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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY**

DRAFT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23

1. ROLL CALL - Don Britton, Chocolay; Jeremy Pickens, Marquette; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township; Jim Thomas, Negaunee; Dotty Lajoye, Marquette County
Excused Absense: Gary Johnson, Republic; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township
Guests: Kathy Peters, Marquette Township Alternate
2. PUBLIC COMMENT ( Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – no public comment
3. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Britton motioned to approve consent agenda as provided; Lajoye seconded motion. Consent agenda includes August meeting minutes; August balance sheet showing assets and liabilities/equity of $506,310.72. August profit and loss showing net income of (7773.85) and year to date net income of $8589.56; budget v actual, and general ledger. Also September bills to be paid totaling $161,575.65). Vote and motion carries unanimously.**
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Lajoye motioned to approve agenda with one change--move new business up before old business. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
5. OLD BUSINESS
	1. Phase IV –
	1. Republic project update – Fulsher noted that Republic project is nearing completion. Sanders, our engineer, asked us to review on Saturday and provide a punch list of items we see that aren’t completed. Several of board members will be attending a ribbon cutting on Saturday and we will review at that time. The bid for project was $198,000 and we have $26,000 yet to pay.
	2. Tilden Construction Plans and Bids – Our first bill came in for $109,000 out of $188,000 bid. The aggregate was laid down very quickly. We will have to add fencing to the project at Winthrop Junction to provide for safety where Mineral Range Railroad stores cars. Approximately $6500 extra. The aggregate is very hard packed. It is Associated Contractor’s granite.

3. LS&I grade washout – Low bid for the engineering project was $5000 for engineering and $2700 to oversee construction of bridge and was awarded to UPEA. The RTP grant will cover this. A bridge will be engineered for this area. We don’t expect that this project will be completed in 2015.

B. ORV Route through Ishpeming – The City of Ishpeming has recommended that the route through Ishpeming use Washington Street from Winthrop Junction to Trail #8 which is just north of Division Street. They have proposed changing their ordinance for ORVs and will go to City Council on October 7. Should it pass, we will need to put up confidence markers along the route.

C. Grant Updates
 1. ArtPlace America 2016 – Discussion on how to use this grant for next round. Next calls for proposals will be released in January of 2016. Fulsher and Lajoye discussed the possibility of bringing our member townships andc ities together at one time to discuss grants like these and how we can partner as well as discuss the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. We have not been together since the signing of the Articles in 2007. Fulsher to look at places to hold a BAH type of event on December 4 from 3-5 pm to bring members together to present our projects to date and discuss millage renewal. Will invite all the township and city council members.
 2. 2015 Recreation Passport Prelim Score - Preliminary score is 110 out of 230. We have until October 1 to add narrative and attachments to bring up score. Fulsher worked on narrative for rationale, marketing, environmental sustainabililty and Universal Access.
 3. MCACA Pellet Pavilion Art Project – This project is finalized. We received coverage on TV6 and TV10. The artwork is beautiful and does keep pellets off of the trail.

 4. Coastal Management Waterways Trail Towns – Fulsher noted that we were going to look at this grant with many other trail partners and the City of Marquette and DDA to make the Commons area more of an urban trailhead. She noted that the last meeting was poorly attended and there does not seem to be the will to make this happen. Discussion on using MSU Extension Services to provide drawings based upon trail partner input and provide to City and DDA.
 5. NEA Our Town Grant – This grant has been postponed until 2016. City felt more background work needed to be done before bringing to City Commission. Looking at the area near where Duke Lifepoint and Veridea will have their trails meet up with IOHT. Discussion has been focused on a plaza type area.

D. Maintenance Schedule

 1. Paving bids –Superior Paving, Smith Paving. We have several proposals for fixing the hills in Negaunee. Right now Superior Paving has a low bid of $112,000 to pave 5650 feet from flatlands to hill past r/r crossing. Would add wedge curb cuts for water drainage. Mike Morrisette (previously at Marquette Co. Road Commission) felt paving and wedge cuts would be best fix for the big hill. Fulsher noted that she put this price into the 2016 draft budget for now.

