



Board Meeting, May 12, 2010 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Chamber Offices

Present:

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Linda Regan, Andrew Schrauben Gary Goff and Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of April 14 meeting were approved with several additions.

LARA Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and accepted – Davidson noted that the major funder checks are coming in; Steelcase, Frey, LACT. She is using a software program called Giftworks to track all funders/pledges.

Old Business:

Appointment of Member-at-Large - After it was verified that all three jurisdictions have given their approval, Stone motioned to appoint Gary Goff as the Community Representative At-Large. Davidson seconded, and the motion carried.

MDNR Grant – Davidson and Austin attended a presentation on May 6th with several other communities who have received funding this year. Austin reviewed the Development Project Agreement and Resolution which we will be asked to approve and sign by July 1st. There were several questions and a lengthy discussion was held. The following points need clarification:

Item 7(a) – This item calls for a specific local match of \$618,000 that is equal to approximately 61% of the current total project estimate of \$1,016,000. We are assuming that if the project costs are less, the MDNR share will be 39% of the lesser amount and that the local match would be reduced to 61% of the lesser amount as well. In other words, we want to confirm that we will not be required to provide \$618,000 in match if the project costs are less than the \$1,016,000 current estimate.

Item 20 – The first sentence is a bit confusing as the State of Michigan will have to issue permits to the Grantee, as the State is the permitting agency for floodplains, etc. We are hoping what is meant by this item is that the State of Michigan (MDNRE) will not be responsible for obtaining the necessary permits and that all permits will be applied for and obtained by the Grantee (but issued by the State of Michigan)? IS that correct?

Item No. 32 – Can you please provide a link to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth register referred to in this item? We are not sure which list this is. This is a pretty scary clause given that the Grantee does not have control over sub-contractors, manufacturers or suppliers.

MDOT Involvement – There are several paragraphs in the agreement that speak to specific actions to take for reviews, approvals and bidding that are in conflict with the MDOT process. We will be contacting you soon to set up a time to meet in Lansing to go over specifics on how coordination with MDOT will work, but does the agreement need to be modified to reflect these issues? In other words, the Grantee will not be able to comply with some of the requirements due to the MDOT process.

General – Have other applicants questioned these items in the past? Are changes ever made to the agreement before signature (without a major upheaval in the approval process?)

Motion to adopt the resolution and authorize Halbeisen to sign the agreement, pending resolutions to questions on the agreement, by Davidson, seconded by Regan. Motion carried.

Phase I in Review - Austin reviewed the Phase I plans and costs to date.

Lowell Schools Easements – Easements still to be formalized with HS & CC properties.

Alden Nash West Easement – Halbeisen and Austin will be meeting with Hansen to finalize the agreement.

New Business:

Trail Booth at Riverwalk -

Formal Groundbreaking Ceremony -

Meeting adjourned at

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at the next Board Meeting.

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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 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)