

4. Communication received from Scott Atchison regarding the Kent County Hotel Tax increase and a downtown information system



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: June 10, 2025

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: City Commission Meeting
LIAISON: N/A

FROM: Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: Communication received from Scott Atchison regarding the Kent County Hotel Tax increase and a downtown information system



Michigan Flashcard - Scott Atchison
PO Box 1235
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
NativeGR@gmail.com 616-293-9056



Downtown
Grand Rapids, MI

Information City!

I am a Downtown
Ambassador. Here is
the information card.



Maybe that Downtown
Ambassador can help.



Where
should
we
park?

This card will show you
how to access the best
downtown information of
what is open today.
You will be able to see
all restaurants and bars
open downtown today.
We have the best local
information.

What are the
restaurants in
walking
distance?

We have an hour
before we go to
the airport. Let
me grab my cell
phone. This is
great! Better than
any other city!
Look, links!

Scan
this:



Hotel
Concierge



I guess there is no
information center
downtown according to
this map.



Forward to: County Administrator

Al Vandenberg

This **daily information** is provided to you by your tax dollars and assessments at
work by the staff at the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
aka Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc. (DGRI) - city of Grand Rapids, MI

Restaurants,
bars, museums,
movie theater,
retail shopping
& more

Kent County Board
of Commissioners
02/23/23
8:30 AM
300 Monroe Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI

To: City of Grand Rapids - September 2018

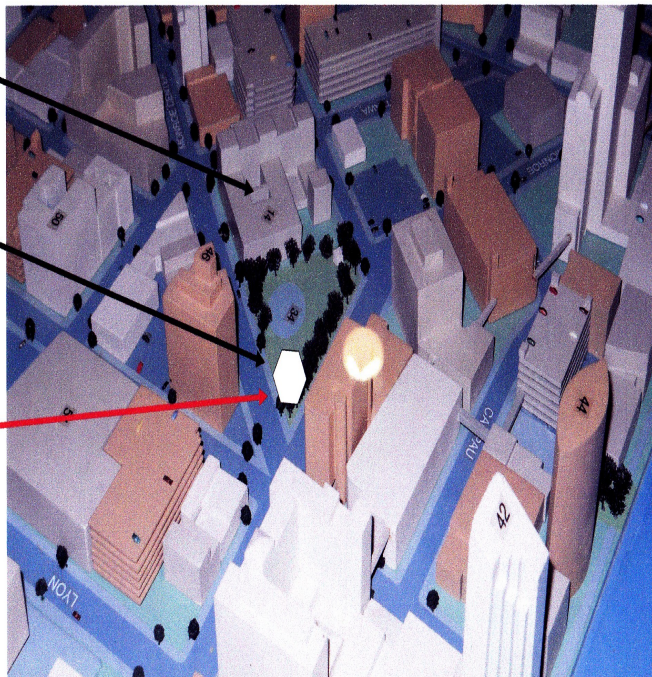
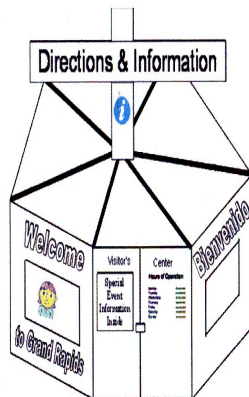
Scott Atchison
Downtown/City/County Stakeholder
PO Box 1235
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
616-293-9056 NativeGR@aol.com

Great for the image of
the Metropolitan Area!

Good for the city,
good for the county and
good for the state!

Inside the GRAM is/was not
the best location.

At Pearl St. & Monroe Ave. is
the best location for foot and
vehicle traffic. Highly visible!



