Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc.

Annual Retreat
September 16, 2020
7:00PM
Good for Michigan Hackathon
Spring Mixer
Welcome Back Uptown!

Our mission at Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc. is to bring together people, partnerships, and possibilities to sustain a strong and vibrant urban district through planning, coordinating, and communicating with and between all sectors of the Uptown community and beyond. Now more than ever we are committed to supporting businesses in our district as we approach reopening.

While we are all adjusting to a new normal, please know that we are here to support you. In an effort to help you meet and manage the needs and concerns of your patrons and employees, our Business Development Committee has created this “Welcome Back Kit” that includes useful guidelines, a compilation of PPE resources, and a set of branded window cling that illustrate the 3 W’s in clear, concise graphics. As you prepare to reopen your business and to welcome the public back to a safe and vibrant Uptown, please give it a look. It is designed to help you better prepare to welcome back your patrons in a safe and comfortable way.

We are committed to highlighting our district in the best possible way and have pivoted organizationally to respond to immediate needs while also keeping an eye on the future. We will continue to invite our friends and neighbors to experience Uptown, albeit in new and different ways:

• In June we will launch the new uptowngr.com website that allows visitors to discover the district and our wonderful businesses, and will also include a dedicated business resource page to better serve you.

Welcome Back Kit

May 22, 2020

Public Thread
1405 Buchanan Ave. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 745-1222
publicthread.co

Valley City Linen
10 Diamond Ave. SE, #1456
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 457-6922
vd.com
Contact: Anna Anderson
annad@vd.com

OPEN V5
Valley City Linen
10 Diamond Ave. SE, #1456
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 457-6922
vd.com
Contact: Anna Anderson
annad@vd.com
• Fingertip Textured Gloves
• Vinyl Gloves

resources, information included in this location is current at businesses mercy for availability and pricing.
Welcome to Uptown

Uptown is a vibrant neighborhood known for its diverse and inclusive community. We are home to local businesses, artists, activists, and a growing number of residents and visitors alike. Our community is centered around a strong sense of place and a commitment to social justice. We are proud of our diverse population and the unique contributions that each individual brings to our neighborhood.

Our Neighborhood’s Strengths

- Strong sense of community
- Diverse population
- Access to cultural and artistic events
- Commitment to social justice

Business Association

Business Association Contact: Sarah Lajoie, UAPA President
sarah@upacity.com

Neighborhood Association: Councilwoman Smith-Jordan, NNA Director
smithjordanb@gmail.com

Neighborhood Police Office: Officer Deyold Howard
deyold@cityofuptown.com

Uptown District Info

Uptown Website: www.upcity.org
Uptown Business Resource Page: www.upcity.org/business/resources
Uptown Business Directory: www.upcity.org/business/directory
Uptown Business Calendar: www.upcity.org/business/calendar
Uptown E-Newsletter: www.upcity.org/newsletter
Uptown Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/upcity

Contact Info

Uptown District Office, Inc.
11 W Main St, Suite 205
Uptown, AR 72172

Sarah Lajoie, Executive Director
sarah@upacity.com

New Business Welcome
Business Association Support

Background
Uptown is a popular Grand Rapids destination located just east of downtown. As four thriving business districts—East Fulton, East Hills, Eastown and Nocturne Stroll—the area is fun and funky, quaint and charming, eclectic and rapidly expanding. Home to over 350 restaurants, shops, bookstores, galleries, cafes and more, Uptown's tree-lined streets feature walkable, historic residential neighborhoods: Bates, East Hills, Eastown, York Heights and Midtown.

About Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc.
Mission:
To bring together people, partnerships, and possibilities to sustain a strong and vibrant urban district through planning, networking, and communicating with and between all sectors of the Uptown community and beyond.

Vision:
Uptown is widely recognized as a thriving, dynamic and eclectic area in Grand Rapids, encompassing four dynamic business districts surrounded by diverse, safe and desirable neighborhoods.

Values:
Diverse, welcoming, mutual trust and respect for people and the place
Collaboration
Participation/open and honest communication
Sustainability
Flexibility and responsiveness to changing needs and circumstances

Organizing and Strengthening Your Board
Step 1: Audit of current structure and key information
- Which members are currently on board?
- Who is the current president?
- Who are the key stakeholders and contacts?
- Complete list of bylaws, policies, etc.
- Current list of board members
- Current list of board member contacts

Step 2: Define roles and terms for board members
- Board Chair
  - Candidates are on the main point of contact for board members
  - Sets goals and objectives for the board and ensures they are met
  - Ensures that board members are involved in committees, as applicable
- Secretary
  - Keeps board minutes
  - Responsible for keeping track of the district’s activities to ensure they are in accordance with the bylaws, mission and goals
  - Maintains current contact information for each board member
- Treasurer
  - Keeps account of receipts and disbursements of funds
  - Reports financials and coordinates other board members at each meeting, as required

Step 3: Meetings and Communication
The Uptown Stroll (UGS) is typically held on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public and are advertised in local newspapers and online. The meetings are held at the Uptown Stroll office on 300 East Fulton Street. Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc. encourages community members to attend and participate in the meetings. The meetings are led by the board members, who discuss important issues, including updates on the district’s progress and future plans. The meetings are open to the public and are advertised in local newspapers and online. The meetings are held at the Uptown Stroll office on 300 East Fulton Street. Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc. encourages community members to attend and participate in the meetings. The meetings are led by the board members, who discuss important issues, including updates on the district’s progress and future plans.

How to Run a Meeting—Robert’s Rules
Each business association should determine a consistent schedule for meetings. It is suggested that meetings be run according to Robert’s Rules of Order. However, do not adopt Robert’s Rules in their entirety, but in the style or otherwise. If the organization’s bylaws require board members to be present at all board meetings, then the board members may meet according to Robert’s Rules. However, other boards may have their own rules of order to accommodate their unique needs.

Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc.

All documents—including meeting minutes and committee reports—should be saved electronically, in a shared folder such as Google Drive. A box, etc. Meeting minutes should be shared with Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc.
Welcome to Your New Favorite Place to Shop.
Welcome to Uptown.
Social Zones