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## IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

### DRAFT MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29

- I. **ROLL CALL** - Don Britton, Chocolay; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Gary Johnson, Republic township; Dotty LaJoye, Marquette County  
  
Absent: Jeremy Pickens, Marquette  
Guests: Mike Lempinen, Kathy Peters, Marquette Township  
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT** ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No Public Comment.
- III. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Dawn Hoffman voted to approve consent agenda as provided; Bussone seconded motion.** Consent agenda includes September balance sheet showing assets and liabilities/equity of \$345,262, September profit/loss showing net income of (14,569) and September budget v actual and General Ledger. Also October bills to be paid totaling \$84,118.17. **Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Britton motioned to approve agenda as presented; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Phase IV –
    1. Republic project – A punch list was provided to engineer and contractor after our September 26 ribbon cutting. Items like cleaning out of culverts and adding rip-rap at culverts, grading and rolling , adding boulders at gates, fencing at bridge, moving left over aggregate, and tree trimming. We need to look at project to close out. Johnson (Gary) noted that Republic Township worked with their public works to widen out area at hill. Was a safety issue and they wanted to take care of it.
    2. Ishpeming/Tilden Project – Aggregate is down and lookout platform has been built. Gates are installed. Last item that was added is a fence at the Mineral Range railroad (at Winthrop Junction) and that still needs to be installed.
  - B. ORV Ordinance Ishpeming – ORV ordinance to be on Ishpeming’s November council meeting agenda. The ordinance will note that Washington Street from Winthrop Junction to Snowmobile Trail 8, follow Trail 8 to Lakeshore and follow along Hematite Drive to Third Street, will be ORV route through Ishpeming. Once this ordinance is in place, we can add this section and Negaunee’s section to our ORV agreement with the DNR.
  - C. Grant Updates
    1. ArtPlace America 2016 – Fulsher noted that she was looking at the ArtPlace grant for Marquette area at new hospital setting, but Marquette City felt it was too early because they have no public art policy. She and Lajoie met with Ishpeming City Manager to look at Cliffs Shaft trail head area as region to focus on. City has received a \$250,000 grant from Cliffs Eagle Community Fund, Cliffs Shaft has received a \$100,000 grant for repair, and City has also received another grant to clean Bancroft Lake. Might be the perfect opportunity to leverage monies to provide an upgraded trailhead facility in that area. Could include schools to focus on immigrant families.

ArtPlace grant is focusing on environment, public health and safety. **Hoffman motioned to go forward with ArtPlace grant proposal for Cliffs Shaft trailhead; LaJoye seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

2. 2015 Recreation Passport -We were given an opportunity to provide extra information to better our score. We will hear in December if we are successful with this grant application to provide for additional amenities at four trail heads.

D. Dark Store/Tax Loophole Forum – November 5 – Fulsher noted that a forum is being held on November 5 to update the general population on the Dark Store tax rebates. Fulsher will be one of the speakers on the panel because of taxes we had to repay.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- B. 2016 Draft Budget/Plans – A draft of the 2016 draft was presented in board packet. Fulsher went through budget line by line. Question from Reynolds on telephone expense and question if there was enough in the maintenance budget. We will add \$100 to telephone and take \$19900 from net income and put in maintenance. Fulsher will present at November board meeting for action.
- C. MATAG Conference/Trail Award – Fulsher noted that she attended the Midwest American Trails and Greenways Conference held in Des Moines, Iowa. She noted that she felt good about how far our trail has come compared to others. She noted that the Iron Ore Heritage Trail was recognized at Michigan's outstanding trail project and Fulsher was Michigan's outstanding trail person. She brought the pieces of artwork that were awarded. They will be displayed in the office.
- D. December 4 Ribbon Cutting and Municipal Member Celebration – Fulsher noted that a December 4 ribbon cutting and celebration afterward is scheduled. This will be an opportunity to talk informally with our member municipalities about future plans for trail, millage renewal, and get feedback from municipal commissioners and staff. Discussion on Humboldt and Ely sections and how to approach upgrades in those areas, and the wetlands in Republic. Fulsher noted that when she biked the trail from Republic, she found the sections in Humboldt and Ely were not bikeable with hybrid tires due to the rail bed soil materials—sandy and jagged rocks.
- E. Millage Renewal Timeline/Information – Fulsher noted that our millage expired at the end of 2016 for the original seven municipalities. She noted the resolution we did in 2008 for a millage and the resolutions we would need from our municipal members to put on the ballot. Discussion on renewal plans and how many years and at what rate. Discussion centered on continuing for 6 years at the .2 mills. Board discussed when to put forward at the May elections and therefore we would need all municipals on board by February. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to approve the resolution with the change to May 2016 and delete Ely, Republic, and Humboldt and update the funds that would be collected in the remaining municipalities. Britton seconded motion. Roll call was taken and motion was approved with seven yeases, zero nays, and one absent.**
- F. Municipal Ride Through – Spring 2016 – Discussion on opening up the trail one day next spring to provide a ride through for those who cannot see the trail by any other means except motor vehicle. Start in Republic and either provide a slow motor procession through trail in individual vehicles or provide some sort of bussing system. We will plan for spring 2016 when trail is dry. Could be a fund raiser by opening trail one day a year.

## **VI. BOARD COMMENT --**

Britton noted that the new snowmobile trail connection from Iron Ore Heritage Trail to north side of highway has started in back of Menards.

Johnson (Gary) – Wants to add fit strip components to the trail in Republic.

Johnson (Glenn) – Noted that Beth Millner jewelry had a sign outside promoting her Heritage Trail jewelry.

Fulsher – Noted that she was able to bike the trail from Negaunee to Marquette with photographers, reporters/bloggers from U.S. News and World Report in October and the colors were absolutely stunning.

Thomas – Scheduling a work bee for next week to install a mile marker and signage at art work.

VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comments

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** - Bussone motioned to adjourn meeting at 6 pm; Johnson (Gary) seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.

*NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*