

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Record of the July 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting**

APPROVED

Members Present: Supervisor Hamill, Chris Hamill, Cassie Blascyk, Roscoe Smith, Dale Feigley, Matt Barnes

Members Absent: Trevor VonBuskirk, Sellon Patterson, Mike Zurek

Staff Present: Melissa Dashevich, Executive Director
Karen Beardsley, Recording Secretary

Visitors Present: Stephanie Legg

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Director's Report

Mrs. Dashevich verbally reviewed her Director's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Per Mrs. Hamill, we are ahead of budget with revenue over expenses of \$216,888. Annualization shows that, at this point, we are ahead \$104,687, and expenses are behind \$33,053. Fundraising expenses are behind \$830; fundraising income is behind as well, at \$1,500. Total expenses are \$3,606. Per balance sheet, cash in bank is \$223,605. We still have property for sale as well. Grant dollars were discussed briefly as well.

Added next two items; left off Agenda:

Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2019.

MRS. HAMILL MOVED TO APPROVE the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 19, 2019 as presented. SUPERVISOR HAMILL SUPPORTED THE MOTION and THE MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (6 yes votes).

Mrs. Dashevich pointed out that a prior motion to approve the money for the Farmers' Market did not specify where the money was to come from.

MR. FEIGLEY MOVED TO transfer \$4,000 from the General Fund to the Farmers' Market Line Item (495-290-000-883-000) for the Highland Farmer's Market. Mrs. Blascyk supported and the motion carried with a roll call vote: M. Barnes-yes; D. Feigley-yes; C. Hamill-yes; R. Hamill-yes; C. Blascyk-yes; R. Smith-yes (6 yes votes).

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion regarding ill repair of barn located on south side of Highland Station. Much discussion took place regarding the merits of saving this iconic Highland structure. There were concerns that this might be looked at as making repairs to private property; however, it

was argued that we would be making repairs in exchange for using it as a billboard. The cost of repairs, however could be quite high. Discussion of involving the newspaper and starting a "Save the Barn" movement, possibly with crowd-funding was suggested. Also, some type of lease situation might have to take place to protect interest. Since it is considered an iconic 'entry point' to our downtown, perhaps the façade grant would be applicable. Mrs. Blascyk also mentioned an Oakland County preservation type grant of \$2,500 that may be available.

No motion is needed at this time. Supervisor Hamill will do some research and bring back some information that will help the DDA decide if we want to continue looking into the barn.

- b. Mission and Vision training date to be determined.
It was decided that the meeting can take place before the August 21st Regular Board Meeting, at 4:30.
- c. Sidewalk Sales
Eight business are taking part. They have all been given promotional materials and marketing has taken place online and our sign. Customer appreciation at Five Star on Friday; additional vendors at Farmers' Market; ice cream truck on site.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. 685 Harvey Lake Road property
Supervisor Hamill read the most recent letter from attorney, received just hours before this meeting, which included an email with a request from Mr. Davis, property owner, for additional time and includes a specific incremented timeline with deadlines.

MRS. HAMILL MOVED to approve the proposal made by Mr. Randall Davis, dated July 17, 2019 (made part of this motion), for additional time to vacate the property at 685 Harvey Lake Road conditioned on Mr. Davis making the property available for viewing and inspection by realtors who have an interest in listing the property for sale and conditioned on him meeting each of the property removal deadlines as set forth in his proposal, as determined by a DDA member or agent. The Board wants to make it clear that actual removal of personal property from address 685 Harvey Lake Road is defined as removal from the said property and not simply moving it into the interior of the property to be hidden out of sight. If either condition is not complied with, the extension shall be void and the deadline for Mr. Davis to vacate the property under the Consent Judgment entered July 10, 2019, shall be immediately enforceable. The DDA's attorney is authorized and directed to file a Notice with the Court and Mr. Davis of this extension and its conditions. MR. FEIGLEY SUPPORTED and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote: R. Hamill-yes; C. Hamill-yes, C. Blascyk-yes, R. Smith-yes, D. Feigley-yes; M. Barnes-yes

- b. Results of Request for Proposals from realtors.
Mrs. Dashevich mentioned during her verbal Director's Report that the realtors were unable to determine their desire to list the property since they are unable to obtain access to the property. The realtors (Bailey Realty, Meck Realty, and Tige Reader of Remax) stand ready to quote listings once access is allowed. On September 3rd, he will be vacated and there may be items left on premises.

c. Arch Update

A sample drawing of the elements chosen was distributed and has been given to Tad for final design drawing. Stephanie will create a 3D image of the proposed approved final design and will email to board members to see.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Blascyk asked what the status was of the property located on Milford Road near Ayershire Drive with all the tree removal taking place. Mr. Smith shared that he heard the property owner was simply being proactive, by removing all of the trees on his property before a proposed tree ordinance takes place.

Mr. Smith expressed his concern of the height of the plantings in the native gardens, particularly at McPherson. He felt it was a safety issue for traffic sight lines. Mrs. Dashevich contacted Jenny Fredericks and she immediately removed some plantings, and will continue to survey the situations. She may require some extra help in the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Vitality

- a. Rental Subsidy Grant was awarded to Earth and Soul. One more remains available.

MSOC

- a. Main Street Tourism Website.
Oakland County will soon be publishing a website with calendar portals being offered to Main Street Communities to list events happening in our areas. Mrs. Dashevich will reach out to our contact to try to determine the scope for which we are allowed to list, etc. More details will follow.
- b. Classes being offered in different communities; available to all select communities. Mrs. Dashevich wanted to point out the value provided by this opportunity.
- c. Great Lakes Main Street Conference – South Bend, Indiana, August 19th & 20th.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Blascyk pointed out 2 Moms and a Mop moved into Highland. Also, Mediterranean restaurant moving into DQ Plaza.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Stephanie Legg expressed her interest in becoming a member of the HDDA. She will send a letter of interest to the Board, for ultimate approval at Highland Township.

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:04.

Respectfully submitted,
Roscoe Smith

RS:kb