



Board Meeting, April 13, 2011 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Chamber Offices

Present:

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Linda Regan, Gary Goff, Betsy Davidson, Mari Stone and Perry Beachum. Guests; Dave Austin. and Larry Mikulski, representing the school district.

Approval of Minutes – February and March 2011 minutes were presented for approval.

Treasurer's Report - There was none.

Old Business:

- **Bids** were received April 1, and K&R Construction of Kentwood was the lowest bidder, at \$756,178.60, which is 19% below the estimated cost. Austin noted that we will not get the difference. He is meeting with the DNR on 4/22 in Lansing to appraise the new grant administrators.
- **Grant Applications:**
 - o Lowell Cable TV Fund, Due April 15 – Discussed application for a Master Plan update - Motion by Beachum, seconded by Goff, motion carried.
 - o Lowell Community Fund, Due April 15 – Discussed applying for items not covered by MDOT and MDNR grants, and for unrecoverable pledges to Capitol Campaign – Motion by Beachum, seconded by Regan, motion carried.
- Exhibit for Phase 2 connections to Ionia-Greenville Rail Trails
 - o Middle School/Bushnell/tennis court location, potential north trailhead site – Greg Pratt could not attend, and sent Larry Mikulski. He shared that the tennis courts had received maintenance within the last few years, and there is currently no funds in their budget for anything further. Other options to use the site were discussed. There is room behind the courts for restroom/pavilion and parking issues would be minor. Asked about how the practice field is used between Middle School and Bushnell. The use is very casual, and a trail would not be in the way.
 - o Trailhead/Rotary Club pavilion. Halbeisen and Mark Howe (FRVT/GRVT) had presented the plans to Rotary earlier that day. The Rotary is planning to donate from proceeds of their April 29th auction.

New Business:

- July 19th, Michigander Bike Tour staying overnight in Lowell
- Coordination of master plans for West Michigan Trails (contacted by Dave Heyboer, have not heard back)
- High School, Senior Service Project, Friday May 20th - has not been confirmed.

Beachum shared a tri-fold brochure idea he saw that lists trail activities – suggested we look into this to promote the trail.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at the next Board Meeting.

Mari Stone

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
LARA Secretary

For more information refer to the website
www.lowellareatrailway.org

Commonly used acronyms;

Kent County Road Commission (KCRC)
Landscape Architects & Planners (LAP)
Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)
Lowell Area Schools (LAS)
Lowell Community Fund (LCF)
Lowell Education Foundation (LEF)
Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE 5)
Lowell Light & Power (LLP)
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)
North Country Trail Association (NCTA)
Trail Resources Enrichment and Development (TREAD)
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Safe Routes to School (SR2S)
Flat River/Grand River Valley Trails – (FRVT/GRVT)