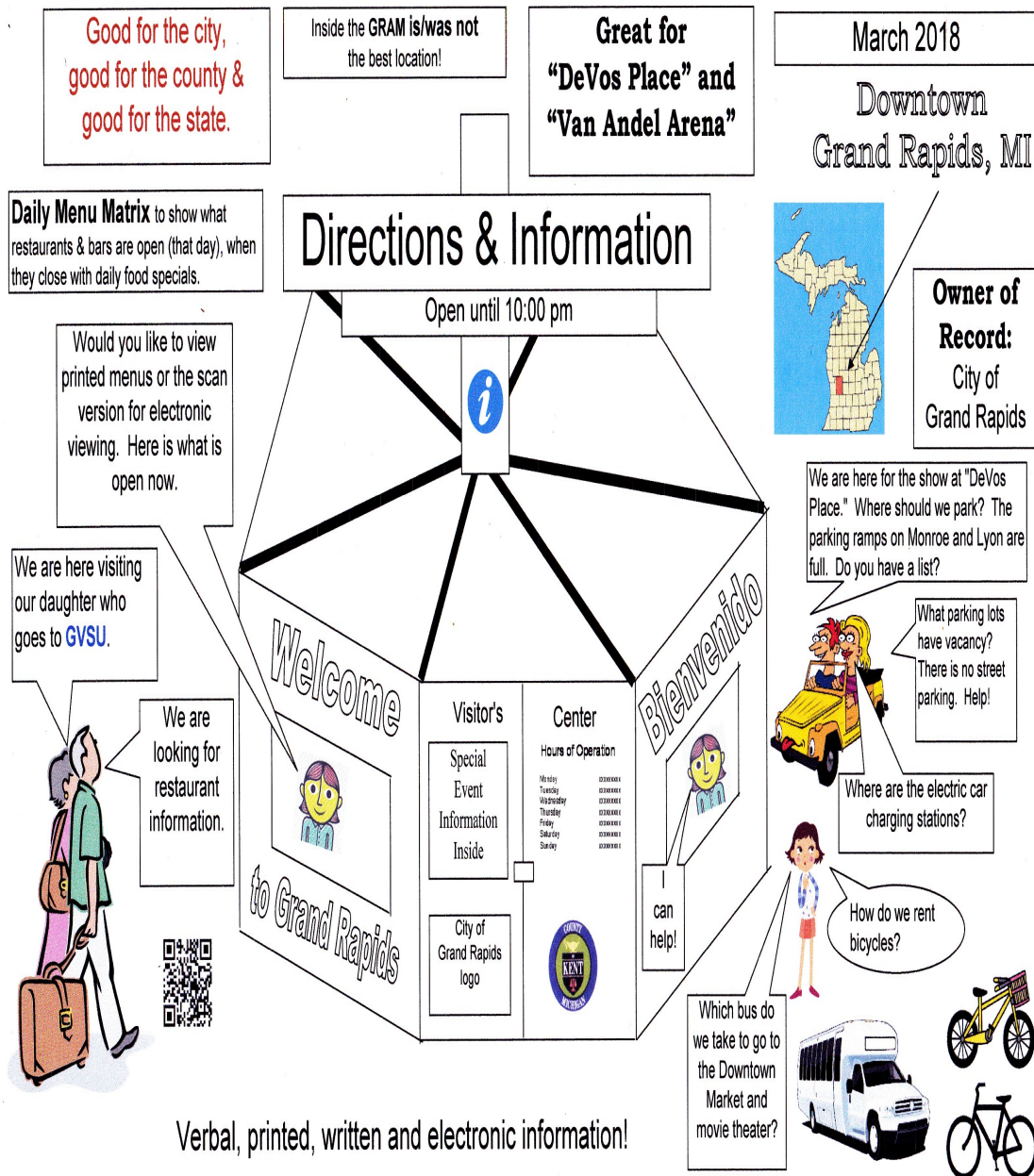
This structure should be built here for the best visibility and access from all sides.
The Visitor's Center should be a stand alone structure dedicated to daily information.

Additional assistance will come from the city of Grand Rapids,
Kent County, the state of Michigan and corporate sponsors for
naming rights.

Suggested

The "BMA" Information Center (Bissell, Meijer, Amway)

This information center, at this location, will greatly
assist in securing more convention activities in our
facilities and could only help in a decision for a
company to re-locate their operations here.



Providing BETTER local information than the internet/GPS/smartphone.

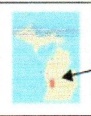
Scott Atchison
616-293-9056 NativeGR@aol.com

Web pages are not enough!

Mobile GR Commission - Regular Meeting
3/8/2018 8:00 AM

The DDA funds the construction of the facility
and the CVB (ExperienceGR)
runs it every day of the year.

