



MEETING SUMMARY

Harrison
September 16, 2016
9:00 AM

Attendance

John Iacoangeli	BRI	jri@bria2.com
Joe Borgstrom	Place and Main	joe@placeandmain.com
Leah DuMouchel	BRI	ldumouchel@bria2.com
Stacy Esbrook	MEDC CATeam	esbrooks@michigan.org
Debbie Neumann	MEDC RRC	neumannd2@michigan.org
James Espinoza	MEDC CATeam	espinozaj3@michigan.org
Tracy Beadle	City of Harrison	clerk@cityofharrison-mi.gov
Christopher Germain	MEDC-RRC	germainc2@michigan.org
Dave Rowe	City of Harrison	dwrowe2005@gmail.com
Sam Russell	City of Harrison	dpwsupt@cityofharrison-mi.gov
Connie Cauchi	City of Harrison	cauchic@yahoo.com
Joni Ashcroft	City of Harrison	jajh24@sbcglobal.net
Angela Kellogg	City of Harrison	akellogg@hdl.org
Daniel Sullivan	City of Harrison	lindajo-josullivan@yahoo.com
Stacey Stocking	City of Harrison	mayorofharrison@yahoo.com

Meeting commenced at 9:10 AM.

1. Introductions

Participants asked to introduce themselves and provide a brief background. This included PRT Technical Team, State and Regional Partners and PRT Community Stakeholders. (*NOTE: The entire City Council was in attendance*).

2. Review of PRT Action Strategy

Traci began the discussion noting the assets within the community that could be leveraged for community and economic development. These included: Clare County Fairgrounds, Wilson State Park, Budd Lake, the new Farmers Market (commercial kitchen), downtown plaza and outdoor ice skating facility, availability of public water and sewer facilities and influx of new residents to the greater Harrison area. In addition, the City and Hayes Township have been working together on bike and walking trails to create a connected network throughout the community. The City was in the finishing stages of the new City Hall and DPW facility, and the library was relocating to former historic Surrey House hotel in the business district. Various projects were reviewed and the City has a positive track record at pursuing and receiving State and Federal grant/loan programs.

Challenges focused on negative perceptions focused on Clare County's generational poverty issue and the concentration of the low income families in and around the Harrison area due the availability of social services. Other challenges involve the public school open floor plan design and need for renovations, and the lack of a quality hotel to service the immediate area.



Potential opportunities include renovation of the former MDNR office for a Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center office, installation of a splash pad at the downtown plaza, boat/kayak launch at Wilson State Park, and enhanced programming at the Clare County Fairgrounds.

Other stakeholders that need to be engaged include: MDNR, County Commission, Hayes Township, School Superintendent, and representatives from the County Fair Board (Tom Dewey and Carol Leary).

The City has in place a Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Downtown Development Authority and utilizes the Clare County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

3. Scope of Technical Assistance Work Elements

The group focused on the including;

- a. Branding and Marketing – This will be conducted by Arnett Muldrow (Ben Muldrow) and is in the process of being scheduled.
- b. Master Plan – review and revise the master plan to include RRC best practices. A component of the master plan update will include a housing quality typology and blight assessment. The City utilizes Fleiss and Vanderbrink as engineer of record and that GIS information would be provided to B&R for use in the master plan process. The engagement process was discussed and it was decided that engagement sessions would commence in early 2017 and the community would be notified through the winter tax bills. Hayes Township would be included in the process. A structure community engagement strategy would be prepared as part of the RRC process. Planning Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6PM.
- c. Zoning – review and revisions to the zoning ordinance to simplify and make it user friendly.
- d. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan – Traci asked that the scope also include a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan and that the City, through a separate grant, would provide an additional \$14,000 to the planning effort.

4. Communications

The web site was reviewed and it was noted that all background documents and information produced through the course of the program will be available on the site. Also discussed was a periodical conference call with all PRT communities to review project status and updates. These will be noticed in advance. It was mentioned that all communications should be sent to Leah DuMouchel at Beckett & Raeder. Her e-mail address is ldumouchel@bria2.com.

Another community venue would be MAC TV with possible assistance from Central Michigan University.

Meeting Adjournment: 11:15 p.m.