

Lowell Area Recreational Authority
April 13, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Perry Beachum, Janine Mork, Amanda Rogers, Cliff Yankovich, Laura Garrison, Betsy Davidson (via phone).

Also Present: Dave Austin, Janalee Grischke

Approval of Meeting Agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Yankovich, second by Garrison. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2022 was made by Rogers, seconded by Yankovich. Beachum abstained since he was not present at that meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: There are several bills to be paid. \$1674.17 to City of Lowell for Williams Works charges; Hooper Printing for \$158.63 for tri-folds; United Sign for \$35.00; A motion was made by Yankovich, seconded by Rogers, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Betsy explained that going forward, any bills related to the design and construction of the trail will be covered by grant money which is held by the City of Lowell. We will receive the bill, forward it to Sue Olin at the City for payment. We still approve the payments at our meetings. Sue Olin will send a spreadsheet outlining what has been paid, etc. Dave Austin concurred.

Public Comment: Mark Fritsma is at another trail meeting tonight. On trails between Starboard Farms and Dependable Gas, someone is trimming trees again. Perry is not worried. That easement is not part of LARA. It is going to go to the DNR per Dave.

New Business

Treasurer Position: Betsy can't be at meetings and wants to be. She is trying to come up with ideas to do treasurer position differently. It may be a couple months before she can return to in person meetings. If Janine does treasurer, then someone needs to be secretary. Betsy would just be board member then. She does not want to quit the board. She just needs to step back from some of her duties until she is back on her feet again. This is one way of doing that.

Beachum: Let's leave things as they are for now. Unfortunately, if you are not in person, you cannot vote and your presence via phone or zoom does not count toward quorum. If we don't have four members in person, we cannot hold a meeting. He doesn't want Betsy to have to resign. She has been a part of the trails from the beginning and is an important piece.

Old business:

Website Redesign Update: Betsy said the new website redesign will be ready by mid-May. She will send updates to review. Once complete, you can designate people to make updates to website.

Audit Review: Andrew Thompson of Siler & Kolb CPA is planning to attend the May meeting.

Rail Trail Connection Progress and Updates, MDNR and MDOT status Mark Anderson, Dave Austin

Dave is officially starting design. Surveyors have been out. GR Gravel is a hurdle. He met again with them several times. Easement thru the property was approved before site plan was approved. It will be challenging to get permit there. Until they start mining and see where gravel is, cannot give up space. Site plan up is for renewal because of one year option to start construction. Had to come back to council to get it reapproved. Commit to work with us for other locations on property. Language was approved. Until yes or no from EGLE, cannot go back to Grand Rapids Gravel. We can design rest of project and work with GRG later. Will want to engage board and city employees to approve location of trail at Stony Lakeside Park. Cooperate with fairgrounds too.

Janalee – flyers up. Contact LARA if anyone wants to donate. If horse people donate- can there be a line item for us to keep track of it. Clarify that it needs to go to equestrian in future. Per Betsy, we are not tax deductible. If we receive money, it needs to run thru chamber or someplace. We are 501c6.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm by Yankovich, seconded by Garrison. Motion carried.

Next Meeting is May 11, 2022 at 6:30pm at City Hall.

Upcoming items – Budget approval June 2022