



Board Meeting, April 13, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Gary Goff. Jeff Phillips, Alan Teelander, and Jeff Althoff attended to represent the City Council. Guests: Andrea Ketchmark and Mike McKendrick with NCTA and Dave Austin.

1. Minutes – March minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Beachum, second by Davidson. Motion carried. It was noted that there will be various locations for the summer meetings.

2. Treasurer's Report –Davidson gave a Treasurer's report – Beachum motioned to approve the following invoices to be paid – \$30 to Lowell Women's Club. Goff seconded, and the motion carried.

Davidson explained the new Profit/Loss Report configuration. She showed the 40K move from operations to the Phase 1A project as approved in March. The new format also showed the 7K reimbursement from the DNR.

3. Public Comment – Alan Teelander suggested we look into using QR codes for wayfinding purposes on our signage.

4. NCTA – Trail Town Assessment - Andrea Ketchmark explained the project and updated the board on some of the NCTA activities. Beachum motioned to support the efforts to get Lowell designated an official "Trail Town" and to have LARA participate in an official capacity. Davidson supported, and the motion carried. Beachum and Goff volunteered to represent LARA.

5. Phase 1A – Gee Dr. to M-21 – Beachum motioned to accept bid proposals for Phase 1A design services. Goff supported, and the motion carried. Stone motioned to apply to the LACF in the amount of 100K for Phase 1A construction. Beachum supported, and the motion carried.

This leaves approximately 40K for current projects. Beachum motioned to designate \$40,000 to Phase 1A, connection to Lowell Township Riverside Park North. Motion carried.

Phase 2 – Goff reported on the March meeting he had attended. They are still hopeful for construction in 2017, although 2018 is more likely. Everything is ready to submit when things open up. A Memorandum of Understanding is needed from the City of Lowell in order for the city to perform the fiduciary role, and also to formally approve of the B/C route.

The Lowell Little League property adjacent to the Cooper Woodlands has given permission to use the two-track/footpath that enters off of Foreman to allow public access to the woodlands. A pedestrian gate will be installed, and a local landscaper has committed to keep the footpath open and mowed regularly. An assessment of the woods will be done prior to public use.

Summer meeting locations:

June 8, Wege Boardwalk – July 13, the new Lowell Township park – August 10, Rotary Pavilion

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Mari Stone

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
LARA Secretary

Commonly used acronyms;

Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails – (FMRVRT)
Kent County Road Commission (KCRC)
Lowell Area Schools (LAS)
Lowell Education Foundation (LEF)
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
North Country Trail Association (NCTA)
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)

Greenville to Owosso – (GO)
Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)
Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF)
Lowell Light & Power (LLP)
Lowell Cable TV Fund (LCTV)
Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)
Safe Routes to School (SR2S)
Trail Resources Enrichment and Development
(TREAD)

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