



Recap – February 12, 2019 Luncheon Mtg
George Baynard III
African American Museum & Archives



Meeting called to order by VP Ben Eavey at 12:15pm
Pledge lead by VP Ben Eavey
Prayer by Johngerlyn Young
Broke for lunch
Reconvened at 12:54pm

Announcements:

1. Bowling Report given by Lion Jamie Junod
2. Calendar Report given by Lion Jamie Junod
3. Eyeglass Recycling Center Report given by Lion Brent Spoelstra.
Next Tuesday a team of 25, leaves for Isamel, Mexico. We will see approx. 2000-2400 patients. With so many of us gone on the mission team, we will need a lot of extra help at the recycling center. Come out and help 6-8 pm
4. Mark your calendars for the Blind Dinner Date, April 11, 2019 at the BOB
5. Membership Report given by Dr. Gary Anderson
Had a productive meeting and looking forward to doing a couple of service activities that you can bring your kids/grandkids to help. These events will be in March & April. One is a kid's food basket activity, making meals for school age children that don't sometimes get dinner. The other event is a clean up activity. Look for details
6. Tailtwister – Who forgot to wear red?
7. Happy Bucks
8. Guests: Lion Johngerly Young brought Liz Warners
9. Raffle

Guest Speaker: George Baynard III

It all started with a person and a place. The person was his grandmother. When she became ill, he took over the running of her household and soon found himself discovering "tons of things," he says, including photos, furniture and clothing that all related to African American history. He has said, "That kind of got my whistle wet as far as collecting things," and he found himself inspired by the cultural history contained in the thousands of objects he found in his grandmother's home. This was the beginning to "GRAAMA", Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives. (GRAAMA) showcases more than 30 years of community building and art collecting by a group of individuals dedicated to African American history and culture. The leader of the project is George Baynard III. He is an art gallery owner and collector whose personal mission fueled the museum. Mr. Baynard is originally from a small Delaware community, called, Community of Dunleith. This area was founded in 1949 as the first black community in Newcastle County in Delaware. Mr. Baynard went to the University of Delaware where he met his wife. They moved to Grand

Rapids and started collecting African American art and artifacts from the people in the community. After 25 years of collecting items, he started the GRAAMA. The mission of the GRAAMA: "Our mission is to promote, preserve, display, collect and honor the lives, culture history and art of Africa, African American and connected peoples in the Greater Grand Rapids Michigan community." Grand Rapids, being the 2nd largest city in the state of Michigan, didn't have anything like this, while several smaller cities in the state already had an African American Museum. The museum collects everything that is devoted to the history of the black community of Grand Rapids. It will also have items from Martin Luther King and other national leaders. There are three collections currently and these collections will change but right now, there is a collection of political buttons from O'Bama (3,000 different buttons). A collection with black film memorabilia and lastly a collection on Grand Rapids missions to Africa.

Who is in the museum? Famous people or people that moved to Grand Rapids. What else will this museum have? It is a full service and accredited museum (only 4 accredited museums like this in the USA). It will have a café and open spaces for activities. There will be a library, gift shop, video screens and vendors. There will be a 3D boxing screen with Mayweather, so you can fight against him. It can be rented out for events (holds 50 people).

How can we help? Donate or raise funds. Volunteer, donate items and artifacts, rent the facility, bring your children and students, attend classes of lectures, in-kind when location is secured, become a member, lend your expertise, join the board, use your connections, promote GRAAMA at www.graama.org - Black lives matter in Grand Rapids.

FYI - The most famous black person in Grand Rapids is Lyman Parks, 1st black mayor and of course the undefeated, world known boxer Floyd Mayweather. The famous painter, Paul Collins is now in GR but was born in Muskegon MI. Mr. Baynard hopes to be in a building down by Wealthy & Division by the year 2020. Close enough to downtown with 30 parking spots.