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IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF December 17, 2014

- 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; Dotty Lajoie, Marquette County
Excused Absence: Jeremy Pickens, Marquette
Guest: Ron Yesney, Bill Sanders
Staff: Carol Fulsher
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes)
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Hoffman motioned to approve consent agenda; Bussone seconded. Consent agenda included November 19 minutes. November financials and December bills to be paid totaling \$21,629. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Phase IV – Tilden/Republic
 1. Bruce Creek Bridge – Britton, Thomas and Fulsher inspected bridge work. Bridge was done in time for December 1, however there is still some clean up needed. We will hold 5% until debris is removed after snow melts. We have paid \$24K of \$30K bid thus far.
 2. Republic Plans and Bid – Our engineer presented Bulletin #1 with change orders to deduct \$72,580 from original Wuebben bid of \$287,420. **Johnson (Gary) motioned to accept Sanders recommendations on Bulletin #1. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
 - B. 2014 Year End Projection – Fulsher presented 2014 budget v actual she expects based on projection of expenses. We will have net income of \$42K versus budget of \$23K. \$5000 is engineering costs that will come in 2015. The remainder is from signage coming in under budget.
 - C. Maintenance Updates – Since our last meeting, we placed five interpretive panels on three kiosks at Michigan Iron Industry Museum and Welcome Center.
 - D. Grant Updates
 1. MNRTF Recommended Projects – We were notified that our \$22K for interpretive signs was approved; Schwemwood Park in Marquette Township and Lions Field in Chocolay (trailheads) were recommended for funding as well.
 2. MCACA Grant – Our MCACA grant request for \$12,500 was reviewed (artwork at Pellet Pavilion) and came in very favorably. We should hear shortly if we will be funded.
 3. Artplace America – We submitted a letter of inquiry to place significant pieces of artwork at each trailhead along the trail. In January, we will learn if we will be asked to submit a grant request.
 - E. Office Location – No new updates on office location. Fulsher advised that we will stay where we are for the winter.
 - F. ATV Sponsor – The board approved us being sponsor of Greenwood Grade and LS&I grade to Humboldt/Republic Township line. We need to work to find a way through Ishpeming; it is a bottleneck area. With this connection, we'd have an ATV trail from Republic to Negaunee with trailhead at Negaunee.
 - G. Marquette Township Menards Easement/Snowmobile Trail - Marquette Township approved the easement that Hiawatha Snowmobile Group wanted from Iron Ore Heritage Trail to Northwoods Road. KBIC may help with funding the connector trail to gas station. Perhaps put some benches or picnic tables and viewing. Hiawatha Snowmobile Club is still going to use highway crossing at Best

Buy for one year.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Future Wish List – Fulsher included a wish list for future projects after Republic/Tilden. She suggested we look at closely and review early next year to find priorities for next two years. Yesney suggested we look at RIF/RTP monies for Ely/Humboldt area although they are very competitive. Discussed widening area near the wetlands in Negaunee. Office space for walk in traffic. Perhaps Duke Lifepoint can help us.

B. Chicago Adventure Show – Fulsher noted that she has been asked to join the CVB staff to work a booth at the Chicago Adventure Show January 15-18. Expenses to be paid for by CVB. **Britton moved to send Fulsher to Adventure Show in January with CVB; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

C. Volunteer Hours – We reviewed the volunteer hours sheet. Thus far 1000 hours donated to the trail. Fulsher noted that we should work to get this out to public. Discussed “Word on the Street” blog.

D. Michigan Trail Summit – February 10, 2015. – There will be an annual Trail Summit prior to the Michigan Parks and Recreation conference again in 2015. The summit is February 10 in Lansing. **Hoffman motioned to send Fulsher to summit; Johnson (Glenn) seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.** Fulsher will check to see if she can get reimbursed (as last year) through her role on non-motorized advisory committee..

VI. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - Fulsher will be attending a meeting in December with Tom Weston, DNR with other trail advocates in Marquette area. Marquette area chosen as pilot project for trail marketing through State web site.

VII. BOARD COMMENT

Thomas – Gates are in process with Negaunee High School. Should have ten full size gates. Noted that Don Rice is grooming ski trail. Need additional signage on Ishpeming to Negaunee portion to keep motorized off of that section.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – Yesney noted that Barbieri bought Plum Creek property and wants legal access off the Greenwood rail grade, but has access another way. May come back to our board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – **Hoffman motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:45 pm, Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES