



Board Meeting, December 12, 2012 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Mari Stone, Gary Goff, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Linda Regan. Guests; Mark Fritsma, GM Ross.

Minutes - November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Approved payment for Scholten Landscaping in the amount of \$350 for seasonal plowing of trail in front of Metric Manufacturing. Received \$2300 from Frey Foundation for the Phase II connection project.

Public Comment – GM Ross spoke on behalf of the WWC. Megan Johnson had asked him to help create a “mission statement” for the center, and he was present to share it with LARA.

Purposes of the WWC:

- 1.) Provide a place in the community for physical activity – walk, run, snow shoe, X-country
- 2.) A place to promote creativity in the community – host sculpture, gardens, etc.
- 3.) Hold activities that assist to protect the center for future use

To those ends, they are renting snow shoes this winter, holding a Christmas Tree recycling event in January, and participating in the Kent County Christmas bird count. Mr. Ross stated that he believes this is a most valuable resource to the entire Lowell Community, and he wanted LARA to know of the common goals shared by the two organizations. The LARA board agreed with his observations, and assured him we will keep WWC in mind for future activities.

Discussion/Agenda Items:

The Ridgeway Drive connection to Gee Dr. will likely be funded by the City of Lowell's CDBG funds. Cahoon Driveway issue was corrected by the city DPW – they were thanked with a pizza lunch.

Community Signage and Wayfinding Committee – Goff, Schrauben and Austin attended the meeting. It was noted that our general concept for signage is good, and will not conflict with the community standards. Our signage is scheduled to be installed by April 15.

Pavillion Site Plan – Rotary approved \$13,701 from their last auction project for the pavilion. The maintenance plan/agreement needs to be submitted to LAS – it was agreed that the Friends Group will maintain the area. A landscape designer needs to be retained for this project. Total cost looks to be 26K to 39K, depending on labor costs.

Davidson summarized the brick project status. Motion to purchase a pallet of bricks by Beachum, seconded by Stone. Motion carried.

Stone motioned to hold 2013 meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, Beachum seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. 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

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 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)
Fred Meijer River Valley Trails – (FMRVT)
Greenville to Owosso – (GO)

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