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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL - Don BRitton, Chair, Chocolay; Jim Brennan, Republic; Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Al Reynolds, Negaunee Township; Nick Leach, Marquette City; Bob Hendrickson, Negaunee City

Excused Absence: Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township; Lauren Luce, Marquette County; Glenn Johnson, Marquette Township

Staff: Carol Fulsher (excused absence)

Guests: Rob Katona

1. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) - Craig Cugini, Ishpeming City Manager, stated his support for the IOHT and the City of Negaunee but has concerns about the campground project and the potential for competition with already established campgrounds like the one the City of Ishpeming operates. His council has concerns that the City of Negaunee is using IOHT land to directly compete with the City of Ishpeming and would hate to see the IOHT become a partner in creating a divide between the cities. Stated that the two cities have always had a friendly rivalry and his is at the meeting to gain more information about the project.
2. PUBLIC HEARING – 2023-2028 RECREATION PLAN -

Chair Britton opened the public hearing by giving an overview of the recreation plan and the planning processes. Noted that there have been no submitted comments during the 30-day review period and thanked Mike Springer and everyone else for all the hard work that went into updating the plan. No further public comment was submitted. **Motion to close public hearing by Britton, seconded by Reynolds. Vote and motion carried and public hearing closed**.

1. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - Brennan motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; Reynolds seconded motion. Consent agenda included November meeting minutes; November Balance sheet showing assets of $679,036.79, liabilities of $155,453.07 and equity of $523,583.72; November profit and loss showing November income of $1,196.35, November expenses of $9,244.54 for net income of ($8,048.19). YTD income of $50,935.26. Q4 budget v actual as of November showing income at 132% of budget; expenses at 57% of budget. YTD income at 107%; expenses at 93%; November general ledger showing checks written 1514 to 1527; and December bills to be paid totaling $130,015.29.  **Vote and motion carried and consent agenda approved.**
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - **Brennan motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried and consent agenda approved**.

1. OLD BUSINESS
2. Michigan Grant Updates -.
   * 1. 2021 Trust Fund Negaunee Boardwalk - Bill sanders will have the bid documents ready by January and expects to have the bid package out by February
     2. 2022 MNRTF Development Grant for Lakenenland - Received email confirmation from the DNR that this grant will be funded at $300,000. Looking to start late fall 2023 or early Spring 2024.
     3. 2022 MNRTF Acquisition - Received email confirmation from DNR that this project will be funded at $150,700.
     4. Michigan Spark Grant - application has been submitted for additional $300,000 in funding for Lakenenland project.
     5. Michigan Spark Grant II, Lighting - Reviewed information regarding dark sky requirements and noted that the City of Negaunee did not use lights that fit this requirement. Fulsher asked that board decide whether to continue with Negaunee lighting and look for other funding or go dark sky route and try for spark grant round II. Topic to be brought back up at the January meeting.
3. 2023 Recreation Plan Approval/Resolution to Submit, Roll call vote - discussion on the plan and the importance of all of the work that went into it. **Brennan Motioned to approve the plan as presented and move forward with the resolution to submit the plan to the DNR; Bussone seconded motion. Roll call taken and motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no, and 3 absent.**
4. Negaunee Campground Environmental Assessment Update - Leach gave an overview of the meeting with the City on December 8th. Brief discussion on terminology related to the environmental assessment work and the steps in the process. No representation from the City of Negaunee was present at tonight’s meeting and no new documentation was presented for information related to a potential phase ii environmental assessment. Brennan asked Cugini for more information about the City of Ishpeming campground and discussion followed about the process Ishpeming used for funding, noncompetition from municipally operated campgrounds, Cugini’s discussion with the business community about concerns related to competition, and availability of State funding. Leach recommended that Cugini contact the IOHT Administrator to gain more information about the partnership with the City of Negaunee in order to better inform himself and then come back to the Rec Authority with follow up questions. Brennan recommended that this item is tabled until the City of Negaunee provides more information.
5. NEW BUSINESS
   1. **2022 Budget Amendment, Roll Call Vote - amendments were reviewed. Leach motioned to approve the 2022 budget amendments as presented; Hendrickson seconded motion. Roll call vote taken and motion passed with 6 yes, 0 no, and 3 absent**
   2. 2023 Meeting Schedule **-** 2023 schedule reviewed. **Leach motioned to approve the 2023 meeting schedule as presented; Reynolds seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
   3. Letters of support policy **-** Administrator report noted that we do not have a policy currently for how to address requests for the Rec Authority to support a project. **Leach Motion to require petitioners requesting letters of support to be reviewed and decided on by the Rec Authority at a public meeting; Brennan seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
6. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
7. BOARD COMMENT -Brennan noted Republic Township has filed a SPARK Grant for biking and hiking trails with kayak/canoe access on the river. Hendrickson spoke about the corridor of interconnected trails project and the upcoming meeting to talk about that project on January 11th (tentatively).
8. PUBLIC COMMENT - – Cugini spoke about the Ishpeming project for recreational branding called “IRON” and recommended that the IOHT should start thinking about how they want to tie into this branding scheme. Rob Katona gave an update on the CN trail crossing and how he is working with the local representative and MDOT rail on clarifying some misunderstandings related to mixed use in the area.
9. ADJOURNMENT *-* **– Leach motioned to adjourn meeting; Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:45pm**

Minutes respectively submitted by Nick Leach, Member