

Minutes of the regular scheduled meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 5:27 p.m.

Members present: Allison Chiodini, Mark Stansberry, Judy Wagley, John Zang.

Members present virtually: Lisa Diaz Sytsema

Members absent: Stan Shingles, Mike Huenemann

Others present: None

Approval of Agenda

Allison Chiodini made a motion supported by Judy Wagley to approve the agenda.

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

Public input on agenda items

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes from the February 13, 2023 MMARA Board Meeting

Allison Chiodini made a motion supported by Judy Wagley to approve the Meeting Minutes from the February 13, 2023 MMARA Board Meeting.

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

New Business

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided financial update, including: updated monthly budget balance sheet and profit and loss reports dated April 30, 2023, items paid in the previous month, as well as current accounts payable due needing approval. Current payables needing approval include: Intuit Quick Books Fee of \$55.00, Online Bill Pay Fee of \$8.00.

Allison Chiodini made a motion supported Mark Stansberry to approve the processing of April payments on current due invoices listed above.

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

Old Business

COMMITTEE UPDATE – Facility Committee

John Zang provided an update: He met with committee member Jerel Konwinski at the site to discuss previous concerns with postponing Civil Engineering and Environmental Testing Services until after bond vote. Jerel provided background on property that historically it has always been farmland, and was previously part of the same farm acreage as the land on the East side of Isabella Rd. that is now built/developed with businesses on Gover Parkway, and it is all good buildable land with no environmental issues or concerns. He does not see any concern or risk with waiting on Civil Engineering and Environmental Testing services until after bond vote.

John also provided an update on a meeting he had with Union Township and the City of Mt. Pleasant to discuss Sweeny St. MMARA's position on the Sweeny St. connection is that we don't think millage dollars should have to fund the construction of a road. The City of Mt. Pleasant would like to see the road built if that Eastern portion of the parcel is developed. It was discussed and preliminarily determined that if MMARA occupies the West portion of the parcel it will likely be required by the current zoning ordinance to put in the Sweeny Street connection. John stated that Mark Stuhldreher made the recommendation to schedule a follow-up meeting with our Architect/Engineer from Tower Pinkster and Rodney Nanney, Union Township Community and Economic Development Director to review and discuss the pros and cons of the zoning requirement to construct the road.

John noted that the meeting discussion also included utilities and that while the identified parcel is in Union Township, that City water being softened and treated would be more desirable by us for this building as opposed to Township water that is not softened and treated, as that will require us to increase capacity of in-house water softening and treatment equipment. It was also noted that an easement would need to be created for the existing unused storm drain if we use the portion of the parcel where that is located.

COMMITTEE UPDATE – Communication Committee

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update on the progress of this committee, and made note that they have broken up their tasks into phases. Committee member Kayla Slezak has updated the action tracker.

Phase 1: Present – June -- Committee member Kathy Backus is working with her graphic designers to transform the FAQ document into a graphic brochure, and plan to have 1st draft in early June. The URL has been determined/set for the website and the team is working on getting that launched by mid June.

Phase 2: June – August – Reach out to community leaders w/ printed collateral and website.

Phase 3: Sept – Oct – Service Group Presentations

Phase 4: Nov – Feb – Voter outreach within voter district boundary

COMMITTEE UPDATE – Fundraising Committee

John Zang noted that there are no updates yet on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Grant Application. Application was submitted (via. Union Township on behalf of MMARA) by the deadline in March, for a grant request of \$15,000 for campaign funding assistance. We have not yet heard back from SCIT on if our grant application was approved or denied.

Draft letter of receipt/thank you as evidence of donation has been written; Committee member Don Sytsema has draft template to issue to donors.

Mark Stansberry provided an update that the committee is ready to launch their 60 For 60 fundraising campaign and was just waiting on a formal GO that we are good on the site selection. MMARA board members agreed that site is locked in and gave the go ahead to move forward with

fundraising campaign. Committee member and ambassador Jerel Konwinski made the first donation to kick-start the 60 For 60 campaign.

COMMITTEE UPDATE – Finance & Legal Committee

Lisa Diaz Sytsema led discussion on behalf of Stan Shingles, committee leader - No new updates from this committee. There were a few action items identified last meeting that were discussed again, with the below items identified as priority:

1. John Zang noted that we need to request revision of specific language in MPPS school board minutes for waiving the requirement for an annual audit to align with language of request and language issued by City and Township.
2. Letter needed from Attorney that defines our municipal and tax exempt status and that any donations would be tax deductible.
3. Begin drafting MOU for land from MPPS. With needing to HOLD on Civil/Surveying work at this time due to costs, would like to draft MOU to state the option to acquire up to 15 acres, and include contingencies for geotechnical, etc. Work with Facilities Committee to identify contingencies.
4. Question: If bond is approved in March 2024, when will funds be available for us to begin using? John Zang is going to follow up with Mary Ann at the City of Mt. Pleasant on this question.
5. Mark Stuhldreher to get together with Aaron Desentz at City of Mt. Pleasant to get started on setting up the facility authority, in order to have things in place for the bond loan from the bank prior to bond vote in Feb. John Zang to follow up with both Mark and Aaron on this item.
6. Start looking into short term loan/gap funding options to have access to funds immediately after passing of bond, while we are waiting for bond funds to be available.

COMMITTEE UPDATE – Governance

No new updates from this committee.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

John Zang noted an item for next meeting's agenda: Due to Mike Huenemann's inability to attend and participate, we need to vote to vacate that board appointed position. Allison Chiodini will add to agenda for next meeting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 5:15 pm, and will be conducted in person at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

Adjournment

Motion by Allison Chiodini and supported by Mark Stansberry to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Allison Chiodini, Secretary