

LARA Minutes

April 17, 2024

Board Members Present

Perry Beachum (Chair) City of Lowell Resident
Mark Anderson (Vice Chair), Lowell Twp. Board Representative
Amanda Rogers (Treasurer) Lowell Twp. Resident
Mark Weaver, (Secretary) Vergennes Twp Resident
Sherry Richmond, Vergennes Township Board Representative
Eric Bartkus, Lowell City Council Representative
Tom Gossaiux, At Large Member
Jennette Stevenson, Alternate, Lowell Township
Janalee Grishke, Alternate, Vergennes Township

Board Members Absent

Unassigned, Alternate, City of Lowell

Guests

Dave Austin – Williams and Works, Planner and Engineer

Motions

Approval of 17 April 2024 Agenda: Mark A moves to approve the agenda. Tom G seconds. Motion carried. Perry B abstained.

Approval of March 13 2024 minutes: Mark A moves to approve. Tom G seconds. Motion carried. Perry B abstained.

Treasurer Report

Bills approved for payment:

- City of Lowell / Williams and Works \$3,112-
- Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation (Trails Magazine) \$500-
- Riverwalk duck \$150-
- Women's Club Yearbook \$30-
- Zachs Clean Cut Lawn Care \$50-

Mark A moves to pay the invoices as presented. Eric B seconds. Motion carried.

Public Comment

No public comment.

New Business

- Weaver: Seeking recommendations for secure digital filing for LARA. Recommendations: Consider a Google account; check with Jordan (website consultant) regarding a Microsoft account. Upload to the Cloud. Be sure there is access for all Board members (some “read only”, others full access). Verify any additional costs.
- Weaver: Twps and City webpages. Updates to LARA Board membership. Verify Titles, etc. Mark W will call city and twps to update. Perry B suggests a board member spotlight/profile, photo and paragraph. Mark W will check with Jordan.
- Weaver: Seeking all random LARA files. Requested all Board members to search for pertinent files and forward to Mark W.
- Pavilion maintenance. Request Zacks Clean Cut Lawn Care to clean up the pavilion area. We should set up a simple agreement with Zach (Mark A may have a simple form)
- Dave Austin. Requesting a bid from D&D for asphalt sealing and trail maintenance to help develop clear specifications for repair and maintenance. Add it to the next meeting Agenda. Need to develop clear specs for repair and maintenance.
- Mark A moves to get with the developers to remove the bench/observation area on Alden Nash. Salvage the bench. Amanda R supported. Passed. Mark A will contact them.

Old Business

- LARA Resolution 2024-01 signed, allowing Chairperson to approve bills for payment when there is no meeting that month.

Rail Trail Connection/Update

Dave Austin / W-W Update:

- Perry and Dave met with the Regans recently to discuss the proposed easement needed to avoid the addition of boardwalk south of the new pedestrian bridge. Once we have direction from them, we can proceed with either (a) moving the trail onto their property or (b) designing more boardwalk. Then we can finalize the EGLE permit.
- Subsequent to the above, Perry and Dave met again with the Regans. They are not in favor of either alternative. Dave A informed EGLE of this conflict and requested approval for the easement to remain given the due diligence taken by Perry and Dave.
- Dave A attended a Zoom meeting a couple weeks ago with Ben Swayze from Kent County Recreation Department who attended the meeting last month. The purpose of the meeting was for Dave to update his engineer on our project and to have preliminary discussions about how their plans may assist in the efforts to finish the trail (Phase 2). They are still in the preliminary stages, which current emphasis being on completing trails from Grand Rapids to Ada. However, the planning for future extensions to Lowell and beyond is underway. We agreed to

stay in touch so that efforts can be coordinated. Some funding from Kent County may be available for Phase 2.

Adjourned at 7:31 pm via motion by Mark A and supported by Sherry R. Passed.

Next scheduled meeting is May 8, 2024