



Cook County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Hamilton Habitat Joint Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Cook County Housing and Redevelopment Authority submitted a grant application to the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation board on behalf of Hamilton Habitat for the extension of utility infrastructure to two sites that have been acquired, cleared, and prepared for future construction of two single-family homes in Grand Marais. On Friday, February 21st, the IRRR announced the grant proposal among a list of housing and economic development projects that were later approved on Tuesday, February 25th at the special IRRR board meeting in Saint Paul.

Anna Hamilton, Project Manager for Hamilton Habitat, said this about the IRRR funding “Hamilton Habitat is very grateful to both the HRA and the IRRR for this opportunity as it allows us to build on lots we could not otherwise have afforded.” Nonprofit Hamilton Habitat was formed in 2018 by Sarah and Anna Hamilton, two sisters and business owners that wanted to build affordable homes in Cook County for workers that live and work in the area.

Recently hired Executive Director Jeff Brand attended the IRRR special board meeting in person on February 25th at the Intercontinental Hotel in Saint Paul. He said Senator Grant Hauschild and Representative Roger Skraba were among the board members of the IRRR that approved the

grant unanimously. During the meeting, Representative Skraba asked Brand and Hamilton if the property was guaranteed to be workforce housing. Both agreed that this was workforce housing and would not be allowed under the terms of the deed to be used for any other purpose. Brand said this of the project “we will continue to work along non-profit and for-profit entities that want to help us solve the housing puzzle in Cook County. And when we have the ability to do so, we are going to go up to bat with grant applications to the IRRR and elsewhere in an effort to make the final project as affordable as possible.”

The funding from the Minerals Article legislation, part of the Tax Omnibus bill passed in 2024, is provided by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) through the sale of revenue bonds. This project is supported by the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

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