

LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY

October 14, 2020

6pm Lowell City Hall

Board Members present: Perry Beachum, Janine Mork, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson, Amanda Rogers.

Not present: Greg Canfield, Laura Garrison

Also present: Thomas Gossiaux, (At-Large/Lowell Twp) Dave Austin (Williams & Works)

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

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

Treasurer's Report – There were two checks to approve. Williams and Works for \$3966.75 and \$1795.20. for Phase 2 work; Addorio Technologies for \$228.68 for domain name and Constant Contact. There was a motion by Anderson to approve the payments as presented, seconded by Mork. Motion carried.

Betsy would like to combine the savings/checking accounts at Mercantile into just checking. The signers on the account also need to be updated since Heather is no longer on the Board. Add Janine as a signer for checks. Janine will get the paperwork started since she goes into Mercantile weekly for other things.

Anderson motioned to approve adding Janine Mork as signer and combining accounts, Davidson supports. Motions carried.

Public Comment – Dave Austin Thanks to Amanda (and Bob) for getting trash cans moved. The unit on south side of Alden Nash was taken to Foreman Street.

New Business

Janalee Grischke – Equestrian/Pedestrian Trail. She is part of a group of horse people that are interested in developing equestrian trails in the Lowell area. They can't ride on roads anymore, too developed, too much traffic. In different areas where she has lived, horses, riders, bikers, all share the same paths. A trail guy from Ada Township wants to continue the path on Bailey down to the Railroad trail. There were a couple other options to join into. Would LARA be interested in working with them to make the trails a reality.

Perry – our current focus is the trail through Lowell out to where it joins the Saranac trail. We are \$500K to \$800K short of funds to get it done. We do not want to start asking for money for another trail before this one is done and jeopardize the funding. In the future, as we pursue new areas, we can consider adding adjacent trails for horses. However, any new trails are about 2-3 years out.

Austin – Dealing with County is first step. Get right of way and landowner permissions to be there. Grants are specific to projects. The Township and City would be competing for same funds.

Anderson – Grand River south connects to Ada Trails. Vergennes to Foreman is the next phase. We encourage her to come to the LARA meetings regularly and stay in the loop. Bring a map or layout to the next meeting so we can see what she is thinking. She will definitely do that and will come to the meetings.

Old Business

Bench and platform on Alden Nash
Dave and Mark will look at it in November.

Rail Trail Connection Progress and Updates

Dave Austin –

MDNR Grants – did not have funding and Right of way finalized. Should have everything ready for the next application period.

MDOT – need to modify since the route was changed.

South Jackson to Montcalm. We will do it if they pay for it 100%. It is not in our jurisdiction. \$250,000. Rail will be removed. Close in 5-6 months.

Requested extension- fiscal year running out. Waiting to hear back.

Easements:

Railroad letter needed by October 1. Called Dave Austin. They were bought out by another company. Close to deal with DNR. Until done, cannot write the letter. Roger Storm – DNR contact.

Right of Way – Grand Rapids Gravel made formal application to develop. Site plan shows our trail. It is suggested we meet with engineer and know where we are. Finalize easement/preliminary design. Dave will reach out to them and set something up.

Fundraising:

Wege Application – submitted. November 18 is when we expect to hear from them.

Anderson is working with Meijer. They are interested.

Betty Yeiter – we will still get \$50,000.

Bert Bleke – he has some connections. Wait to hear from him.

The funding is there now.

Need signs up at Grand Rapids Gravel and on the Reagan Property.

McCaul and Reedy – if we could get easements it would be perfect. It is not likely though.

Fundraising efforts have not let up at all.

Spring application timeframe will be perfect. The DNR date is April 1. Will need another public hearing. If not ready then, apply again October 1.

Hudson Street Bridge – under our control. It is a long process. The County pays for it but uses part of our funding. They will repair the Hudson Street Bridge and add a protected lane for the trail 14' wide.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 by a motion by Anderson, seconded by Mork. Motion carried.

Next meeting is November 11, 2010 at 6pm.