Michigan Flashcard - Scott Archison
PO Box 1235
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
NativeGR@gmail.com 616-293-9056



Downtown
Grand Rapids, MI

Information City!

I am a Downtown Ambassador. Here is the information card.

Maybe that Downtown Ambassador can help.


Where should we park?

This card will show you how to access the best downtown information of what is open today. You will be able to see all restaurants and bars open downtown today. We have the best local information.

What are the restaurants in walking distance?

We have an hour before we go to the airport. Let me grab my cell phone. This is great! Better than any other city! Look, links!

Scan this:



Hotel Concierge

I guess there is no information center downtown according to this map.

Strange!

Information Center

Thank!

This **daily information** is provided to you by your tax dollars and assessments at work by the staff at the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) aka Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc. (DGRI) - city of Grand Rapids, MI

Restaurants, bars, museums, movie theater and retail shopping.

Kent County Board of Commissioners
06/09/2022
8:30 AM
300 Monroe
Grand Rapids, MI


Updating websites daily??


Daily real time time information.

Whose Responsibility?

Information and Communication are very the important in any transaction

Scan This





Go-Site Failure
No Information System

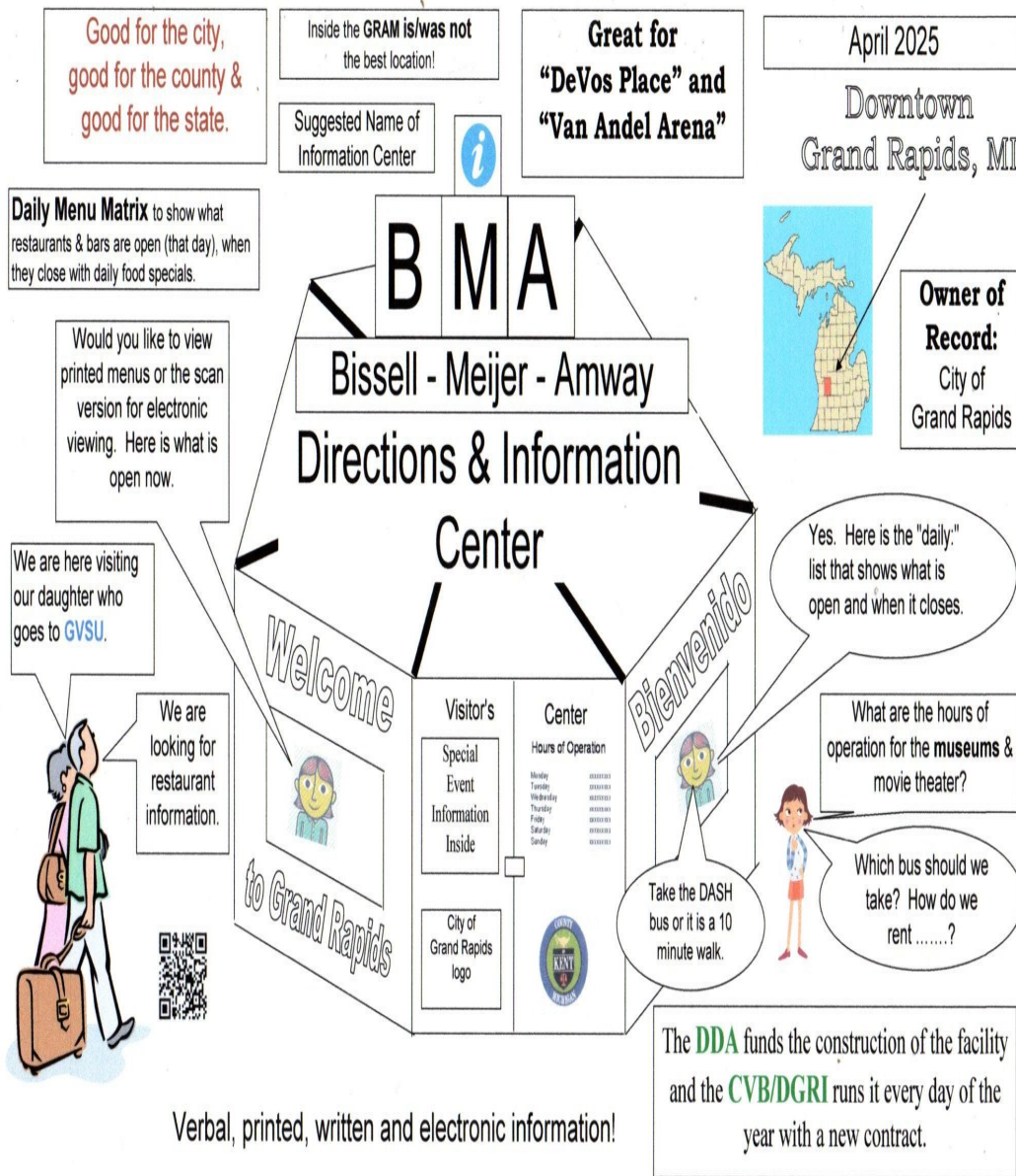
City of Grand Rapids, DDA, DID, DGRI, CVB, ExperienceGR, Kent County, West Michigan Sports Commission,

