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**102 W. Washington Suite 232
Marquette, MI 49855
906-235-2923****ironoreheritage@gmail.com**

**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
OF MARCH 28, 2022**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL -Don Britton, Chair, Chocolay; Glenn Johnson, Vice Chair/Secretary, Marquette Township; Lauren Luce, Treasurer, Marquette County; Al Reynolds, Exec. Board Member, Negaunee Township; Jim Brennan, Republic; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Bob Hendrickson, Negaunee; Nick Leach, Marquette
Excused Absence: Larry Bussone, Ishpeming
Staff: Carol Fulsher, Administrator
Guests: Kathy Peters, Dave Whaley, Mike Springer, Rob Katona, Reggie Durant, Lyn Durant
2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No public comment
3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS –**
	1. **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022 MNRTF ACQUISITION GRANT FOR IRON ORE HERITAGE SINGLE TRACK PARK** – Chair Don Britton opened the public hearing on the TF22-0047 Grant Application for acquisition of 176 acres. Fulsher reviewed the project of acquiring land from a private owner in Marquette and Negaunee Townships for a future IOHRA single track park, allowing different types of trail users a unique experience apart from the main IOHT. Possible 17 miles more of single track accessible through the IOHT and amidst housing developments. Opens up land that have been owned by a family for nearly 90 years for public use and provides relief from other trails that have become “loved to death”. Comments requested. Kathy Peters inquired about parking. Area accessible through Schwemwood Park Trailhead.
	Mike Springer voiced his support for the project. The owners wish to make the property open to the public for recreation plus their part of history. Spoke about Pete’s Pass and Peter O’Dovero’s commitment to that portion of the trail. There is a wedge of land near the property that is owned by Peter O’Dovero that would provide more access to this land.
	Reggie Durant supported the endeavor. He is actively involved in building trails in Big Bay and is a frequent user of the trails.
	Lyn Durant supported the acquisition grant as a taxpayer of Marquette Township and liked the connectivity between north and south that it provides. As a Marquette Charter Township Board member, she also wrote a letter in support.
	With no more public comment, Chair Britton closed the public hearing.
	2. **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022 MNRTF DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR EXTENSION OF TRAIL TO LAKENENLAND** – Chair Britton opened the public hearing on grant application TF22-0040 the Development of a 5-Mile Extension of the IOHT to Lakenenland. Fulsher reviewed a power point about the proposed new trail extending to Lakenenland. IOHRA has secured a lease of the Soo Line Corridor for development of a 12’ wide accessible, bike path aggregate trail that would allow more opportunities for people to access Lakenenland, a free metal sculpture art park. Worked with Superior Alliance of Independent Living Staff on separation of trail from the motorized trail that exists, opportunities for bike racks, benches, signage. Different geography from previous parts of trail going through a jack pine forest and provides a more unique destination and end point than the current Kawbawgam Road pocket park.
	Chair Britton opened up for public comments.
	Dave Whaley, who grooms the snowmobile trail for U.P. Central Trails, from Carp River to Brownstone Inn had some questions. He wanted to know if new trail would be on north or south side of current trail and how far away it would be from current trail and if it would be limestone or local granite and if fencing was part of the project.
	Britton noted that trail would be on south side of current trail, 15-20 feet away, no fencing but signage to differentiate motorized vs non-motorized, and that we have been using a bike path aggregate from local vendor that has been working well.
	Mike Springer noted that Lakenenland is a perfect example of iron ore as entertaining and whimsical art and that events are held here as well: wedding, entertainment and it’s free for kids.
	Reggie Durant felt it would be a good place for families riding the trail and another reason to use the trail. It’s a perfect fit.
	Lyn Durant said it will provide more connectivity and provide more education about the history of the area.
	Glenn Johnson said that Lakenenland has become very popular as a visitor attraction.
	With no more comments, Don Britton, Chair, closed the public hearing.
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Brennan motioned to approve the consent agenda as provided in packet; Hoffman seconded motion.** Consent agenda included February minutes; February balance sheet showing total assets of $808,782; total liabilities of $24,567; and equity of $784,215; February profit/loss sheet showing income of $21,659, expenses of $12,656 for net income of $9003; YTD income of $313,402; Q1 budget v actual as of February showing revenue at 106% of budget, expenses at 246% of budget and net income at 98% of budget; February general ledger showing checks written from 1392 to 1403, and March bills to be paid totaling $12,549.88. **Vote and motion carried.**
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Hoffman motioned to approve the agenda as presented; Hendrickson seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. Michigan Grant Updates
	* 1. 2021 Trust Fund Negaunee Boardwalk – Still waiting for the grant agreement. Fulsher wasn’t sure if Michigan had approved budget because grants need the budget approved before being sent. Leach noted that Michigan had approved the budget.
		2. 2022 MNRTF Development Grant for Lakenenland

Resolution to submit grant **– Brennan motioned to sign the resolution to submit the grant application; Leach seconded motion. Roll call vote taken and motion passed 8 ayes; 0 nayes and 1 absent**.

