

Minutes of the electronically conducted regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Mid Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Monday, August 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 8:33 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: 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 July 12, 2021 MMARA Board Meeting

Lisa Diaz Sytsema made a motion supported by Judy Wagley 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

Brief discussion on Media & Press in that WCMU Intern, Christian Booher, wrote and ran a story on the kick-off of our efforts and board .

New business

- **TIMELINE:**
- Discussion included needing to consult with Stu Isaac with Isaac Sports Group to draw up a scope of work for updating the feasibility study, specifically with regard to proceeding with the direction of the 25-stretch pool option with updates specific to that

option on budgeting and cost analysis/projections/feasibility. The updated feasibility study would also lay out a detailed general sliding-scale timeline that we can adjust based on our local election cycle.

- Total scope of work proposal from Isaac Sports Group for Feasibility Study Updates and additional consultation as requested is \$16,000 + reimbursable expenses, with at \$4,000 up front retainer due upon execution of the contract, and remainder due at specific milestones in the SOW.
- Additional discussions on TIMELINE also included the cost of a millage and upcoming election cycles. John Zang recently spoke with Minde Lux, Isabella County Clerk. Recent Mid Michigan College election cost them \$45,000 to conduct the election due to that being the only item on the ballot. John Zang also spoke with the Chippewa River District Library director regarding their most recent election campaign and what it took to get it passed, and determining the best election cycle and ballot to try to get on, based on the projected voter turn-out.
- Discussions on election cycle included the drawbacks/cons to going on a large election ballot (such as Presidential or Gubernatorial), and the advantages to the possibility of going on the ballot with a School Board Election. It was noted to make contact with Jennifer Verleger for the scheduled school board elections in the next 2-3 years.
- Discussions on Millage noted that per our Articles of Incorporation, in order for a Millage to pass for the creation and building of a Community Aquatics Facility, it would have to pass in all three of the supporting/organizing jurisdictions of the Authority: City of Mt. Pleasant, Charter Township of Union, and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools District.
- 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.
- **FINANCIAL & LEGAL:**
- Update on EIN by Lisa Diaz Sytsema – Paperwork has been filed/received, but has not been processed or EIN issued.
- Discussion on EIN included questions as to what type of organization does the Recreational Authority fall: Municipality? Charitable Non-Profit? Corporation? Current local Attorney is not clear on these questions and is not able to advise us in a timely manner.
- Lisa Diaz Sytsema made contact with a representative from the Holland Aquatic Center's Recreational Authority to inquire on these legal questions, and was given the name and contact of a Nonprofit Attorney in Grand Rapids that they use. Lisa will reach out to Attorney for a fee/cost proposal for hiring them to complete our official non-profit establishment.
- Discussions on Financial & Legal items also included Insurance. Allison Chiodini updated the Board on recent conversations with Amanda Schafer with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation as well as conversations with the United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties in regard to Directors and Officers Insurance and Bonding. Both organizations provided references and contacts and local insurance agencies that handle

their insurance needs. Allison updated the Board that she then reached out to a local insurance company for an insurance policy estimate and quote, based on the insurance requirements specifically stated in the Articles of Incorporate. The insurance quoting process is currently pending the completion of required applications and additional information needed. Allison Chiodini and John Zang will continue to communicate with the Insurance Company and complete required applications in order to get a quote and/or estimate of probable cost of the required insurance coverages.

- Discussions on Insurance requirements of the Articles of Incorporation also included the option to go on an existing insurance policy of one of the three organizing municipalities/jurisdictions (City of Mt. Pleasant, Charter Township of Union, or Mt. Pleasant Public Schools). John Zang noted that he would speak to Nancy Ridley at the City of Mt. Pleasant about the possibility and cost for this option.
- Discussions on Legal Items and Insurance also included discussions regarding the need to carry general liability insurance at this time when our organization does not own or hold any real property, and the possible option to just purchase special event insurance if/when needed. Stan Shingles expressed concern regarding personal financial liability with respect to activities, events or decisions of this board, and the need for General Liability insurance to cover and protect each of us and our personal assets.
- Discussions on Financial Items also included the need for seed money for the Feasibility Study SOW by ISG, the costs of required insurance based on the articles of incorporation, and other start-up functions of our efforts. Having received the cost from Stu Isaac for the Feasibility Study Update/SOW, it is clear that the remaining unused funds that were first committed back in 2019 (\$7,228.00 remaining) will NOT be enough to get us started and we need to start from scratch with a new ask based on our actual cost projections.
- Allison Chiodini and Lisa Diaz Sytsema will work together to develop the start-up budget. The biggest unknown right now is the insurance costs. Allison Chiodini will draft a new request for seed money / start up funding to each of the three organizing municipalities/jurisdictions.

Motion to Proceed with Funding Regeust:

Stan Shingles made a motion to give authority to Board Members: Lisa Diaz Sytsema and Allison Chiodini, to make the ask and present the request for funding letters to the three organizing municipalities. Motion was supported by Judy Wagley.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion unanimously carried

- **OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**
- Nolan Kamoo, CMU Student Intern Volunteer Partner, has been actively involved in discussions with the TIMELINE and FUNDRAISING sub-committees.
- Nolan has created and established a shared Google Drive for the uploading and storage of our MMARA Documents, and has requested all Board Members please send him their gmail email addresses for access to the Google Drive.

- Nolan also discussed a short-term goal/milestone to be the creation of a simple website where we can refer community members and supporters to go for more information and updates on our efforts and initiative in this project.

Announcements on Authority related issues and concerns

- Next scheduled meeting on Monday September 13, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. will be conducted electronically / virtually via. zoom video conference.

Adjournment

Motion by Stan Shingles and supported by Lisa Diaz Sytsema 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