, membership, golf outing, awards/nominations, and Courtney will add the craft show too.

Annual Dinner

- Decorations, food, drinks, and music are all set
- Chris will bring portable microphone for speeches and awards
- Registrations are starting to come in. Courtney will be reaching out to the school to confirm.
- Ask Bryonna to add the award winners to the website after the dinner. Photo with their name/award and possibly a quote from their nomination. Also, can be shared on our social media.

Award/Nominations

- **Doug Stevenson Award:** 2 nominations for Rob Pierce – City Worker. ***Heather Warren made a motion to award Rob Pierce this award. Corey Cagle seconded. Motion passed.***
- **Ted Oliver Award:** Pam Colestock, Ryan Cramer, and Dr. Nikki Brown were nominated. Pam is currently the Mayor and works at ERM. She brought back Urban Air, Lions Club, and dedicates her time to the Teen Space Center and G.A.R Museum. Ryan Cramer is a coach in the area and buys bikes and gives them away to kids. Dr. Nikki Brown started Canines for Change. ***Chris Rupp made a motion to award Pam Colestock the award. Heather seconded. Motion passed.***
- **Roger McNutt Award-** Jason Ferguson and David Hendon were nominated. Jason Ferguson is a School Resource Officer for the district and David Hendon is a Lieutenant for the Eaton Rapids Fire Department and the only full-time employee. ***Amanda Rogers made a motion to award Jason Ferguson the award and Justin Bristow seconded. Motion passed.***

Doug Stevenson Award – Robert Pierce
Ted Oliver Award – Pam Colestock
Roger McNutt Award – Jason Ferguson

The next Early RisERs is on Friday, April 25 at Fosters Coffee

Meeting adjourned by Don Garchow at 8:28 AM

Submitted by: Amanda Rogers

It is the **MISSION** on the Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to promote and advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Eaton Rapids area so that its citizens and all areas of its business, civic, cultural, educational and farming community shall prosper.

It is the **MISSION** on the Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to promote and advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Eaton Rapids area so that its citizens and all areas of its business, civic, cultural, educational and farming community shall prosper.