

LARA Board Meeting, October 10, 2018 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance-Rich Conrad, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Greg Canfield, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Dave Austin

Minutes-September minutes supported by Davidson, 2nd by Canfield

Treasurer's Report-No payments this month. Davidson is working on the annual audit. Treasurer's Report supported by Canfield, 2nd by Goff

Public Comments: None

Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21: The silt sacks by the culverts are ready to be removed, then the final payment can be made to Ryan Excavating.

Phase 2-Rail Trail Connection: Dave Austin reviewed the status of various grant applications and other issues concerning the Phase 2 project:

1. The MDOT "TAP" grant request of \$3,100,000 should be decided upon around October 24, 2018. The actual amount granted is unknown.
2. The DNR "RTP" grant request of \$300,000 is expected by October 31, 2018. Since the MDOT grant request is not determined until October 28, the DNR is extending the date for matching fund letters of intent to October 31, 2018.
3. The DNR Trust Fund grant of \$600,000 for LARA and the city of Lowell has been submitted. The following items are being addressed to improve the scoring for this grant:

***Recycled Content: LARA will add trash receptacles made from recycled wood.

***Universal Access: Trail benches will have arms and backs. The bench pads will include a 4 foot by 4 foot "companion space" next to the benches for strollers or wheelchairs.

***Right of Way Commitments: Various right of way letters of intent have now been completed with the exception of a railroad crossing and the property of one citizen. The railroad crossing requires an extensive application process and will take an unknown length of time. LARA is hopeful that the DNR will be lenient on these particular right of way issues.

***The DNR has asked for a Maintenance Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is to be agreed upon by LARA, the city of Lowell, and Lowell Area Schools. There was a motion for LARA to adopt the MOU. This motion was supported by Canfield, 2nd by Conrad. The motion passed 6-0 with one absence.

Adjourn: 6:50 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary