



**Board Meeting, May 8 , 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, excused.

Minutes – April minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – A proposal from Josh Grimm for \$876.38 to install benches in concrete was approved for payment.

Davidson also reported that she and Austin are finalizing Phase 1 funds in preparation for the final project reports. Mutt mitts have been ordered. Sign foundations have been delayed by flood issues.

Public Comment – none

Discussion/Agenda Items:

Pavilion Project – The scope of work without the LCTV grant was discussed. There is \$21,400 available from LACF, and \$13,701 from Rotary. There is a lot we can still accomplish with this amount. Will have a better idea once we have Phase 1 funds finalized. We will dedicate time at the June meeting to discuss.

Kent County Parks and Rec Work Session - Schrauben had attended this meeting representing The City of Lowell. Discussion was focused on cooperative ventures. He was disappointed by some of the negative comments by other groups, but still thought there was potential for collaboration.

Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT – A second work Session was conducted. Dave Austin focused the board on existing conditions, and getting from A (Foreman Road) to B (Ionia County Line).

Existing conditions – In order to get from A to B, we must cross: 1.) Hudson; 2.) Main/M-21; 3.) the Flat River; 4.) the Grand River. There are three signal intersections in town – which are the least dangerous for pedestrian/bike traffic?

Austin showed two routes that exist without building anything. One of them uses Main Street, and the board agreed there is a higher level of comfort using that route because of an already present expectation of pedestrian traffic and slower vehicular speeds. There was also discussion regarding a pedestrian bridge over the Flat which would avoid the vehicle/pedestrian mix. Austin will produce a summary report and we will gather public input later this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 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