

Lowell Area Recreational Authority
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021

Board Members Present: Mork, Davidson, Rogers, Yankovich, Garrison
Others present: Tom Gossiaux, Mark Fritsma, Janalee Grischke

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Motion to approve agenda as presented by Garrison, second by Mork. Motion carried.

August 11, 2021 meeting minutes – approval at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: There are 2 bills to pay. Mailbox rental \$238 and Constant Contact \$216.17; payable to Betsy Davidson. Mutt Mitts \$264.93 and \$27.91 trash bags to Amanda Rogers.

Check was received for \$250,000 from Lowell Area Community Foundation. Janine will deposit in bank. This is not shown on profit/loss statement this month. A motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Yankovich, second by Garrison. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Mark Fritsma – General cleanup on their trail. Their meeting is October 14 at 6pm if anyone is interested at the Belding depot. Benches are going up about every mile. All sponsorships are spoken for right now. Parking - no complaints from anyone at township. Is there anything online saying this is best place to park? Cliff thought it was a good idea to put on LARA website or other trail site. Parking at end of Downes would be great. Amanda indicated there are a couple property owners there that could be talked to about donating a section for parking.

Janine questioned where to direct callers about North Country Trail. Amanda said there is a National Park Service office upstairs at Big Boiler Brewery. They have all types of trail info and flyers there. Good information to know.

There was a meeting October 7 regarding funding of up to \$75 million. Lowell is included in the request. Phase 1 is expected to be complete by end of December. This includes designs and proposed funds. Currently focusing on riversides, water trails and non-motorized trails. Mark Anderson is working with someone from the fairgrounds. The Grand River Restoration is in line for funding. The possibilities are huge, Betsy will email information to the Board. LARA can do a letter of support. Funding will come from businesses as well. National money will be coming to the state.

Janalee - Mark Anderson called her about fundraising. There are a lot of schools for gifted and talented. Nothing for disabled students. Why not do something at KC Fairgrounds as a school. There were several deans from GVSU and the idea was well received. GV does not have a clinic. It could be a school or a learning hub for field trips.

Maybe have schools try it to see how it goes. Have 4H kids investigate how equine therapy is good for kids. Swiss Lane did a couple camps for special needs per Amanda.

New Business

Cliff has idea for fundraising for trail maintenance. See page Cliff handed out.

Paypal is going on website to make it easier to donate.

LARA will have link from Chamber page.

Janalee - How about pub crawl to raise money? Adults would love it. She will come up with plan and bring to next meeting. Needs more detail before moving forward.

Recognize donors with plaque showing names. "This year's sponsors are:..." Put in a prominent place where trail users will see it. Change it out every year.

Cannot guarantee additional plowing in winter yet. There are other fixes needed first. Could have different areas money will go to. Pick snow plow, general maint, etc... Safe routes to school – can they help with plowing/maint? Schools since it is safe route?

If funding is confirmed, do big announcement. Can send via e-blast, paper, etc... Currently have \$8000 but need to reseal entire trail. Break it down for plowing and Cliff will use for maintenance push. Cliff will do press release.

Rail Trail Connection Progress and Updates

Lowell City pulled grant and will resubmit (300K). LARA pulled and will resubmit also (300K) There will be 3 phases. State is willing to work with us. The project is moving forward. Mark and Dave are working on it continuously.

Pavillion – Rotary is working 10/14. Dave Austin is going, Zach brought dumpster last time. If you are available, please join them.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Cliff, seconded by Amanda at 7:12 pm. Motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting is November 10, 2021