



**Board Meeting, October 8, 2008 @ 5:30 pm
Lowell Township Hall**

Present:

LARA Board Members, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, Linda Regan, Dan Edwards, Betsy Davidson and Al Halbeisen. Guest; Jim Hall.

Meeting Minutes

August minutes were not reviewed.

LARA Treasurers Report

Checking balance \$49,938.01. \$114,851.84 in Money Market Account. Report approved.

Old Business

TREAD Fund Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Betsy) – Pledges are nearly 1/3 of goal of \$750,000. Plan is to announce campaign when pledges reach \$500,000. Next meeting is October 16.

Steelcase Foundation needs to see campaign reach 80% of goal (need clarification if 80% of total project or of contributions). Also, working on applications to Frey Foundation and Attwood.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) received notice of Grant from MDOT for Gee Drive Trail. Grant approved for section from Alden Nash to Creekside Park.

Al prepared Request for Proposal (RFP) for Design Services to be considered by board.

Tentative schedule for RFP; October, send RFP to design firms
November 12, LARA receive and review proposals
December 10, LARA votes to select Design firm

Betsy had questions on how to include donations of labor and/or materials into trail construction. Al responded that a design and construction documents are needed to have consistent and manageable construction and that the funding agencies will have requirements (wage rates and material testing) that would make it hard to separate the project into many small pieces. Al stressed that to meet funding deadlines it is necessary to have a design firm further develop the phase 1 plans and cost estimates. The RFP is separated into preliminary and final tasks, each requiring authorization by the LARA to proceed. The goal of the preliminary phase is to be ready by April 1, 2009 to apply for MDNR Funds.

Board passed motion to approve sending the RFP to design firms.

New Business

Betsy reports that Matt Garrison is interested in helping with construction management for portions of trail. Al suggested that the boardwalk along Alden Nash could be used as a volunteer project (revive the LIVE) separate from the trail construction and that someone of Matt's experience would be needed to manage that project.

Easements

Foreman Road

Perry, Theresa and Al met with John Gratz's daughter to discuss easement options. She will discuss with farmer who rents the land to see if he thinks trail would impact his operation.

Lowell Area Schools

No action.

Alden Nash West

No action.

Wege property

Waiting for response from Pete Gustofson on draft easement presented September 28.
(Received e-mail October 9 with questions on exhibit).

Other

Meeting ended @ 6:__. (Al had to leave at 6:20)

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 November 12, 2008 at 6:00 pm, Lowell City 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;

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF)

Lowell Community Fund (LCF)

Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE 5)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Trail Resources Enrichment and Development (TREAD)

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)