* + 1. 2022 MNRTF Acquisition Grant Resolution to Submit Grant – **Brennan motioned to sign the resolution to submit the grant and provide the match money; Luce seconded motion. Discussion on other sources of funding available and the scope of this project, and excitement about these two applications this year. Roll call was taken and motion passed 8 ayes; 0 nayes and 1 absent.**
1. Millage Renewal Update – All municipalities have signed their resolutions to continue within the Recreation Authority and endorse the ballot request for millage renewal in August. Their resolutions, the IOHRA resolution, and ballot language are now at the County Clerk’s office. Now the millage renewal goes into the public phase of notifying public of millage renewal. Luce volunteered to work on a direct mail piece. Noted the effectiveness of the Marquette School renewal flyer recently sent. Also talked about banners, social media posts, letters to editor.
2. Negaunee Township Trailhead Project – Project will commence again this spring. End date on contract is June 30, 2022. Leach notified that portion of County Road 492 in that area may be repaved this summer.
3. Asphalt Repair Project – Fulsher noted that some of the bid documents are in the packet. Bids are due on April 14. Contractor will have four weeks to finish the project once it starts and it has to be finished by October 31, 2022. Fulsher also working on other grants to help pay for this project. It will also be a major disturbance on trail this year since we have no detours available. Britton noted that the 2014 paving in Negaunee needs capping as well and we should be working on funding for this as well to extend the life of the pavement.
4. NEW BUSINESS
	1. Other Grants – WEHF and American Trails Trail Fund and MTGA Statewide Active Transportation Network Funding through MEDC – Fulsher noted she submitted a $7300 grant request to the West End Health Foundation for the asphalt repair project and will be submitting an American Trails Maintenance Fund grant as well to help with project costs. American Trails is due on April 15 and we will know if awarded in May. She also is working with Michigan Trails and Greenways on supplemental State funding for active transportation which included $2M for Lakenenland extension which would allow us to pave this portion of trail and add other components.
	2. 2022 Budget Amendment One – Fulsher reviewed the two changes in Amendment One of the Budget. The first is the grant acquisition monies in income and expense were taken out and the second is additional funding for Professional services due to attorney fees for Negaunee campground/trailhead project and millage renewal ballot advise. **Hendrickson motioned to approve the 2022 budget amendment one as presented; Hoffman seconded motion. Roll call vote was taken and motion passed with 8 ayes; 0 nayes, and 1 absent.**
	3. 2023 Recreation Plan – Fulsher noted that our 5-Year Recreation Plan will expire in 2023 and we need to start working on new five -year plan to submit to State of Michigan early in 2023. Information included in packet from 2018. Leach noted that Negaunee Township is working on theirs and will be having a public session on April 12. Hoffman and Hendrickson volunteered to work on committee to begin process of developing the plan.
5. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Fulsher noted she has spent time this month on STQRY webinars on how to develop digital interpretive content, has been invited to work on Sustainable tourism committee, is working on several grants and will be on vacation April 16-22. She also noted that she spoke to Lori Hauswirth from NTN about e-bike messaging. Many shops selling e-bikes that aren’t allowed on trails. Fulsher also noted that we need to work on messaging next fall about winter trail use. Luce noted that our tone will be important on messaging. Dawn Evans from Media Brew would be a good person to help us with proper etiquette and press. Fulsher also noted that April is our annual meeting and she wanted to know if board wanted to meet at Congress Pizza after meeting.
6. BOARD COMMENT – Leach noted that he and wife Emily welcomed baby girl Robin to the family.
Johnson offered the bank as a meeting location in the future.
Brennan noted that Republic Township is working on developing 92 acres on River Road for single track trails. Also he’s working with Jim Kippola on opening wetlands. Kippola is meeting with Humboldt Township tonight and will bring up the possibility of joining the Recreation Authority.
Reynolds noted that he had corneal transplant surgery recently and he is on the mend.
Britton noted that we need to cap the asphalt.

Hendrickson asked about meeting dates in future so he can schedule some work commitments around our meetings.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mike Springer congratulated us on the 2 grant applications. Requested that we purchase an Owl for better zoom experience.
Rob Katona offered help with ORV projects for upcoming summer.
2. ADJOURNMENT- **Brennan motioned to adjourn meeting; Hoffman seconded motion. Vote and motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.**  *NEXT MEETING DATE: Annual Meeting, April 27, 2022 ,Ishpeming Senior Center and Zoom, Congress Pizza after meeting*