 2. RFP for Negaunee Township – We have asked Associated to provide us with a price using their aggregate since their aggregate is superior to anything we have used thus far. As yet, we do not have a quote. Discussed doing an RFP to all bidders to fix this area which would include grading and tilting trail to south side, adding 2” aggregate and rolling.

E. Events
 1. Marquette Marathon, September 5 – This event was held and had 1000 or more participants. No train disruption. We did have several people note that the trail needed to be cleaned up better than what it had been. Lots of bottles and gel packs. We will note that with event organizers.

 2. Republic Ribbon Cutting, September 26 – There will be a ribbon cutting in Republic on September 26 (Saturday) at 11 am ribbon. Organized by Planning Commission in Republic to celebrate the improvements in that area.

 3. Walk for Poor St Vincent October 10 - This organization is planning a walking event on the Ishpeming portion of trail. Fulsher has noted that they also need to work with City of Ishpeming.

F. Dark Store/Tax Tribunal – Fulsher noted that she was asked to attend a meeting last month with other governments who are affected by the Dark Store tax tribunal decisions. We have all been asked to be part of a presentation to citizens to relate how these decisions are affecting them. For us it means, less maintenance getting done. This year we had budgeted a $5000 net income and had to pay back nearly $10,000 to tax tribunal claims.

1. NEW BUSINESS
	1. 2015 Budget Amendment – Fulsher presented the second amended budget for 2015. The big items changed including $10,000 less in tax income. Added $7700 into State grants due to Humboldt project. That will be a wash through our budget with $7700 added to engineering expense. Tilden/Republic construction project was decreased from $402,450 to $393,370 due to having the bids in and knowing the fencing costs. Added $1000 to maintenance budget. Some other items tweaked less than $1000. **Johnson motioned to amend the 2015 as presented in Board Packet as Budget Amendment #2 dated September 23. Britton seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**
	2. 2016 Draft Budget/Plans – Fulsher prepared a very preliminary draft budget for 2016 adding the $112,000 for trail maintenance as biggest item for trail work, $50,000 for two trailheads that are in process of upgrades (SChwemwood and Lions Field). Wages are known due to contract. Other operational expenses based on 2015. There is one last payment on our loan of $25000 plus interest. Discussion on trail maintenance and priorities. Income was based on 2015 property taxes. However, it was noted that we may have to pay $33,000 to We Energies if they win their tax tribunal case. There also could be other Dark Store tax tribunal decisions that we don’t know about yet. Fulsher would like to have an Executive meeting in October to discuss 2016 priorities and budget. Will provide another draft budget in October.
	3. City of Marquette Request for Father Marquette Park Grant Letter and Signage – City has a Trust Fund grant submitted to provide upgrades to the Father Marquette Park including n accessible trail from Lakeshore Blvd (where IOHT parallels). Asked for a letter from us to show partnership. **Pickens motioned to draft a letter in support for the City; Lajoye seconded motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.**

1. BOARD COMMENT - Johnson congratulated Fulsher on winning photo contest for Rails to Trails Conservancy. Fulsher noted that photo was submitted by her but is her daughter’s photo. Photo will be on 2016 Rails to Trails calendar.
Britton noted that the Margejick 100 mountain bike event is taking place this Saturday and may be crossing trail. 100 mile mountain bike event.
Thomas noted that Don Rice will be grooming the cross country ski trail again.
He also noted that wood posts are being taken out on highways and replacing with metal posts. He contacedt Road Commission to get the 4x4’s and we will get them and store them for our needs.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.
3. ADJOURNMENT - **Britton motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:54 pm. Johnson supported motion. Vote and motion carried unanimously.***NEXT MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2015, COUNTRY INN AND SUITES*