



**Board Meeting, March 9, 2016 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance** - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Mark Anderson. Jeff Phillips and Jeff Althoff attended to represent the City Council. Guests: Dave Austin, and Jeff Dickerman, new owner of Optec, Inc.

**Minutes** – February minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Davidson, second by Anderson. Motion carried. It was noted that there will be various locations for the summer meetings.

**Treasurer’s Report** –Davidson gave a Treasurer’s report – Beachum motioned to approve the following invoices to be paid – BHTD in the amount of \$1,755 for the annual audit. Anderson seconded, and the motion carried. Discussion items - The 7K refund from the DNR for Phase 1 should be received this month. Davidson had reached out to RVCU Lowell Branch and learned they do not have relationships with non-profit organizations. Will stay with Mercantile Bank for now.

**Public Comment** – Beachum gave an overview of our history to the guest members of the City Council. Austin noted that the fix is in process for the Alden Nash section of Boardwalk repair.

**Phase 1A** – Funding for the connection along Alden Nash to the new Lowell Township North Riverfront park was again discussed. Existing trail maintenance costs were estimated at 15K to 20K over the next few years. It was determined that we should keep 24K in a long term maintenance fund, and should plan to add about 4K annually. It was noted that an annual funding plan should be revisited for further consideration before adoption of next year’s budget.

This leaves approximately 40K for current projects. Beachum motioned to designate \$40,000 to Phase 1A, connection to Lowell Township Riverside Park North. Motion carried.

**Phase 2** – Lowell connection of the FRVRT/GVRT – funding is on hold. The State has prioritized the Iron Belt Trail this year, but we still need to submit requests in order to get in line for 2018 funding. We have designated the B/C option as our preferred route. As named fiduciary, the City Council needs to formally approve. Our job is to impress on the council that this is a great opportunity for economic growth, giving Lowell “destination status.”

A community trail cleanup day will be scheduled for May. Davidson and Stone will assess needs and Anderson volunteered to bring sweeping equipment if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)