

Minutes of the electronically conducted regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Monday, July 12, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 8:30 a.m.

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Nancy Ridley and Nolan Kamoo

All present attended virtually via Zoom video conference.

Approval of Agenda

Stan Shingles made a motion supported by Judy Wagley to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

Public input on agenda items

None

Approval of the meeting minutes from the June 8, 2021 MMARA Board Meeting

Judy Wagley made a motion supported by Stan Shingles to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

Presentations

None

Old Business

Discussion on approval of the bylaws included a brief update from John Zang regarding the PIP Insurance language in the bylaws are not a State of Michigan requirement anymore, but saw no concern with leaving that language in the bylaws as they currently are at this time.

Stan Shingles made a motion supported by Judy Wagley to approve the bylaws as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

New business

- NEXT STEPS - Discussion on Next Steps circled back to needing to generate a timeline and milestone dates in order to determine the next steps.
- TIMELINE –Discussion included needing to identify the local election cycle, scheduled election dates over the next three years, and what items/offices/issues/decisions are known to be on the ballots for each of those upcoming elections so we can strategize when will be the most opportune time to take a millage vote for an Aquatics Center to the polls in our community. John Zang made the recommendation on the creation of a sub-committee to establish the overall 3-year timeline and milestone dates.
 - Volunteers for this sub-committee include Lisa Diaz Sytsema and John Zang
- FINANCIAL BUSINESS - Discussion on Financial Business included the State of Michigan LARA (Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs) has not yet processed our application for Non-Profit status in order to obtain our EIN / TaxID numbers. Without the EIN we will not be able to set up the bank account.
 - Financial Business Discussions also included establishing a formal mailing address for the Mid Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority, and the possibility of using a City of Mt Pleasant or Union Township address for now, but needing to check with Mark Stuhldreher on what address was used when filing the articles of incorporation and also filing for non-profit status with LARA.
 - Financial Business Discussions also included the need for seed money / short term funding request to the City of Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools for funding of start-up expenses such as bonding, printing, fundraising, advertising, etc. Upon approval of establishment of the Aquatic Recreational Authority Board in 2019, these three supporting municipalities / organizations each earmarked and allocated \$5,000 for start-up expenses for the board during the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years. Of the combined \$15,000 total allocation, the total dollars spent was \$7,772.00. John Zang made the recommendation to have a volunteer from the Board to draft a letter of request for seed money for start-up funding to the three supporting municipalities / organizations, including a draft outline budget on how we see these funds being utilized
 - Allison Chiodini volunteered to draft this letter, as well as put together a draft outline start-up budget.
 - Financial Business Discussions also included fundraising, and there being two phases of fundraising effort. Phase 1 fundraising efforts would focus on funding for updating the feasibility study, any preliminary consultant fees, and the campaign for a millage. Phase 2 fundraising efforts would focus on large donation commitments that would go toward the construction of the facility if the millage passes, and that any phase 2 fundraising funds would all be refunded if a millage does not pass. Discussion also included possible partnerships with volunteers from Swim Friends of Mid-Michigan on their research in available grants. John Zang made the recommendation on the creation of a sub-committee to establish fundraising goals and tasks
 - Volunteers for this sub-committee include John Zang, Lisa Diaz Sytsema, and Judy Wagley

- LEGAL – Discussion on legal items included Bonding and what the estimated cost of bonding for the Treasurer and Secretary positions would be, which will be a start-up expense that we will need seed money to fund.
 - Allison Chiodini volunteered to reach out to other local non-profit(s) and possibly insurance companies to inquire on the estimated cost to obtain bonding for the Secretary and Treasurer positions of the Board.
- APPOINTMENT OF TWO AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS – Discussion on the appointment of two at large board members included the recommendation to hold these positions open for the time being and once we get started and going in our efforts if we see a specific need or missing capacity, or possibly a key influential member for campaigning and fundraising, we can choose to appoint these open positions at a later date. Discussion during this topic was opened for public comment, and attendee Nolan Kamoo, CMU Student spoke on his interest in our efforts and in working with our board in any way and capacity that he is able to help. John Zang made the recommendation to appoint Nolan Kamoo as our CMU Student Intern Volunteer Partner, and Nolan accepted the appointment, and volunteered to work with the Timeline and Fundraising committees.
- MEDIA / PRESS – Discussion on the media and press interest from both WCMU and Second Wave Media included Judy Wagley letting us know that a student from WCMU is interested in writing a new and updated story. Lisa Diaz Sytsema will be the media contact for the interim for kick-off stories, and it was recommended that moving forward we need to appoint a board member to serve as the Media / PR / Communications lead contact for all news and media outlet stories and press releases.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

- Allison Chiodini volunteered to put together a Points of Contact spreadsheet with everyone's contact information and distribute that to the board members
- Next scheduled meeting on Monday August 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. will be conducted electronically / virtually via. zoom video conference.

Adjournment

Motion by Allison Chiodini 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 9:25 a.m.



Allison Chiodini, Secretary