

Minutes of the electronically conducted regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Monday, October 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 8:33 a.m.

Members present: Allison Chiodini, Lisa Diaz Sytsema, Judy Wagley, Stan Shingles, John Zang. All members indicated they were in Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

Members absent: None

Others present: Nancy Ridley

All present attended virtually via Zoom video conference.

Approval of Agenda

Lisa Diaz Sytsema made a motion supported by Judy Wagley to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously

Public input on agenda items

Nancy Ridley confirmed that the funding request was on the City Commission meeting agenda for that evening, Monday October 11, 2021, and will be circling back with us to report the results of the meeting. Nancy thanked the Authority for all of the efforts, commitment, and hard work that has been done so far. Nancy also announced that her official retirement date is October 29, 2021 and that after that time, although she will no longer be in the City Manager role, she is definitely open to us contacting her with any questions we may have. Nancy will provide her contact information to Allison, to distribute to the board for the future. Nancy also mentioned that once the new City Manager gets acclimated and briefed on the Authority, he will be reaching out to us to set up a time to meet.

Approval of the meeting minutes from the September 13, 2021 MMARA Board Meeting

Stan Shingles made a motion supported by Lisa Diaz Sytsema to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously

Presentations

None

Old Business

Comment by John Zang regarding meeting of sub committees, to be careful and make sure to not have more than 2 of the Authority members when meeting privately, or it will violate the open meetings act and those meetings would need to be posted in advance and opened up to the public.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update on the Legal consulting: Authorization has been given to the legal consultant to proceed, but the filing has not yet been completed at this time for our EIN, but it is in process.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema also opened up discussion regarding Banking, and which bank in town we should reach out to to establish our bank account. Discussion included selecting a community bank, such as Isabella Bank or Isabella Community Credit Union. Both of these community banks, no matter which one we may select, would also be good future financial partners for the annual community grants and donations that both organizations do. The recommendation was made by John Zang to use Isabella Bank, and all Authority members approved his recommendation. Stan Shingles volunteered to follow up with some contacts he has within Isabella Bank, to find out who would be our best point of contact for getting our bank account set up, and will then pass that contact along to John Zang.

Allison Chiodini provided an update on Insurance and Bonding which included discussion on the latest questions from the insurance company in regard to Bonding only being available if it is specifically stated in a statute or the articles of incorporation. Allison Chiodini to follow up with General Agency on this to have the insurance company clarify.

New business

- **START-UP BUDGET**
- Since our last meeting, we have made a few revisions to the start-up budget based on recommendations from both Nancy Ridley at the City of Mt. Pleasant, and Mark Stuhldreher at Union Township who made the recommendations to add a contingency, and also add funds for Accounting/Financial software/services.
- **FUNDING REQUESTS**
- The request for start-up funding has been made to all three organizing municipalities: Mt. Pleasant Public Schools, Union Township, and the City of Mt. Pleasant.
- Mt. Pleasant Public Schools approved the request at their 10/4/2021 board meeting, with the caveat that the requests are also approved by both Union Township and the City of Mt. Pleasant.
- The funding requests are on the agendas for the City of Mt. Pleasant City Commission meeting on Monday October 11, and the Union Township board of Trustees Meeting for Wednesday October 13. John Zang will be in attendance at both meetings to give a brief public comment in advance of the vote, and to answer any questions they may have.
- Mt. Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education did have questions regarding what is the timeline of the project.
- Another important question that has surfaced within the community is the proposed facility location.

- It will be an important focus in our Feasibility Study update to get these two questions answered.
- **ANNUAL BUDGET**
- Allison Chiodini opened discussion on Budget based on recommendations made by Mark Stuhldreher in our recent meeting with him on the proposed funding request. Mark made mention of the Articles of Incorporation specifically requiring the Authority to adopt an annual budget and publish the budget for the public as well as the three organizing municipalities.
- Discussion on Budget included needing to look into the Open Meetings Act and the requirements of holding an open budget hearing in advance of the final approval and adoption of an annual budget.
- Upon approval of the funding requests, the Authority can then work to develop the 2021 and 2022 budgets.
- **FUNDRAISING**
- Judy Wagley provided an update on Fundraising and her recent meeting with Mid Michigan Development Corporation. The individuals at MMDC that Judy has been in communication with are Jessie Strickler, Jim McBride, and Kati Mora. Judy mentioned that grand funding in partnership with MMDC is not available at this early stage of the project, and would not be available until the project comes more into fruition for actual project development and community programming costs.
- Lisa Diaz Sytsema discussed the various phases of our fundraising efforts: the “Pre” phase which would be fundraising to help fund the millage campaign. The next phase would be the “Millage” phase, going to the public for a vote for funding a percentage of the building/development and annual maintenance costs of the project. The “Building/Construction” phase of fundraising, would be for soliciting donations that would go specifically for funding the construction of the facility. The “Programatic” fundraising would be funds that would support the programs that the facility will offer once it is built and open for operations.
- **FEASIBILITY STUDY**
- As soon as we receive approval from all three organizing municipalities on our start-up funding requests, we can move forward with the Feasibility Study updates, and authorize the scope of work from The Isaac Sports group.
- Lisa Diaz Sytsema appointed Stan Shingles to work directly with her and The Isaac Sports group on getting this going. Stan’s expertise in the area of Recreation, and his experience in Building and Project Development at CMU will be a great resource to work closely with Stu Isaac on the development of the timeline.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

- Next scheduled meeting on Monday November 8, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. will be conducted electronically / virtually via. zoom video conference.

Adjournment

Motion by Stan Shingles and supported by Judy Wagley to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Chiodini".

Allison Chiodini, Secretary