



**Board Meeting, March 15, 2012 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Linda Regan, Mari Stone, Gary Goff, Perry Beachum. Guests; Dave Austin, Mark Fritsma.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report - none

Pavilion/Brick Installations, Amenities Package – Austin showed samples of trash cans, benches, etc. There is 10K for benches/trash cans, 15K for signage, and 10K for landscaping and misc. contingencies such as bollards in the budget. Beachum suggested we could easily make the trash receptacles ourselves with volunteer efforts.

The draft plan for the pavilion is not complete. Larry Mikulski has suggested that a report be given to the LAS Board as soon as it is.

Phase I Extension – Discussed possible routes. Need to keep in mind that Dykema is developing the Qua-ke-sik property and will have a road cut on the west side of Alden Nash near Gee for access on the east side of the property. On another topic, there is much informal use of the foot path on the city easement at the end of Valley View to Gee Dr. We may want to formalize this in the future.

Phase II, Connections to Ionia-Greenville Rail Trails – Each of the 5 identified sections of the route have their own pros and cons. Challenges are: crossings at the Flat River, Hudson, Main, and the Grand River. On the pro side, it was felt that using routes along the river would provide the best trail experience, and would best “show off” the town as well. Some questions: How will riders use a route versus pedestrians; how will a route affect businesses, and; how will it affect residents. Austin will develop the map to depict the challenges for a display at Expo, and will collect ideas from booth visitors. Financially, there will be 1.5 M from the GO system budget for the initial work.

Williams & Works proposal for Phase II Connection Study – Schrauben made a motion to approve Williams & Works to conduct the study as summarized in their August 25, 2011 proposal, Stone seconded, and the **motion carried**. Austin commented that conducting a work session may be a good way to determine details of the 5 segments needed to get from Foreman to the Montcalm County line.

Other Business:

Woodland Preserve Easement - Stone is still working with the Wege Foundation to get the needed easement to the Cooper Woodland Preserve recorded.

Expo – Davidson had e-mailed a volunteer schedule for the March 24th event, and had received good responses. Stone will bring signup sheets for the Friends group, and Austin is bringing maps and crayons for Phase II connection suggestions.

Trail Rules – The samples were discussed. Comments included a general desire to keep the rules more informal, with signage used to indicate no horses and the need to clean up after pets. Another suggestion was to have a sign that outlines “Trail Etiquette”, such as passing and keeping to a reasonable speed. It was suggested that a complete list be developed to post on web sites.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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

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

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)