

Minutes of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 5:23 p.m.

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

Members absent: Stan Shingles, Mike Huenemann

Others present Virtually: Stu Isaac with Isaac Sports Group

Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Chiodini, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Diaz Sytsema, Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

Public input on agenda items

None

Approval of the meeting minutes from the November 16, 2022 MMARA Board Meeting

Mark Stansberry made a motion supported by Allison Chiodini to approve the minutes as presented..

Ayes: Chiodini, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Diaz Sytsema, Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

New Business

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2023 BUDGET APPROVAL

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided a review of the proposed 2023 operating budget. John Zang noted one edit to the Budget Appropriation Resolution of making a change to the date to December 14, 2022.

Mark Stansberry made a motion supported by Judy Wagley to adopt the 2023 Budget Appropriation Resolution as corrected.

Ayes: Chiodini, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Diaz Sytsema, Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

Final corrected Budget Appropriation Resolution is attached to meeting minutes for record.

Old Business

MILLAGE / ELECTION UPDATE

John Zang provided an update to the board on some new discovered issues that will impact our electing timing and campaign. The first issue is that upon more detailed review of the Recreational Authority Act 321 Statute, it was discovered that there is one sentence within the statute that states that “a bond election is to be part of a statewide primary or general election”. This is in conflict with our current timeline and goal to go out for the bond in a special election in May of 2023. If we have to be part of a statewide primary or general election, that will push the millage vote into 2024, with the soonest currently scheduled statewide election being in Aug 2024. We currently have our attorney consultants looking into this along with other Recreational Authorities within the state and when their bond elections were held to determine if there is precedence for being able to be part of a local or special election as opposed to a statewide primary or general election. John will provide further updates to the board as we receive review and recommendations from our attorney.

The second millage/election update that John brought up for discussion was the impacts that the recently passed Proposal 2 will have on the vote and on our campaign. John noted that there was language within Proposal 2 that states for any millage length greater than five years, that only property owners are allowed to participate in the vote. This will greatly impact how we market our campaign and who we focus on marketing the campaign too, and will disqualify any non-property owners including students, renters, and senior citizens who may live in apartments and assisted living facilities.

ARCHITECTURAL / ENGINEERING FIRM SEARCH

Allison Chiodini provided an update on the A/E Firm Search. We have now interviewed and received service and fee proposals from three firms: Tower Pinkster (the firm that we contracted with for the preliminary conceptual graphics), TMP Architecture, and Neumann Smith. Allison completed a detailed review of all three proposals to create an apples to apples comparison and reached out to the firms with questions on any missing pieces. After completing this, our A/E Firm Search committee (Allison Chiodini, John Zang and Stu Isaac) met and created a grading/scoring rubric with six main evaluation criteria, and then scored each of the three firms in each of the 6 categories. Upon completing these evaluations and scoring, the A/E firm Tower Pinkster came out on top as the recommended firm to proceed into contract with for pre-bond A/E services as well as complete post-bond A/E services.

Judy Wagley made a motion supported by Allison Chiodini to give Allison Chiodini and John Zang the authority to negotiate and enter into a contract with Tower Pinkster for A/E Services.

Ayes: Chiodini, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Diaz Sytsema, Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided updates on current financial business. Lisa provided a recap review of the 2022 budget to actual expenses closing out the year and moving into 2023. Monthly payables needing approval are Consulting Fees from Isaac Sports Group and Newspaper Advertisement for public posting of 2023 Budget Hearing.

Mark Stansberry made a motion supported by Allison Chiodini to approve the processing of December payments on two current due invoices to Isaac Sports Group and Morning Sun.

Ayes: Chiodini, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Diaz Sytsema, Shingles, Huenemann

Motion carried

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / CAMPAIGN STRATEGY UPDATE

Judy Wagley provided an update from her community leader outreach one on one meeting with Liz Conway at the Chamber of Commerce. Liz made a note that the Chamber is not allowed to market or promote our campaign advertising. However, she made the recommendation that the MMARA join the Chamber as a member for the annual fee of \$275, and then as a member we would be allowed to publish communications through the Chamber newsletter on efforts and updates.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema noted that Kathy Backus and Jim Wojcik are continuing work on the graphic design of a logo and one-page promotional info doc, and Lisa will forward out to the board for feedback once it is received.

John Zang provided an update on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe 2% grant application, and that ours was not chosen for funding. However, John noted that Eric Rodriguez encouraged us to reapply.

Continued outreach to Tier 1 community leaders and scheduling of Tier 2 lunch and learn events temporarily on hold until we receive direction and advise from our attorney on election timing.

ISAAC SPORTS GROUP - FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Stu Isaac presented and provided explanation of the updated Profit & Loss Summary 5-year outlook document. Stu also provided an update to the proposed 3rd grader community swim lesson program, reviewing costs and program value for potential donor and grant opportunities to fund in future.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

None

Next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 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, Stansberry, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Diaz Sytsema, Huenemann, Shingles

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Allison Chiodini, Secretary