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IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2013

- I. ROLL CALL/WELCOME - Don Britton, Chocolay Township; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Lyn Durant, (Absent), Kathy Peters, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Negaunee township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee, Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden township; Dotty Lajoie, County of Marquette
Guests: Matt Bergeon, UPEA; Jackie Koski, Humboldt Twp; Tony Harry, TEAM, Joni Gleason, Equestrian, Dave Drummond, TEAM, Eeva Miller, Equestrian
Absence: Gary Johnson (Excused Absence)
Administrator: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - Eeva Miller and Joni Gleason– thanks for meeting with us on Monday.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Britton motioned to approve agenda as presented. Bussone seconded. Vote and motion carries.**
- IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES – **Bussone motioned to approve minutes as presented. Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried.**
- V. TREASURER’S REPORT
 - A. Profit/Loss, Balance Sheet, actual vs budget, general ledger – **Hoffman motioned to accept treasurer’s report as presented. Reynolds seconded. Vote and motion carried.**
 - B. Bills to Be Paid – Total operations of \$6828 and total expense of \$14,340. Thomas noted about Negaunee City property taxes. Splits weren’t cleaned up. This all has to do with property swap. **Reynolds motioned to pay bills as presented; Bussone seconded. Vote and motion carried.**
- VI. BUSINESS CONTINUED
 - A. Recreation Master Plan Resolution – **Britton motioned to sign the resolution to approve the Recreation plan; Hoffman seconded. Roll call taken. 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 absent.**
 - B. Tilden Township Trail Engineering Work – Fulsher noted that we received correspondence from UPEA to do the engineering work on this portion of trail and a quote for services. Fulsher noted that we have not met with Ely Township yet and have a meeting set up to talk to them on Thursday about options of getting through Ely after the millage was defeated in November. **Hoffman motioned to table until we meet with Ely Township; Britton seconded. Vote and motion carries.**
 - C. Phase III Updates – We have submitted our first reimbursement request to DNR Trust Fund for approximately \$92,000. Trail construction fees are slow coming in. Work is on hold until spring.
 - D. Chocolay Trail – Fulsher noted that we added capping expenses to our capital improvement section in the Recreation Plan. She also noted that at our last meeting, the

board voted to get a legal opinion on what we can and cannot do with regards to signing and mapping outside of spine of trail. Fulsher noted that she just called Pickens this morning to get his opinion. Pickens looked at our bylaws and articles and did not see that we have anything in place that would prevent us from doing that. Discussion on signing that there is an alternative urban paved route through Chocoley. Lajoie requested that we look at our language in our bylaws to allow situations like these to happen in an easier way or provide a policy on trail connectivity and directional signage. Fulsher felt that the signage committee in place should look at directional signage and come up with specs and policy. Thomas instructed Board should think about trail connection policy and send comments to the office and have Executive Committee review. **Peters motioned to send trail connector policy to Executive Committee. Hoffman seconded. Vote and motion carried.**

Thomas noted that we also need to set up a committee to meet with Chocoley Township. Pickens, Hoffman, Thomas, and Britton volunteered to serve along with Fulsher. **Britton motioned to have these volunteers serve as Chocoley Township Committee; Peters seconded. Vote and motion carried.**

- E. Republic Trail Work – Johnson sent an email to Fulsher that noted that Republic Township voted to abandon the grant. It will be something the IOHRA should take on after next phase.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ATV meeting and trail plans – Thomas, Britton and Fulsher met with Ron Yesney and Rob Katona from DNR, Tom Myers, North Country ATV, Ray Roberts, Ishpeming Planning, Paul Altobello, Tilden Township, and TEAM members Tony Harry and Dave Drummond. Discussed ORV restricted plans for trail from Republic to Chocoley. North Country ATV put in trail proposal from Republic to Washington Street in Ishpeming. IOHRA would like to take the Washington Street through Ishpeming, Negaunee and to M35/492 intersection and TEAM would take on 35/492 to east. IOHRA has already looked at trail through Negaunee and Negaunee Township; we need to find how to get through Ishpeming and Negaunee. North Country did put in a trail proposal on our trail but does not have land control.
We need to think about best options. We will work with committee on mapping ideas.
- B. Equestrian Meeting – Thomas and Fulsher met with Joni Gleason and Eeva Miller on how to provide trails for equestrians and what their needs are. They prefer grass so how do we find grassy areas alongside. Not able to go through paved areas through downtowns. Joni felt that separation is best. Not all equestrians feel comfortable with ATVS or bikers.
Thomas noted that there will be a spine in areas that can be used. And also looped trails. Ishpeming west is where it is totally multi-use. Discussion on pre-planning and how we find routes for all trail users or do we just find partials.
- C. State Trails Summit – Prior to the Michigan Parks and Recreation annual meeting, there is a State Trails Summit. However it is the day before our next Board meeting and in Lansing. Fulsher felt she could find the information from presenters and bring back without changing our meeting time.
- D. Peninsula Bank Loan – Fulsher reviewed options. We are set to begin paying back our principal on the \$400,000 loan in March. However, that is exactly the time we will be paying for trail expenses that we got the loan for. She also noted that Range Bank wanted to revisit the loan and that their rates have decreased. Britton inquired if we could have a draw loan that is available for us to draw on as needed. May not need entire \$400,000 now. Range is bringing their proposal to their board by January end and then will provide information to us. Fulsher noted that she is trying to connect with

Peninsula Bank on loan repayment options—extending first payment by six months but having a problem connecting.

Hoffman motioned to let Executive Board negotiate between two banks with idea of draw loan as best option; Reynolds second. Vote and motion carried.

E. Land Management – Tabled.

F. Trail Brochure – Fulsher noted that she met with two map companies to get quotes on printing a map of the IOHT. Had an example in the packet. Will try to get map sponsors to pay for it.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE/MEETING ATTENDANCE -

Derek Dushane, Negaunee Parks and Recreation is competing for a DNR Trust Fund grant to improve Rivers Park (near our trail). Looking for letter of support from IOHRA. Show connectivity to their park through our easement. **Britton motioned to provide letter, Reynolds seconded. Vote and motion carried.**

IX. BOARD COMMENT -

Hoffman – Family Night on May 15 at Aspen Ridge. Has idea to include woman who does Wire wrapping (making jewelry) in our room and doing things with children with leather, pieces of wood.

Thomas – City of Negaunee contacted Thomas and may want to put waste water pipes through our property and go behind ice rink. Buried so wouldn't affect recreation. No formal request yet though.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Miller – Looking forward to riding this trail all the way through. Ishpeming could be a trail town as mentioned in Trail Summit. Parking for trailheads should be pull through.

Negaunee City putting in parking by Michigan Street.

Dave Drummond thanking for efforts for ATVs/equestrians etc.

XI. ADJOURNMENT -

Britton motioned to adjourn. Peters seconded. Vote and motion carried. 5:55pm.

Respectively submitted,

Carol Fulsher

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 4:30 PM COUNTRY INN AND SUITES