

# Lowell Area Recreation Authority

## Meeting Minutes

### February 14, 2018

(LARA)

Present: Perry Beachum, Heather Hoffman, Betsy Davidson, Greg Canfield. Public: Don Renell, Gail Bradley, Ron Gunderson, Dave Austin, Mark & Theresa Mundt

Call to order at 6:10pm

Moved by Greg Canfield Seconded by Betsy Davidson to excuse absences for Mark Anderson and Gary Goff.

Motion by Heather Hoffman Seconded by Greg Canfield to approve agenda.

Motion by Greg Canfield Seconded by Betsy Davidson to approve the minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Motion by Heather Hoffman Seconded by Betsy Davidson to approve the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Motion by Greg Canfield Seconded by Heather Hoffman to approve 17-18 budget amendment.

Treasurer's report – Approved for \$150,000 from LACF and \$25k grant submitted to LCTV Fund. Waiting for response. Motion by Greg Canfield Seconded by Heather Hoffman to approve Treasurer's report.

Public Comments:

Mark & Theresa Mundt – 800 Bowes Rd. They have lived there for over 30 years. They have no interest in the trail coming in front of their house. They do not want the 10' in front of their house to be part of the trail. They want to keep the existing sidewalk. No blacktop. Their stretch of Bowes Road is beautiful in the spring and want to keep their red buds. They recommend crossing the new Lowell Twp bridge and then going down Grand River. There is history on Bowes Road with Lowell Light & Power removing trees and poles lining both sides of the street.

Dave Austin read the letter from Jim Pfaller that was sent to the City. 810 Bowes Road. Will need to attach to the minutes.

Greg Canfield commented that it is not right to force the trail on Bowes Road residents. He did comment that the trail will be healthy for businesses and could see an increase in sales of up to 30%. Perry Beachum commented that we can't condemn property.

Dave Austin reviewed routes for Phase II. Regional trail needs safe routes which entails having a 10' path. Grand Rapids Gravel has reviewed the route and has submitted a route through their property. The City has reviewed the route through City Property and Stoney Lakeside. We would need easements from Mundts & Pfallers and will be working with the other property owners to find out if we need easements from them as well. County is putting in a light at Hudson & Bowes. Reviewed dates and timeline for the grants. Total is \$5.6 million and need to raise over 1 million. Working on letters on intent and need to have commitments by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reviewed going around the back of property owners on Bowes Road. Mundt does not approve of going around the back of their property.

LARA will continue to talk about options for Phase II. Mark, Dave and Betsy will continue to meet every Tuesday.

Ron Gunderson gave an update on the Rail Trail Connection. Looks like there will be blacktop from Foreman to Vergennes.

February 11, 2018

Dear LARA Board,

On February 6, my wife and I met with Betsy Davidson and Mark Anderson to discuss the proposed location of the next stage of the trail system through Lowell. After our discussion we requested to meet with Dave Austin at our home to determine the exact location of the proposed trail that would cross our property on Bowes Road. We met at our home on Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 AM. Also attending were Betsy Davidson, Mark and Theresa Mundt, and Leo Pfaller.

After our meeting and taking measurements, we felt it is only fair to let you know that we have no intention of agreeing to an easement and suggest that you seek another route. The proposed route will cause the need for significant trimming of a 45+ year old Concolor fir tree, moving of several other ornamental trees and plants, encroachment of several feet into our front yard, removal of a sidewalk that we paid to have installed, as well as other concerns. As I told everyone at both meetings, "this trail needs to be a win/win situation, and right now it is a win for the trail system and a loss for us".

Sincerely,



James L. Pfaller  
810 Bowes Road

Cc Lowell City Council

