



**Board Meeting, February 11, 2009 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present:

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

Guests; Dave Austin, Williams & Works, Dave Pasquale, City of Lowell

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of January meeting approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and approved. In regard to the invoice from LAP that was paid, there was \$540.96 over and above the grant that needs funding from another source. Stone motioned to cover the amount through the Capital Campaign Fundraising Expenses budget, as LAP did work on the development of the campaign brochure. Edwards seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Expo Planning – Date is Saturday, March 28th. Dave Austin is developing a large map depicting the four different trail efforts in the community; WMTGC/Rail to Trail, NCTA, SR2S and LARA will all have a presence. Dave is also bringing an 8 X 10 lighted backdrop and a video. We will need AV equipment. Stone will develop a schedule and solicit volunteers to staff our booth. Set up will take place on Friday the 27th at 4 pm.

Campaign Cabinet Report – Betsy reported that the cabinet has been working on the public launch of the campaign at Expo. Several dignitaries will be present for this event which will take place at 11 am on the main stage.

Design Services Update – Dave Austin told the board about his activities to date. He handed out a draft of the rec plan being developed for use in the grant applications. He also presented a draft of a composite map of all planned trails in the community. The Public Input meeting on March 11 will be the first place this map will be useful. He told the Board that if we are comfortable after that meeting with adopting the plan, we can do so. Otherwise, March 25 was set as a Special Meeting date in order to allow any needed changes to be made to the plan, and members were asked to pencil that date in their calendars.

New Business –

Wittenbach Wege Center – Conservation Expo Participation Invite – Stone was asked if LARA would like a presence at this event, and if we would like to host a hike that day. After discussion, it was decided that we will have a presence, but will not host an activity.

Standing Committee Reports –

Halbeisen and Davidson had met with property owner Berdie Cook regarding using the existing sewer easement on her property to access a route behind the Cooper Woodland Preserve. She was interested in discussing it more, and will contact her children for their input.

We are getting close to wrapping up the Wege property easement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at our joint Public Meeting and Board Meeting on **Wednesday March 11, 2009 at 6 pm, Lowell Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
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For more information refer to the website
www.lowellareatrailway.org

Commonly used acronyms;

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)