Daily real time information

www.downtowngr.org/downtowninfo
www.experiencegr.com/downtowninfo

The goal is to have the best real time daily information for downtown Grand Rapids.
The downtown Ambassadors and the hotel staff will promote the newly created information system.

What Information do people want in downtown Grand Rapids, MI?
Restaurants and Bars, Museums, Retail Shopping, movie times, festivals, convention center and arena events. Transportation & More!



Providing BETTER local information than the internet/GPS/smartphone.

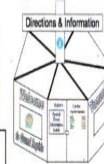
Scott Atchison
616-293-9056 NativeGR@gmail.com

Web pages are not enough!

Open everyday of the year at
the corner of Pearl & Monroe.

Unique to
Grand Rapids, MI

Page 2 of 2



Amway - Chief Executive Officer - Michael Nelson

Hello - Scott Atchison - Work all over the county

1/14/2022

The County Seat
City County DDA CVB

GR on the Map

GR MAG

Report Cards are in

No one is doing a bad job
Not a complete job

Scott Atchison
616-293-9056
NativeGR@aol.com

Grades

Facilities A-

Devos Place & Performatnce Hall
Van Andel Arena

hotels & restaurants A-

AHC 4-5 star

Rick Winn cigarette butt

Ottawa & Pearl - Tupelo Honey Sundance Grill

New Hotels

Museums B+

Watergate tools

sales and marketing A-

CVB ACH individuals hotels

Information C-

No information center or information center

Go from C- to A+

Information and Communication

Without then one has nothing

Wandering Ambassadors - Trash collection and beautification

What's Open Daily

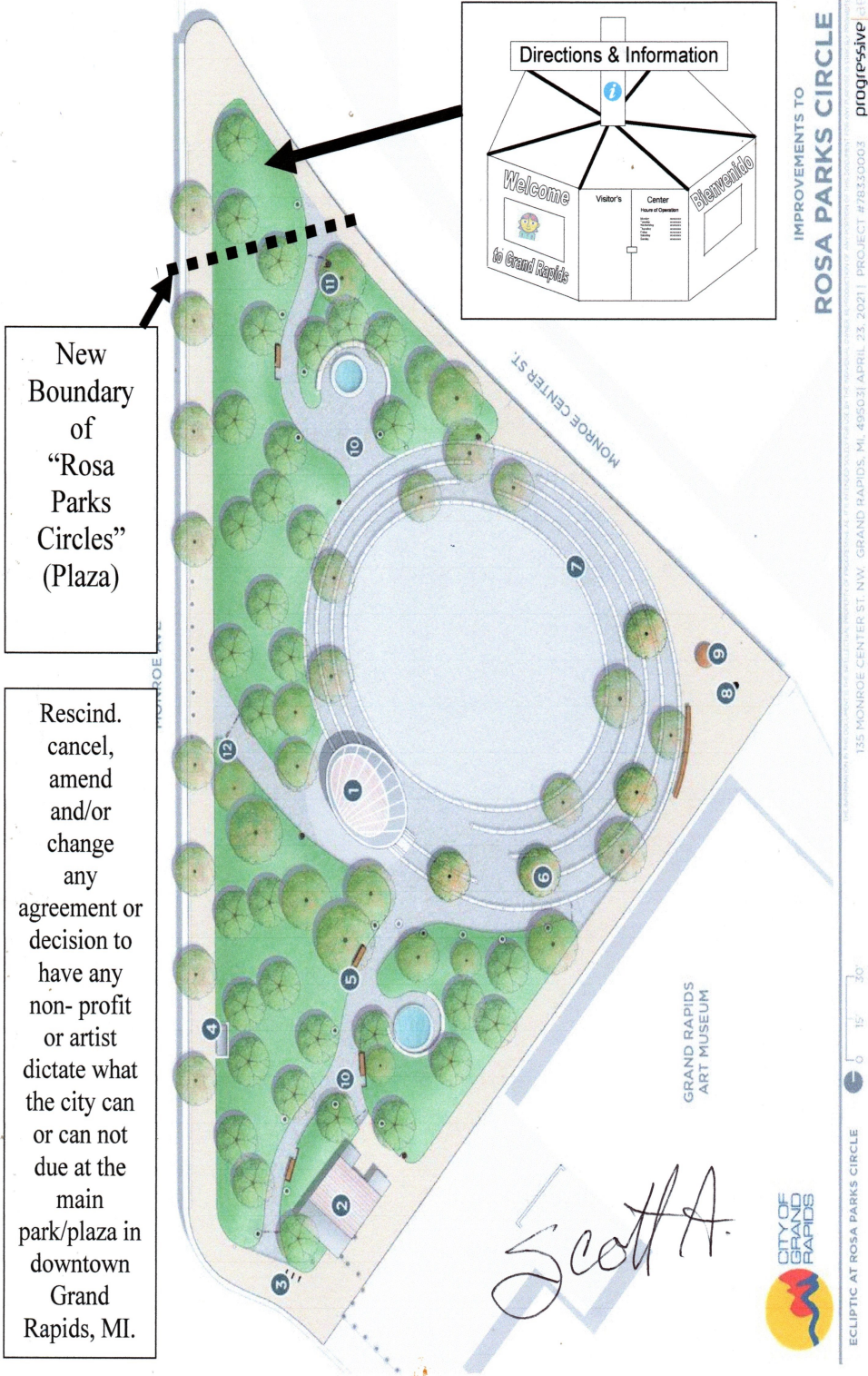
World of Winter - DDA -



Scan this

To: City of Grand Rapids:
Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager & Staff
04/02/2025

