

LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY

November 11, 2020

6pm Lowell City Hall

Board Members present: Perry Beachum, Janine Mork, Betsy Davidson, Amanda Rogers, Laura Garrison

Not present: Lowell City Council member - Vacant

Also present: Tom Gossiaux, Janalee Grischke

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

A motion to approve the Agenda as presented was made by Beachum, seconded by Garrison.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting was made by Davidson, seconded by Rogers. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – There were two checks to approve. Zach's Lawncare had two invoices. One for regular maintenance of \$125 and the other for trimming branches and brush hogging overgrown areas for \$1200. The second check is to Williams and Works for \$4976.40. This covered the big push for MDNR and MDOT grants. Nothing further until after hearing from MDOT, Wege and Meijer.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mork, seconded by Rogers. Motion Carried.

Betsy indicated we did get \$400,000 from Lowell Area Community Fund. It will show on our Profit Loss statement next month.

We have to have an audit done. BHT & D is working on it this month. Cost should be less than \$2500.

Public Comment – Tom Gossiaux asked for an update since he has not been to last few meetings. Perry reviewed current status. We need to reapply for grant in 2021 and we are in a good position to make that deadline. Construction to start in 2022. There are still a couple easements to obtain. We can move forward without them since we can use the County right of way.

New Business

Bob Rogers – meeting with Caledonia tonight. May be able to meet with us December or January to discuss community center plans.

Vacant Lowell City position – Perry will ask next week about opening.

Cooper Woodland Property – No trespassing signs Vergennes Township Clerk told Betsy about signs. It was determined that since the signs are on Cooper Woodland property, it falls to the Lowell Education Foundation to follow up and take care of. LARA just has an easement through there.

Old Business

Bench and platform on Alden Nash – Nothing done yet. Neither Dave or Mark are present.

Rail Trail Connection Progress and Updates – Meeting 2nd Thursday. Parking at Vergennes and Bailey Trailheads is a concern.

MDNR/MDOT Status – Mark/Dave Austin Nothing received in time for tonight's meeting. MDOT cannot do anything until we hear from Meijer and Wege which should be around November 18. Asked for \$300,000. If we get that money, we will decrease the amount we ask for from Lowell Area Community Fund.

Janalee Grischke – Equestrian trails Perry suggested she start an Equestrian group committee that has passion for the trail idea. They need to find out if there are funds available for equine trails. Create a 501C3 down the road so they can take advantage of grants, etc. Check to see if there are college students willing to take on grant writing or research for trails. They can do the legwork. It will be 2-4 years before LARA can work with them to actually start planning an equestrian trail anywhere.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02. Motion made by Davidson, seconded by Garrison. Motion carried.

Next meeting is December 9, 2010 at 6pm, location TBD