

Lansing Makers Network

Board of Directors

Regular Meeting Agenda

09/22/2026, 6:30 pm at 2730 Alpha Access

Board Members:

benny Vasquez, Chair

Lysne Tait

James Etherton

Kelsey Earle

Kirk Taskila

Jody Applegate - absent, sends regards

Visitors: Lex Savoyat

Meeting Secretary: Kelsey Earle.

Meeting called to order: 6:36pm

1. Housekeeping (benny)

- **Approving Agenda**
 - Approved
- **Declaration of newly relevant conflicts of interest for board members**
 - None

1.a Chair report

- Emphasis on financials has been helpful in getting the bills paid.
- Looking forward, desire for volunteers and leaders within our organization. People who can make decisions and help space.
- As you talk to people - please recruit this type of people

Action items from last meeting

- benny to add code of conduct to September letter
 - Check and put on the next letter
- ☒ Ask tech team to post code of conduct to website
- Lex to send Lysne list of questions she asks people who start a class (for Anna and Lysne to work on)
 - Started discussion - need to continue
- Lysne to ask Chris Kangas about HVAC Quotes
 - Sending reminder tonight
- ☒ Kirk - look at sponsorship list for events
- benny - correct the "how to apply" for board members page

- Drafted - just need access to the website. Likely changing to Google Forms
- ☒ Lex - look over Eventbrite and member/non-member pricing
 - Write with consistent language across events
- ☒ Lysne - please make a tax document folder and share with grant team
- ☒ Lex follow up on teeshirt design
 - \$25

2. Leadership Committee Report **LMN Report September 2026**

- Operations
 - Membership is a bit down, specifically open hours. 10 less than last month. This trend is generally consistent with past years. Continuing to bring in new members. Up from last year.
 - Selling items -
 - Tony is finishing bike rack project.
 - Enhanced membership - Charlie building out second area. Jamie is moving in, prof at MSU in sculpture department. Excited to have her!
 - Will move in when the space is primed.
 - Prepping for upcoming events - especially How to Holiday and Krampusnacht.
 - Mayner wants to have a volunteer event on the 5th of November. Are open to any volunteer opportunities. Need to know how many people and what kind of tasks.
 - Considering having them prep for these events especially with How To Holiday
 - Storage is a bit out of control - may be needed for organization
 - Woodshop could use a coat of paint
- IBEW is coming back - 2 months for Silver Bells
 - Adam Tait and Jennifer Nelson worked hard to clear the area. THANK YOU.
- November - all member show in the artists gallery. Open to anyone. Stuff for sale - especially for people coming in during events.
- Built games for Allen Neighborhood Center and called us out in newsletter.
- Siamak working hard around the space and creating stairs and railings. THANK YOU.
- 2 people looking for enhanced member space - trying to move in quickly. Charlie and Lex found a corner that we could make into a space. This does start to take away floor space from members. But potential for consistent income.
 - 1 member who wants a winter "office" - considering front office as well.
 - Head of sculpture program at MSU - interested in back area in storage - trying to find a space for them
 - Considering building up on top of storage area - but it is short up there. But likely need to look into codes.
 - Considering other spots around the space to build enhanced member zones.
 - \$350 a month is 7 open hour members -

- Volunteer hours counting toward the enhanced member space - suggestion \$50 discount
- Upcoming events - volunteers needed for these events. 18 people helping to repair things, but need some people to help with the desk etc.
- Maria is teaching a blacksmithing class for Rivian (one of the first private classes like this)
- MSU Experiential education - adolescent diversion program
 - Purchasing \$3,000 worth of gift cards - adult will come with
- Technology (Lex & benny)
 - Phones are working! Thank you Craig!
 - Trying to find ways to reduce costs for Digital Ocean. \$30 per month saved already.
- Volunteering (Lex)
 - Evelyn is taking a step back and bringing on Cheryl to help out with onboarding and interviews.
 - Have turned off the volunteer application as we catch back up on the backlog of volunteers. Would like to have new tracking portal for volunteers. Right now Lex is the only person who can track hours.

3. Treasurer's report

- Lysne motions to remove Brian Adams as the responsible individual and add Jennifer "benny" Vasquez as responsible individual to our bank account at MSUFCU effective immediately
 - Kirk seconds.
 - Unanimous approval.
- Filed annual report for LARA today.
- Signed us up for Every.org - way to donate.
 - Add to donation website
- \$6,400 in accounts receivable, \$3,000 in bank - does not count classes
- Lansing BWL - breakdown of charges about \$750 per month
 - Being charged MI tax - we are nonprofit
 - Breaks down to about \$25 per day in BWL

4. Secretary's Report

Kelsey

- Suggestion box - Nothing.

5. Committee Updates and Continued Business

Kirk

Grants and Funding

- Didn't have the meeting last week.
- Did a search for top locations in Lansing area who provides donations to nonprofits. Sent 5 out specifically to sewing machine companies to seek sponsorships for sewing program. 14 letters to different orgs in town, ran out of stamps. (Lysne will bring some!)

- BWL emailed back - wondering how much they want. Originally was talking about sponsoring events, but also discussed \$10,000 or more for HVAC or other improvements.
- Arts grants - now that we have the artists corner - focus on events in space, could apply.
- We need specifics to apply for grants. For example, asked if we can replace sewing machines.
 - HVAC
 - Dust collectors
 - Talking to area managers for wants/needs
 - Will be scheduling a meeting soon - Invite Kirk to talk at meeting

6. New Business

- Moving away from cognito forms - can we migrate to Google forms?
 - Cognito is better about notifying and a few other things. Trying a few things to see if we can make it work.
 - As you work through things, if Cognito is blocking you please try to move to forms or something else
- Still have not heard from landlords
 - Had insurance company come in take pictures of space. They were excited to be in the space. Loved the new mural.
 - Continued to be in contact with them - was informed they are waiting on insurance. We should hear from them soon.
 - Want to consider the improvements we have made for the space and factor that into rent especially as we see the new lease
- Considering path forward for purchasing new space, hiring employees, and all resource based opportunities. Working with Basebuilders to design path forward.
 - Purchasing the right building could save us money depending on the cost of the mortgage vs. renting.
 - We are at a point where we are bursting at the seams, not a ton of room to grow. A lot of growth in the space in the last 5 years.

7. Public comments and suggestions

- None

Schedule next board meeting

- **Next Board meeting:** 6:30pm Tuesday November 3rd (don't forget to vote!)

Action items for next meeting

- Lysne to talk to Mayner about volunteer opportunities
- Look into platforms for volunteer tracking (e.g. Acuity, Stripe, Square)
- Lex/technology add every and Benevity to website for donations
- Lysne - talk to BWL about nonprofit status

- Lex - invite Kirk to area manager meeting to talk about grants
- James - look into what purchasing a commercial space would look like. Items to consider when we connect with Base Builders

Motion to adjourn

motions to adjourn - James

Seconds - Kirk

7:59 meeting adjourns

Unanimous approval

Closed Meeting