

Minutes of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Monday, January 10, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at Union Township Hall, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 8:35 a.m.

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

Members absent: Stan Shingles

Others present: None

Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles

Motion carried

Public input on agenda items

None

Approval of the meeting minutes from the December 13, 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: Shingles

Motion carried

Roll Call / Members Present Update:

Stan Shingles joined meeting at 8:43 a.m.

Old Business

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update that she will be meeting with Mark Stansbury, Owner and Physical Therapist at Mountain Town Rehab, on Friday Jan 21, 2022 to discuss our appointment of him as an At-Large Board Member, and if he is interested in accepting the appointment.

Stan Shingles entertained the question on if we also wanted to proceed at this time with appointing our second At-Large Member and if we would like to proceed with appointing Mike Huneman with Isabella Bank. Discussion included Mike being a very influential leader in our Fundraising efforts, and it was decided to go ahead and proceed with this nomination/appointment. Stan Shingles to get in touch with Mike Huneman to see if he is interested in accepting this appointment.

MEDIA / PRESS / WEBSITE

Allison Chiodini provided an update from Nolan Kamoo on this. Nolan has researched website hosting options, and made the recommendation to go with SquareSpace's basic commerce package at \$35 a month or \$26 a month if we commit to a full year. This will also allow us to have a commerce/donation function on the website, and not be charged a 3% service fee per donation. The Board agreed that this sounded like a good option and path, and would like to put a professional team together for Press & Communications to spearhead this with Nolan.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update that she had spoken with Jim Wojcik, Journalism Professor at CMU, as well as Darcy Orlik, Director of Public Relations with the City of Mt. Pleasant, and both agreed to spread the word that we are in need of putting together a team/manpower of professionals and university students to help us in developing our communications, press, media and marketing strategy. Darcy Orlik recommended at CMU Journalism/PR professor that may be interested in partnering with us and create our needs into a student project.

INSURANCE

Allison Chiodini provided an update on Insurance; and is currently working back and forth with Mark Stuhldreher at Union Township and their Insurance provider to look into the possibility of them being able to underwrite a policy for us. We did hear back from the policy holder that it was proving too difficult to try to "add" us as an insured to the township's existing policy.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema recommended reaching out to Mark Stuhldreher on how we can handle this in the interim, as we keep running into walls to obtaining the insurance requirements as written in the Articles of Incorporation. Lisa also noted that she had not received any responses to her inquires to Holland Recreation Authority regarding their insurance provider, so she could try another avenue and reach out to or Attorney on our legal standing, request a letter outlining our nonprofit status, and their recommendations with respect to insurance

Stan Shingles made the recommendation that we immediately proceed with obtaining Directors and Officers insurance to protect our efforts, and the personal assets of the board members until we can obtain a policy meeting the coverage requirements in the Articles of Incorporation.

Stan Shingles made a motion authorizing the board with immediate action, to seek and obtain D&O Insurance Coverage with up to \$1,000,000 liability coverage, up to a maximum cost of \$1,000 per year.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Unanimously Carried

FUNDRAISING

Allison Chiodini provided an update from Nolan Kamoo on this. Nolan has broken the fundraising spreadsheet in the Google Drive into three separate sub-spreadsheets: Individual Donors, Construction Grants, and Operation Grants.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema noted that we are waiting on the updated cost models from the Isaac Sports Group within our Feasibility Study in order to create a Fundraising plan, so this effort is idle at this time, until we receive the updated Feasibility Report.

TIMELINE UPDATE

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update that we are still waiting on the final draft of the updated Feasibility Study, Timeline and Cost Model from Stu Isaac with the Isaac Sports Group, which we should have before the end of the month. Discussion included the recommendation that as soon as that is received, that she will reach out to John Zang to set up a time to meet to review preliminary timelines and determine potential millage dates, milestone dates, and any special election fees to add to fundraising plan and 2022 annual budget.

New business

2022 ANNUAL BUDGET

Lisa Diaz Sytsema presented 2022 Fiscal Year Budget (attached). Budget shows the incoming start-up funds from City of Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools, along with the projected expenses as presented in the Start-Up budget. This budget will be amended when we have a better picture of election date, costs, and timeline as needed.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema noted that Sheila Murphy reached out to her to inquire on if there was anything that the MMARA needed assistance with at this time. Lisa responded to Sheila to request her assistance with getting quick books set up and assisting with establishing financial policies.

MMARA BOARD MEMBER TERMS

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update that she received a communication from Jennifer Verleger with Mt. Pleasant Public Schools that her MPPS appointment to the MMARA board was approved to be extended to Dec 31, 2022 at the January 3, 2022 MPPS Organizational School Board Meeting. MPPS Organizational Meeting Minutes from Jan 3, 2022 have been attached to these meeting minutes as supporting documentation.

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Discussion of 2022 Meeting schedule and the requirement to now meet in person based on the Open Meetings Act and the expiration of the allowance to meet virtually included general consent to keep the next few meetings as scheduled on the second Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m. and to continue to meet at Union Township Hall for these meetings. If after the appointment of new At-Large Board members, the need arises to reschedule meeting days and times, we can consider that at that time and revisit this conversation.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

None

Next scheduled meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. will be conducted in person at Union Township Hall, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

Adjournment

Motion by Allison Chiodini and supported by Lisa Diaz Sytsema to adjourn the meeting.
Ayes: Chiodini, Shingles, Diaz Sytsema, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Unanimously Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Allison Chiodini, Secretary