



**Board Meeting, August 13, 2008 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present:

LARA Board Members, Mari Stone, Perry Beachum, Linda Regan, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen and Betsy Davidson.

Guests; Jim Hall, Mark Fritsma, Dave Pasquale.

Meeting Minutes

July meeting minutes approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Checking balance \$51,410.75. \$113,129.84 in Money Market Account. (LCF Grant deposited \$50,000 in checking, \$100,000 in Money Market). Report approved.

Old Business

TREAD Fund Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Betsy) – Campaign brochure printed and distributed. Letters being sent this week to potential donors.

Dan met with Steelcase Foundation to answer questions on grant application. Need information on MDNR and MDOT Enhancement grant applications. Assume need preliminary engineering and easements to submit applications.

Al explained process for requesting proposals for engineering/design for development of trail plans and grant applications. Combination of qualifications and price for services. Need to define scope of services, including information on trail segments to be designed, special features anticipated (retaining walls, structures), phases, assistance with grant application, and schedule requirements. Set goal to meet MDNR application deadline April 1, 2009. Al will prepare draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to be considered by board. Limits of project need to be defined, including sections on High School property and beginning point (Gee Drive or Cherry Creek). Section within Alden Nash West can be deleted from design.

Betsy working on applications to Frey Foundation, Look Fund and Wege Foundation.

New Business

Alden Nash West – Steve Hansen waiting for LARA approval to develop landscaping plan adjacent to trail. Motion to approve \$500 for landscaping plan. Cost of plan to be deducted from cost of landscaping materials.

Perry presented check for \$172 that was raised for LARA at Riverwalk Festival with Bill and Paul's kayak rides.

Easements

Foreman Road

Perry and Theresa have been trying to contact Jon Gratz daughter to set up meeting to discuss easement. Have talked to John and he is agreeing to meet, but need's daughter to attend. Perry will draft letter suggesting LARA will offer compensation for easement, based on market value of land or potential rental earnings for 20 years. Letter to included deadline for response, otherwise LARA will proceed with trail within Right of Way.

Lowell Area Schools

No paving being done at football parking lot.

Alden Nash West

See New Business.

Wege property

LARA needs to provide draft easement for review by Pete Gustofson, on behalf of Peter Wege.

Donation of land dependent on YMCA. Feasibility study for YMCA due to be complete by March 2009.

Other

Meeting ended @ 7:00.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at our next board meeting on **Wednesday September 10, 2008 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Al Halbeisen, P.E.
2120 Parnell Ave SE
Ada, MI 49301

616-897-0074, hhengltdgr @ aol.com

For more information refer to the website

www.lowellareatrailway.org

Commonly used acronyms;

Friends of Lowell Area Trails (FLAT)

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Lowell Community Fund (LCF)

Lowell Area Schools (LAS)

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Trail Resources Enrichment and Development (TREAD)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)