

Minutes of the special scheduled meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 5:08 p.m.

Members present: Allison Chiodini, Lisa Diaz Sytsema, Stan Shingles, Mark Stansberry, Judy Wagley, John Zang.

Members absent: Mike Huenemann

Others present: None

Approval of Agenda

John Zang noted a modification to the meeting agenda, to add approval of invoices for payment.

Judy Wagley made a motion supported by Mark Stansberry to approve the agenda as revised.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann

Motion carried

Public input on agenda items

None

Approval of the meeting minutes from the December 14, 2022 MMARA Board Meeting

John Zang noted a modification to the December meeting minutes, to revise community outreach update on Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Grant Application to read "Eric Rodriguez encouraged us to reapply."

Judy Wagley made a motion supported by Lisa Diaz Sytsema to approve the minutes as revised.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann

Motion carried

New Business

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided updates on current accounts payable. Current invoice in the amount of \$650.00 due to Knack Creative for graphic design and website design services.

Mark Stansberry made a motion supported Judy Wagley to approve the processing of January payments on current due invoice to Knack Creative.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann

Motion carried

MILLAGE / ELECTION UPDATE / PROJECT TIMELINE

John Zang provided an update to the board on confirmation from our Attorney on their review of the Recreational Authority Act 321 Statute language requirements of the bond vote needing to be part of a statewide election. Attorney contacted Attorney General's office in Lansing to consult Attorney General about this and about historic election precedents of other Recreation Authorities in the state. The determination and confirmation was made that our referendum must be part of a statewide primary or general election. Proposed election timing needs to push from May 2023 out to 2024. The earliest statewide election that we could get on the ballot would be the Democratic Presidential Primary in 2024.

What does this mean for next steps?

We need to notify the City of Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and call the three municipal entities together for a meeting to update them with this information and request an amendment/change to the Articles of Incorporation to extend or eliminate the sunset requirements (3 year deadline/expiration of our board efforts). At this time in meeting with these three founding municipal entities, we also need to request an article change to the Articles of Incorporation to the auditing requirements to follow the Uniform Accounting Law. John Zang will reach out to the three municipalities to organize a meeting, and will propose Lisa Diaz Sytsema to join in presenting this new information.

We will need a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) on the terms of the site/land issued by August 1, prior to the expiration of the current LOI. MMARA to work on an outline of MOU terms and provide to MPPS Attorney to draft the legal document.

We will need to reach out to Tower Pinkster to inform them of change in project timeline and see how this will impact their proposal for Architectural/Engineering services. Allison Chiodini will contact Tower Pinkster to initiate this conversation.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema discussed the plan for moving forward into this year, by forming and dividing into three primary committees: Facility, Campaign, and Fundraising. Each board member will work with one of these three committees, and will also work to recruit community members as board ambassadors to join these committees for additional professional input and assistance. Some names of potential board ambassadors, based on feedback from community members already engaged: Kathy Backus, Jim Wojcik, Kayla Slezak, Eric Beckman, Darren Masselink, Jerel Konwinski. Lisa Diaz Sytsema also noted specifically looking for a board appointee or ambassador with strengths in accounting and finance to take on the Treasurer role moving forward. Mark Stansberry made the suggestion that we dedicate an upcoming meeting to onboarding the ambassadors to bring them up to speed on everything we have done so far and how we got where we currently are, and our timeline for where we need to be in the next year. We set a target date of our regularly scheduled March meeting for this Ambassador onboarding presentation.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

None

The next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting will now be on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. will be conducted in person at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

Adjournment

Motion by Allison Chiodini and supported by Judy Wagley to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Allison Chiodini, Secretary