The Greater Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
May 6,2026
At the Hartford Public Library

I. Meeting Called to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Jane Danger, Stephanie Daniels, Matt Nilson, Patty Schroeder, Nancy Spoula, Kaitlan Trine

III. Approval of the Minutes : motion by Nancy seconded by Stephanie -motion passed

IV. Treasurer Report: motion by Stephanie seconded by Jane - Motion Passed

V. Old Business
   a. Strawberry Festival
      i. Beer Tent: sponsored by the Hartford Sportsman Club - John Glover in charge. The tent will operate from 10 a.m. - 9 pm The split will be 60/40.
      ii. Rides: Vertical Edge for the following rides: 24' #D Klime Wall, Pirates Revenge, Ferris Wheel Bounce House at the cost of $12,620. We still owe $6310 when they come in June.
      iii. Sponsor update: Current Sponsors amount $7913.94. Several people are still working on getting sponsors.
      iv. Grant update: Consumers Gas will hopefully give between $2000-$5000; Michigan Humanities $825; Casey's $500. Stephanie continues to work on the grants as we meet. The library or Stephanie personally is picking over $5600.
      v. Berry Bake Off: Kaitlan in charge: We have Tad Moody and Carl Davis as judges - we still need one more judge
      vi. Art Contest: we need more advertisement. Will accept entries up until June 6th.
      vii. New publicity volunteer: Rick McNeil has volunteered to help do the publicity
      viii. Next Strawberry Festival Committee meeting will be May 26th at 5:30 pm at the library.
      ix. Volunteers needed for the chamber booth- Patty has the form and are looking for those who can help.
      x. 2027 - Strawberry Festival Volunteers - help with behind the scene paperwork
   b. After hours event at the Hartford Pharmacy on April 23rd at 6 pm was a great success. Attendance was good and Rama and staff were great hosts

VI. New Business
   a. Current Members: Count 55 (still missing Pro Slot, Rick Hall Construction, El Primo, Arnt, A & B packing, Four Winds, High Acres Farms) Always looking for new businesses to add to our list: maybe El Ranchero when they open
   b. Celebrate Hartford Speedway 75th Anniversary - a presentation like we did for Mark Kellogg. Races start May 8th
   c. Fall Festival: Stephanies and Kaitlan will co-chair this event giving Patty a break from the planning. The Festival will take place on September 26th(10-6) and 27th (10-4). Maybe we can have a community worship service on the 27th again.
   d. Strawberry Run Sponsorship: After some discussion it was decided to leave it to the individuals and businesses to sponsor the run - not the Chamber itself.
   e. Discussed the signs outside of town- Rick's tack is now out of business so that opens up a space on the sign. Businesses that have shown interest wereSmith Lumber, Hartford Pharmacy, Maybe the following: Hartford Race Track, Cozy Tea, Red Arrow Dairy, El Ranchero
   f. Next After Hours:
      i. Location/Businesses: Hartford Chiropractic, Smith's Lumber, Nutrition Nook - Patty will talk with Dr Roberts first
      ii. Date: August 6th (tentative) will ask if this will work
      iii. Speakers: Matt suggested either SMC or the ISD about their trades program
   g. Other business

VII. Adjournment- motion by Stephanie seconded by Matt - motion passed at 6:35. The next meeting will be June 3, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the Hartford Library.