



**Board Meeting, January 8, 2014 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance** - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Jim Hall, Gary Goff, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson and Perry Beachum. Guests: Greg Pratt and Mark Fritsma

**Minutes** – December minutes will be approved at the February meeting

**Treasurer's Report** – Davidson gave Treasurer's report – Reimbursement has been received from the MDNR. Bills to be paid: \$100 to Pinnacle Insurance for adding the pavilion; \$200 to W&W for additional Phase I and \$55 to W&W for Phase II. Motion by Stone, second by Halbeisen, motion carried.

**Public Comment** –Representing LAS, Greg Pratt thanked the Board for the nice work on the pavilion project. He said it enhances the whole Cherry Creek Elementary site and everyone really is happy with it.

**2014 meeting schedule** – Stone motioned to accept the schedule as presented, Davidson seconded, and the motion carried.

**Pavilion Project** – Final trail map, interpretive signs and engraving for donors – targeted for spring completions.

**Phase 1** – Again, some minor details to wrap up in spring.

**Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT** – A meeting with MDEQ has been held regarding the potential Grand River crossing. Report not out yet.

**Other Business** –

1. Bio-digester pipeline/easement – city will coordinate with schools for easements and LARA can piggyback on those.
2. DDA Streetscape planning sessions are still in process. LARA will have a role when the rail trail route is finalized.
3. Maintenance Agreements – mowing, trail repair, snow removal issues discussed. Pros and cons of snow removal – not sure how to handle the cost at this time, We must spend a couple hundred dollars per year to remove brush along the trail, which is necessary for maintenance of the surface. A Friends Group needs to step up for these needs, and Stone will contact several persons of interest to form the leadership, and see if they can't get a group up and running this spring.
4. The Board reviewed the LARA Agreement for potential amendments. It was noted that a five year review is required and we are overdue for that. The following is a summary of items needing to be addressed:

- Pg 4.) Alternate members are not being utilized at current time. Potential amendment could expand this role to a “resident” approved by the governing body.
- Term of Office – It was the opinion of the Board that the Constituent Units should have complete control of representative members and their terms. This section needs amending.
- Pg.5.) Annual Organizational Meeting – This has been an informal process that the board has generally accomplished in January of each year. If it needs to be formalized, it was thought that this meeting should be held in November or December to reflect new terms of constituent units, allow for annual vote of officers, and set meeting dates for publication by early January.
- The paragraph regarding financial signatory authorizations needs amending to remove the Treasurer from this role. (Verify the necessity of Bonding these members. May be included in our liability policy)
- Agreement requires quarterly meetings (Section I.) – does this need amending?
- Pg 8.) Fiscal Year – States July 1 to June 30. Amendment?
- Pg.12) Annual Operation and Maintenance Contributions – needs re-wording to reflect a new amount, or other words to the effect that the annual contribution be adjusted with prior approval of constituent units.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 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](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)