

Lowell Area Recreation Authority
Board Meeting
August 11, 2021

Perry Beachum called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

In attendance were: Janine Mork, Cliff Yankovich, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson.

Also in attendance was Thomas Gossiaux.

Absent were Laura Garrison and Amanda Rogers.

Approval of Meeting Agenda – A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mark Anderson, second by Cliff Yankovich. Motion carried.

The May 12 meeting minutes were lost due to technology.

Treasurer's Report – There are a few bills to be paid. Chamber of Commerce, \$125 for duck sponsorship, HUB Insurance for \$2468, Williams and Works \$1752 plus one from April. Dave will resend to Betsy for payment. Mark Anderson moved to pay bills, Cliff seconds. Motion carried.

Public Comments – None

New Business

Lowell Little League – Mark Anderson talked to Mike Minier. Janine will send what the township has for field layout with trails to Dave Austin and Mark Anderson on Thursday. Actual start of project is about two years out. There is time to get the trail layout through the property figured out.

Perry Beachum – Discussion about the need to reseal, patch or re-asphalt the trail. The last time it was re-asphalted was August, 2016. Parts were done in 2015 and again in 2017-18. Dave Austin will walk trail and come up with some estimates on cost to repair. There is currently a \$20,000 budget for trail maintenance but that includes plowing, lawn mowing and bridge maintenance. The cost could be closer to \$30,000. There was discussion about a fundraising effort to be used for trail maintenance. \$50,000 is not an unreasonable goal.

Cliff Yankovich – suggested an “adopt a trail” program. Sections of trail could have signs with sponsors names on them.

It was suggested that one contractor be hired to do the work so it is uniform. We need a quote to edging and trimming. The entire trail will be 8 miles long once it is done. Need to re-visit herbicide as well. Last done in 2014.

The bench area on Alden Nash needs to be stabilized. Obtain quotes to fix it permanently, not a quick fix. The bench may not stay given the housing development moving forward with phase 3. Get quotes and decide at next meeting.

Old Business

Lowell Area School Improvements. Trail is running just outside the soccer stadium. There will be an 8' fence on one side. During events, you will not have a clear path to use trail due to number of people around it, similar to Creekside Park when there are games in progress.

Kudos to Dave and Mark for getting the funding to move forward with project. There are still right of ways needed. Dave contacted Roger Storm for update on railway ROW. It is not going to happen this year. Dave called MDOT. In order to keep project moving forward, we can phase it. Phase 1 being township park to fairgrounds. Phase 2 is the bridge, Grand River Avenue and Montcalm Avenue after railroad approval.

MDOT wants the project to happen. They will participate in Phase 1 which will cost \$1.7 million. Adjust numbers with MDOT, DNR and lock in funds so we don't miss the funding cycle. The trails will still be done, but as smaller projects. We need to look at private donors. Do we pro-rate donations across two phases? Need to review commitments by October 1.

Dave Austin – would like the Authority's permission to talk with MDOT about phasing the project. Then work with DNR to update the maps accordingly.

Thomas Gossiaux suggested we start thinking about bridge design etc now. Those things take time. Agree.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for September 8, 2021.