Page 2 of 2



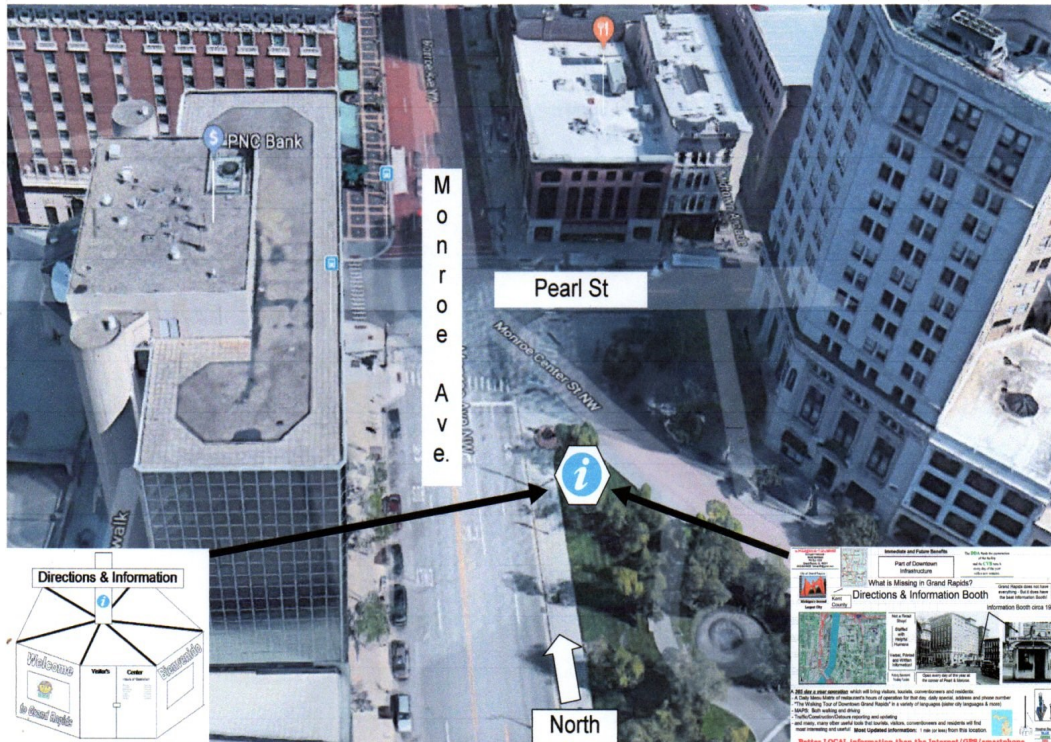


Downtown Grand Rapids, MI
Intersection of
Pearl & Monroe

Scott Atchison
 Resident of Grand Rapids
 Third Ward
 616-293-9056
 nativegr@gmail.com

Forward to:
 Frey
 Foundation

Note to Maya Lin:
**"The best location for an
 information center
 in downtown Grand Rapids, MI."**



The best location for an information center in downtown Grand Rapids, MI.
 City of Grand Rapids property - "city park" - Rosa Parks Circle Plaza

**Great for
 "DeVos Place" and
 "Van Andel Arena"**

Daily Menu Matrix (DMM)
 to show what restaurants & bars
 are open (that day),
 when they open/close
 with daily food specials with
 address, phone number & website
 linked on devices
 with HTML.
The DMM changes daily

The **DDA** funds the construction
 of the facility
 and the **CVB** runs it
 every day of the year
 with a new contract.

Open everyday of the year at
 the corner of Pearl & Monroe.

Location, location, location,

Good for the city,
 good for the county &
 good for the state.

Downtown
 Grand Rapids
 Michigan
 Zip Code
 49503



Why would anyone want to hide an information center inside another building?

Michigan
NativeGR@aol.com 616-233-9056
Michigan Placeholder - Scott Atkinson
PO BOX 1235
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1235

Immediate and Future Benefits

Part of Downtown Infrastructure



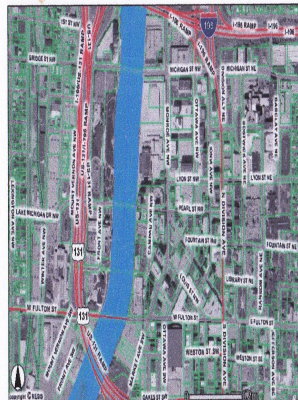
