

Minutes of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at Union Township Hall, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 5:06 p.m.

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

Members absent: Mike Huenemann

Others present: Mark Stuhldreher, Union Township Manager

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann

Motion carried

Public input on agenda items

Mark Stuhldreher, Union Township Manager provided an update on his recent communications and presentation to the Union Township Board of Trustees on Jan 5, 2022 which summarized the tasks, efforts and progress made by the MMARA board in the 2021 fiscal year.

Mark also brought up discussion on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Grant program, noting that grant applications for the first of two annual application periods is March 31, 2022. With the MMARA organization being tied to the Township municipality, Mark offered to have Union Township partner with us for the application process, if/when the MMARA would like to apply for a 2% grant with this program. Second application period will be in the fall. Mark noted he could send us a couple of the past applications they have completed and submitted so we could see what the qualifications, requirements and questions are in the application process to review and evaluate.

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

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann

Motion carried

Old Business

FEASIBILITY STUDY & TIMELINE UPDATE

Updated Draft Work Plan and Timeline was received from Stu Isaac with Isaac Sports Group on 3/23/2022. Lisa Diaz Sytsema walked the board through the main milestones and task groups of the timeline for review. Currently in the process of Task #1 – Development of Work Plan and Timeline. Task #2 – Program, Design and Financial Models - review notes, comments and action items:

1. Question for Isaac Sports Group: Program Model – Energy Sustainability Options and possibility of LEED Accreditation? How does this impact concept and cost model?
2. Need final Memo of Understanding from Mt. Pleasant Public Schools for the potential site location, so we can begin with Site feasibility, assessment and verification.
3. Comments for Isaac Sports Group: Add to Task #2 – Site Assessment and Verification and Preliminary Site Plan Approval. Lisa Diaz Sytsema appointed John Zang and Allison Chiodini to take the lead on meeting with the City of Mt. Pleasant and Civil Engineers if necessary to complete the Site Assessment and Verification.
4. Still waiting on Isaac Sports Group to issue the final revised Feasibility Study Update and Cost Model for both development and construction costs, as well as operating costs. Lisa Diaz Sytsema appointed Stan Shingles to assist with review of Operating Cost Model once we receive it. Stan also noted that having Darren Masselink join in review of Operating Cost Model will be beneficial as well.
5. Before finalizing program model and concept with Isaac Sports Group, Stan Shingles made the recommendation to proceed with scheduling a site tour visit of three comparable recommended facilities: Grand Rapids YMCA, Jenison High School and Holland Aquatic Center. Tentative dates for these site tours are Friday April 22 OR Friday April 29.

Review and discussion of Task #3 – Funding, included the following review notes, comments and action items:

1. Need to research the cost and strategy required to run a millage campaign? Reach out to Mid Michigan Community College, Chippewa River District Library System, and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools to inquire with each of them on this question.

Roll Call / Members Present Update:

Stan Shingles left meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Old Business (continued)

Review and discussion of Task #4 – Public Engagement, included the following review notes, comments and action items:

1. Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update that she will be meeting with Jim Wojcik and Jim Engler to discuss communications, press and media strategy and to identify any potential community concerns that need to be answered in our communications and press releases.

FUNDRAISING

John Zang opened discussion on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% Grand Program and if we feel that we are in a position in the process to be able to apply for that as soon as March 31, 2022. Discussion included the need for a project manager to help the board manage tasks and action items on the timeline, as well as the need for a marketing and web design consultant to assist with the development of promotional and communications materials. John Zang volunteered to take the lead at reviewing the example past grant applications from Mark Stuhldreher to evaluate whether our financial needs at this time meet the requirements of the grant program, or if we need to wait until another later application date.

INSURANCE

Allison Chiodini provided an update on Insurance: After several months of back and forth with a few different insurance companies and providers, we now have a binding Directors and Officers Insurance Policy in place effective March 4, 2022.

2022 MEETING SCHEDULING

The April monthly MMARA meeting date was set for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, to be held at Union Township Hall at 5:00pm. We will extend the April meeting invitation to Stu Isaac with Isaac Sports Group to present the final Program, Design and Cost models at this meeting.

New business

None

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

None

Next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. will be conducted in person at Union Township Hall, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

Adjournment

Motion by Lisa Diaz Sytsema and supported by Mark Stansberry to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Huenemann, Shingles

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Allison Chiodini, Secretary