



Recap – January 15, 2019 Luncheon Mtg
Eric Engelbarts, West MI Sports Commission

Meeting started at 12:15pm with the Pledge and Prayer
Broke for lunch
Reconvened at 12:48pm

Announcements:

1. Michigan Lions Forum, Flint Michigan – February 22-23, 2019
Holiday Inn Gateway Center, 5353 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507
It is filled with seminars and breakout sessions. The Keynote Speaker is PDG Ronnie Martin, LCI New Club Consultant from Texas. If you want more information, email Pres Ed Thauer.
2. Bowling Report
3. Happy Bucks
4. No Guests
5. Blind Dinner Date-Mark your calendars for April 11, 2019 at the BOB Bldg, 20 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
6. Canceled Eyeglass Recycling Center tonight due to the weather

Guest Speaker:

Eric Englebarts works for West Michigan Sports, his emphasis is on the The Meijer State Games of Michigan. These games are a 501C3–non profit. The purpose of these games is to foster economic development to Grand Rapids by attracting sporting events to the area, which in turn, improves our city’s quality of life through spending. The department’s total budget is \$2 Million a year, which is to promote and manage different sporting events. These events help to bring \$11.4 million to the surrounding area of where the events are taking place. For example, in 2017 for the kid’s programs in sports and sports tourism alone brought in \$11.4 million. These are dollars to the various industries of Grand Rapids (hotel, food, souvenirs etc). This department only has 7 full-time employees and several seasonal employees. This small groups works hard with these events in



hopes of creating a Grand Rapids signature event. By creating such an event, it ensures financial stability for the city. Because it would be the event that Grand Rapids is known for and people will want to come here from all over to take part in it. It also helps with Business Development (there are three tiers: High profile – NCAA, State or Regional playoff events, midsize national events). To break it down, 45,000 hotel room nights, 1.2 million athletes, which in turn brings in 5,388 visitors. Last year alone, there were events at Kent County Parks that brought in \$1.4 million. Things to note that are being worked on getting to come to Grand Rapids: basketball regional tournaments this time of year, March & April are bowling tournaments, May is the time for Lacrosse tournaments and September there are softball tournaments. These are the type of big events that Grand Rapids would love to be able to handle at our sports complexes. Right now the Department's big event is The Meijer State Games. They are played like an Olympic style multi-sport event held around the state. (30 other states also run events like ours). In Grand Rapids there are 40 different sports/venues. Starts out with a parade, entertainment, lighting of the caldron and then the sporting events. There is also the Art Van Sports Complex which has 2500 teams, these teams have a direct impact on the hotels, gas, food and spending dollars around the area. Then there is the park that the Lions helped fund, the West Michigan Miracle League – Nate Hurwitz Field which is a first class venue. 2500 kids have played there and the field has generated enough money that it has created a legacy fund for future kids with disabilities. The Kent County Parks & Rec Dept on the SE side of town has a sports infrastructure of 12-14 field multi-purpose complex. This complex can be used for soccer, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee, flag football and field hockey to name a few. The Dept looks forward to handling bigger events around the city/state in the future.

Adjourned 1:22

Respectfully submitted

Lion Cheryl Anderson