

**Minutes of the regular scheduled meeting of the Mid-Michigan Aquatic Recreational Authority held Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by John Zang at 5:21 p.m.

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

Others Present: None

Members absent: Mark Stansberry, Stan Shingles

**Approval of Agenda**

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

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Stansberry, Shingles

Motion carried

**Public input on agenda items**

None

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from the Sept 13, 2023 MMARA Board Meeting**

Lisa Diaz Sytsema made a motion supported by Judy Wagley, to approve the Meeting Minutes from the September 13, 2023 MMARA Board Meeting.

Ayes: Chiodini, Diaz Sytsema, Wagley, Zang

Nays: None

Absent: Stansberry, Shingles

Motion carried

**Attendance/Members Present Update**

Mark Stansberry present

**New Business**

**FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided financial update, including: updated monthly budget balance sheet and profit and loss reports dated September 30, 2023, as well as current accounts payable recurring monthly expenses due needing approval, which include: recurring monthly Intuit Quick Books fee of \$55.00, online bill pay fee of \$4.44, and recurring monthly fee to Constant Contact of \$35.00.

Lisa Diaz Sytsema made a motion supported Judy Wagley to approve the processing of September payments on recurring expendables.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles

Motion carried

Financial updates also included discussion on financial and fundraising projections, and consultant services needing payment over the next few months. Since the September 30 financial report, there has been an additional \$13,600 deposited into account from fundraising donations, and another \$30,000 in donation(s) received and ready to be deposited.

## **Old Business**

### **COMMITTEE UPDATE – Facility Committee**

Allison Chiodini and John Zang provided an update: No new updates at this time. Tower Pinkster is on HOLD on proceeding with conceptual design at this time due to concerns with keeping their pre-bond fees down within our budget and fundraising projections.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATE – Communication & Campaign Committee**

Lisa Diaz Sytsema provided an update on the progress of this committee. Community leader meetings/presentations have all gone very well and had overwhelming positive feedback. Presentations have been done at Rotary Club, Lions Club, Jaycees, Three MMARA Community Informational presentations this past month. Upcoming presentations include: Community Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Zonta Club, Women’s City Club, Kiwanis Club, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe via. Eric Rodriguez, and Homebuilders Association.

Committee received proposal requested from Byrum Fisk for campaign strategy development consulting services. Proposed services and fees were a bit higher than our needs, so Lisa presented a counter proposal to the MMARA board for approval, which included retainer services in the remainder of the month of October, along with the month of November, and also included development of ballot language alongside attorney.

Judy Wagley made a motion supported Mark Stansberry to approve the counter proposal to Byrum Fisk, and give Lisa Diaz Sytsema authority to sign agreement up to \$25,000.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles

Motion carried

### **COMMITTEE UPDATE – Fundraising Committee**

Mark Stansberry provided an update on fundraising progress in the last month. We have received a total of \$43,600 in donations over this past month. We are following up on ongoing conversations and requests for donations with community leaders and anticipate another \$10,000-\$15,000 in donations to come in this next month. In reviewing all of the payables projections, and anticipated consultant fees a goal was set to push to raise an additional \$25,000 over and above the \$10,000-\$15,000 already anticipated.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATE – Finance & Legal Committee**

John Zang provided an update that we received the proposal agreement from PFM Financial Advisors. We have not yet issued a response and authorization to proceed. Allison Chiodini will contact Paul Stauder at PFM Financial Advisors to acknowledge receipt and review of proposal, agreement and disclosure documents, give authorization to proceed, and share the

costing and budgeting documents from Stu Isaac for the building construction cost, operating budget, and bond revenue projections for review.

Discussion also included needing to proceed with engaging Bond Attorney, Miller Canfield. Mark Stuhldreher connected us with Patrick McGow at Miller Canfield. John Zang to communicate back with Pat McGow to let them know we would like to proceed in working with Miller Canfield, and connect them with Paul Stauder with PFM.

John Zang to contact Minde Lux to get a hard calendar date on when the certified ballot language is due to the County Clerk. Estimated due date is currently Nov 15.

Discussion included Byrum Fisk's recommendation on attorneys to engage with in writing ballot language. Miller Canfield was one of the recommended options, although would be a different attorney/department that we would work with on this, than the bond advising. MMARA board was in agreement in proceeding with recommendation of Miller Canfield to work with Byrum Fisk on writing ballot language. Final draft of ballot language to be due to MMARA no later than 5:00 pm EST, Thursday Nov 2.

Judy Wagley made a motion supported Allison Chiodini to give Lisa Diaz Sytsema authority to sign agreement with Miller Canfield for drafting of ballot language.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles

Motion carried

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATE – Governance**

No new updates from this committee.

#### **Announcements on MMARA Board related issues and concerns:**

A special meeting to review and approve the ballot language was scheduled for Thursday Nov 2 at 5:15pm at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

The next regularly scheduled monthly board meeting will be on Wednesday Nov 15, 2023 at 5:15 pm, and will be conducted in person at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

The December monthly board meeting was rescheduled from Wed Dec 20 to Wed Dec 13, 2023 at 5:15 pm, and will be conducted in person at Isabella County Commission on Aging, Mt Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Allison Chiodini and supported by Mark Stansberry to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Shingles

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

---

Allison Chiodini, Secretary