



CITY OF HART

407 S. STATE ST.

HART, MI 49420

Hart Economic and Redevelopment Team (H.E.A.R.T.)

December 6, 2023

MINUTES DRAFT

1) Call to Order

Burillo called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

a) Roll Call

- **Members present:** Catalina Burillo, Hannah Juhl, Maria Rosas, Noble Graham-Lattin
- **Absent:** Justin Adams, Sue Payne, Scott Beal
- **Others present:** Nichole Kleiner, Tracey Lipps, Caleb Griffis

2) **Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Catalina, supported by Noble to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3) **Public Comments** – None

4) **Approval of the Consent Agenda** - Motion by Catalina, supported by Noble to approve the minutes and table the financials in the consent agenda. Motion carried.

5) Action Items

a) **Match on Main Grant Application Review** – Nichole presented the board with the three applications for the Match on Main grant from Birch & Blossom, Hart Pizza and Hometown Pharmacy. Noble provided additional comments on his request for an outdoor seating area and inventory purchases, Tracey provided additional comments on her request for a pizza oven, Hometown Pharmacy did not have a representative. In reviewing all three applications, it was determined that Birch & Blossom & Hart Pizza were eligible but that Hometown Pharmacy, having not provided detail on what the “interior renovations” would consist of or the required third party estimates. The board chose to go into a closed session at this point asking Noble and Tracey to leave while they scored the applications. The board concluded that due to the Hart Pizza’s request for a pizza oven would have the biggest impact on the business when comparing the two, in addition, comparing MEDC’s scoring criteria, the board felt that Hart Pizza’s additional investment of approximately \$40,000 would score higher with MEDC. There was questioning from the board as to whether or not two applications could be submitted. Nichole agreed to ask our contact. The recommendation was to submit applications to MEDC on behalf of Birch & Blossom and Hart Pizza, if possible. If not we can only submit one application, it was recommended to apply on behalf of Hart Pizza. Closed session ended. Tracey and Noble returned. Motion by Catalina, supported by Maria to apply for the Match on Main grant on behalf of Hart Pizza and Birch and Blossom, if possible.

b) **Authorize Director to Issue a Request for Proposals to Insulate, Floor & Drywall Chalets before May 15, 2024** – Nichole reported that the chalet tenants were either extremely hot or cold even after using air conditioners and heaters because the shed’s are not insulated. She estimates that to insulate, drywall and put a vinyl floor down, it would cost approximately \$7k which is approximately what will be collected in the first two years of rent. After discussion, it was decided that the board would like to see actual quotes. Motion by Maria, supported by Catalina to authorize Director to seek bids to insulate, drywall and floor chalets.

c) **Cancel January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting** – Nichole noted that there aren't any major agenda items and being the day after the New Year holiday, it is her recommendation to cancel the Jan 2, 2024 meeting. Motion by Catalina, supported by Maria to cancel the January 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

6) Updates/Discussion Items

a) Event – Holiday Home & Business Decorating Contest is in progress. Tracey asked if we had had much participation and Nichole reported that each year, because of the lack of response, they've had to go to well decorated homes and ask them to be a part of the contest. Noble suggested that instead of offering 3 \$50 cash prizes that we put the cash together for one \$150 cash prize to incentivize homeowners to participate. Noble and Hannah agreed that businesses will participate regardless and that they don't need a cash prize. Nichole agreed to make this change. Noble suggested a traveling trophy, certificate, etc for the businesses to acknowledge their effort.

7) Board Member Comments – Catalina suggested that we remove the photos from Pocket Park because they're falling. She suggested asking Pink Elephant if they would display the photos on their lower level open wall during the winter. Noble shared that Birch and Blossom and Hegg's Furniture will be hosting HHS and HMS student art show Jan 8-19th with a reception during that time. Noble wondered if the Hart Project would be willing to support/promote/sponsor in any way. Nichole agreed to ask the committee at their next meeting.

8) Adjournment –Meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Economic & Community Development Director