



Board Meeting, July 10, 2013 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Mari Stone, Gary Goff, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson and Perry Beachum. Dave Austin, Mark Howe, Jim Hall and Mark Fritzema were also present.

Minutes – June minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Davidson gave Treasurer's report – the following checks were approved with a motion by Stone/Goff: \$210 for PO Box; \$1127 to Pinnacle Insurance; \$100 for Pink Arrow banner; \$3357.64 to W&W for final Phase I payment and \$1218.63 for Phase II.

The final audit of Phase I is due in July – should be getting approx.. 70K total reimbursement. Discussion in near future on how to designate these funds.

Public Comment – City Councilman Jim Hall commented on the FMRVRT article in MLive. Mark Fritzema gave an update on several area trail activities. He noted the Michigan bike tour will kick off on July 12. City Manager Mark Howe spoke about the amphitheater construction due to start July 15, and also that the trail extension on Ridgeview from Tractor Supply to Gee Dr. will also start in July. This project will be funded by CDBG funds from the city's allocation.

Discussion/Agenda Items:

Trail Mowing - Zach Beachum mowed on July 9 for \$100 first time and will charge \$75-85 on follow-up trips through the growing season.

Volunteer Cleanup Day – Goff has organized this event for July 31 in the evening. He noted there is pruning needed, gravel/debris to be swept. Discussion on the use of brush kill keep saplings from growing in the shoulder.

DDA Planning Sessions – Howe asked for a LARA representative to attend these sessions that will develop a streetscape plan for the downtown area.

Phase 1 – Way finding signs have been installed, green dots at HS are done. The DNR sign needs a temporary installation. Parking signs, dog waste bag dispenser units will be installed over the next week. Discussed a bike rack at WWC, and a sign noting that bikes are not allowed on the nature trails there. Two more trash receptacles are also needed.

Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT – Draft report was distributed and discussed by Austin. Priorities are 1.) make the connections; 2.) make them conducive to users; 3.) make them conducive to the needs of the community.

Pavilion Project –The Terre Verde bid was the only one submitted. It includes the entire project except the brick pavers and labor for plantings. Motion by Beachum, seconded by Goff, to proceed with the Terre Verde proposal, not to exceed the bid amount of \$35,467.57. The Board discussed roof colors, and concluded that red was the most unifying choice for the community.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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