

Minutes of the electronically conducted regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Monday, September 13, 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, John Zang. All members indicated they were in Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

Members absent: Stan Shingles

Others present: Nolan Kamoo

All present attended virtually via Zoom video conference.

Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Stan Shingles

Motion carried

Public input on agenda items

None

Approval of the meeting minutes from the August 9, 2021 MMARA Board Meeting

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

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Stan Shingles

Motion carried

Presentations

None

Old Business

No new updates or discussion. Hold Old Business Items on agenda in future, for future discussion as it presents itself.

Roll Call / Members Present Update:

Stan Shingles joined meeting at 8:40am

New business

- **TIMELINE:**

- Discussion included needing funding in order to proceed with Feasibility Study Update Scope of Work with Stu Isaac at Isaac Sports Group. Once we have the funding to proceed, this updated feasibility study will also lay out a detailed general sliding-scale timeline that we can adjust based on our local election cycle.
- **FINANCIAL & LEGAL:**
- Financial Updates: Presentation and discussion on proposed start-up budget and request for funding letter to each of the three organizing/supporting municipalities.
- Discussion included recommendation and agreement that appointees from each municipality each go back to their entity (City of Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools) to informally present the request for funding letter and startup budget to each entity Manager/Superintendent for their buy-in and support in advance of sending it and presenting it to each municipality board.
- Stan Shingles noted it would be a good idea to have John Zang's participation in each of these three meetings with the three municipalities as the Chairman of the MMARA Board, and also as the common denominator in each of these three conversations.
- It was decided that the following board members would contact their municipality manager/superintendent to get meetings set up in the next two weeks:
 - Lisa Diaz Sytsema – to contact Jennifer Verleger, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools, District Superintendent
 - John Zang – to contact Nancy Ridley, City of Mt. Pleasant, City Manager
 - Stan Shinges – to contact Mark Stuhldreher, Charter Township of Union, Township Manager
- Presentation and discussion on proposed start-up budget included the following points:
 - Insurance allowance is our best guess at this time, as insurance company and carriers are unable to provide estimates.
 - Feasibility Study Update Scope of Work is our largest cost.
 - Legal establishment of our entity with experienced attorney in Grand Rapids that is familiar with working with Recreation Authority entities.
 - Rights outlined in the Recreation Authority Statue for the State if Michigan are our rights.
 - In terms of our legal entity standing, we are considered a small municipality.
 - Legal Engagement Letter needs to be approved to proceed with Attorney completing EIN filing on our behalf.
 - Website needed to establish our legitimacy in the community.
 - Budget Revision Suggestions: Remove “First Year” and revise budget heading to just “Start-Up”.
 - Allison Chiodini will make the noted revisions to the proposed start-up budget, and send that out to all board members.
- Lisa Diaz Sytsema will forward the updated Feasibility Study Update Scope of Work for reference in our meetings with the municipalities on their support of the funding request, if needed.
- Allison Chiodini will send out updated funding request letter, addressed to each of the three municipalities.

Approval of the Legal Engagement of Services Letter from Varnum Attorneys at Law, dated August 25, 2021

Judy Wagley made a motion supported by Allison Chiodini to approve Legal Engagement of Services with Varnum Attorneys at Law

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

- Lisa Diaz Sytsema and John Zang to sign and return Legal Engagement of Services letter to get started on the EIN filing process.
- Completion of required Insurance applications and understanding of what is required at this time by Insurance Companies and Carriers is an ongoing effort and in process. Allison Chiodini, John Zang and Lisa Diaz Sytsema are working with General Agency on required Insurance and Bonding forms and questions.
- Discussions on Millage also included questions on the 3-year deadline, and when the 3-year rolling clock starts, and what the milestone is at the end of the 3-year mark. It was discussed that technically the 3-year rolling clock should not start until we have our official and formal State of MI approval on our Articles of Incorporation AND also receive our official Non-Profit status and EIN from the Federal Government. John Zang noted the 3-year deadline milestone would be the passing of a millage.
- **FUNDRAISING:**
- Discussion included Lisa Diaz Sytsema making the recommendation for the Fundraising Sub-Committee of Lisa Diaz Sytsema, Judy Wagley and Nolan Kamoo reconnect and get some meeting dates on the calendar.
- Nolan Kamoo has updated the document in the shared google drive with a list of potential grant opportunities, including:
 - MI DNR Recreation Grants
 - MI Economic Development Corporation Grant for New Facilities that add New Programming to the community
- Nolan Kamoo stated he will look into potential options for website design and graphic/logo design among his CMU colleagues.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

- Next scheduled meeting on Monday October 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. will be conducted electronically / virtually via. zoom video conference.

Adjournment

Motion by Lisa Diaz Sytsema and supported by Stan Shingles to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.



Allison Chiodini, Secretary