Wandering Ambassadors are secondary to an information center.

Forward to:
Downtown Development Authority



Kent County

What is Missing in Grand Rapids? Directions & Information Booth



Not a Retail Shop!

Staffed with Helpful Humans

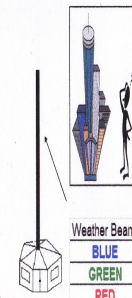
Verbal, Printed and Written Information!

Publicly Sponsored, Privately Funded



Information Booth circa 1930

- A **365 day a year operation** which will bring visitors, tourists, conventioners and residents:
- A Daily Menu Matrix of restaurant's hours of operation for that day, daily special, address and phone number
 - "The Walking Tour of Downtown Grand Rapids" in a variety of languages (sister city languages & more)
 - MAPS: Both walking and driving
 - Traffic/Construction/Detours reporting and updating
 - and many, many other useful tools that tourists, visitors, conventioners and residents will find most interesting and useful!



Better LOCAL information than the Internet/GPS/smartphone

Apparently no one entity is responsible for having an information center in downtown Grand Rapids, MI – or there would be one is existence. City/County, DDA, CVB, CAA, DBID, SMG, DGRI,

Information City



Deliver to:

City of Grand Rapids

September 2018

good for the city of Grand Rapids, MI
good for "Kent" county Michiagn
good for the "State of Michigan" and

Great for GVSU! (all campuses)

Owner of Record:
City of Grand Rapids or
Convention & Arena Authority (CAA)