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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chair, Chocolay Township; Glenn Johnson, Vice Chair/Secretary, Marquette Township; Al Reynolds, Executive Committee, Negaunee Township; Jim Brennan, Republic Township; Larry Bussone, City ofIshpeming; Bob Hendrickson, Negaunee; Nick Leach, City of Marquette
Excused Absence: Lauren Luce, Marquette County; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden Township
Guests: Dan Croney, Iron Range Roll; Mike Springer, Marquette Township Alternative; Rob Katona, DNR
Staff: Carol Fulsher, Administrator
2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – No Public Comment
3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – **Bussone motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; Leach seconded motion.**
Consent agenda included January meeting minutes; January Balance Sheet showing total assets of $852,360; total liabilities of $33,239 and total equity of $819,121; January profit/loss showing income at $332,660, total expense of $8409 for net income of $324,251; Q1 budget v actual as of January with revenue at 99%; expenses at 84% and net income at 99%; January general ledger showing checks 1542 through 1555 with exc. Of 1543 and 1544 which were paid in December 2022; and February bills to be paid totaling $9861. **Vote and motion carried and consent agenda approved.**
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Hendrickson motioned to approve agenda as presented; Brennan seconded motion. Vote and motion carried and agenda approved.**
5. 2023 IRON RANGE ROLL EVENT PERMIT – Dan Croney presented about the upcoming 10th Annual Iron Range Roll scheduled for June 3, 2023. Annual bike ride starting at Ishpeming’s Cliff Shaft Museum and rolling to Marquette Commons. Started 10 years ago to feature the IOHT**. Leach motioned to approve the 2023 permit for the event; Johnson seconded motion.** Britton asked about deposit and Leach notified that we should wait one year before instituting deposit to see how the presentations works first. **Vote and motion carried and permit approved.**
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. Michigan Grant Updates
	* 1. Michigan Spark Grant 1 & 2, Lakenenland – Fulsher noted that we were not successful in Round One of Spark Grant. Only one project in UP in Sault Saint Marie will be awarded. No scores yet either. We will reapply for Lakenenland when 2nd round available.
		2. MDARD Grant 2022 – We made it to the second round of applicants for MDARD. We will hear in March if we are awarded grant for truck, trailer, tractor.
8. Projects
	* 1. Negaunee Boardwalk – No bid documents yet. Fulsher continues to talk to Sanders about getting bids ready.
		2. Lakenenland - Other Grant Opportunities- Fulsher notified that she had a TEAM Meeting with MDOT personnel about possible Transportation Alternative program. We could have a good application for this program, but we need a NEPA clearance and Section 106 historic property review done before applying, we need to find ownership of rail grade or whether rail banked, we need to find applicant on our behalf and Mr. Lakenen would have to provide easement to the applicant and we need to have engineering documents done. Next round in June. Fulsher noted that the price of project will go up. Suggested holding off and looking for other monies. She is also applying for a Sault Tribe and KBIC Tribe 2% monies through the County. Also suggested applying for MDARD in 2023.
		3. Property Acquisition of 176 acres – Project is moving forward. The 40-year title work has been completed and submitted. The ESA work will be next. And then we have to wait for grant agreement before next steps.
		4. Negaunee Township new aggregate – Discussion on Negaunee Township upgrades from Smith Property to 492/35. We have budgeted $70K in 2023 for new aggregate and approved Superior Paving proposal. It’s for new aggregate only. Discussion on other options, such as paving hills, chip sealing, recycled asphalt, etc. No one does chip sealing in the U.P. However, Marquette Road Commission is purchasing a chip sealer in 2024. Board agreed to do aggregate only in 2023 and wait for Marquette Road Commission to get chip sealer and add that in 2024.
		5. Trail Sustainability Open House – Open houses were held in February and now we are waiting for LSCP/Eagle Mine to follow up. Next steps will be to form a steering committee, possible IMBA (Int’l Mtn Bike Assc) partnership/contract, and web site.
		6. Winthrop Junction Update – Bussone and Fulsher met with City of Ishpeming to resolve the possible easement/lease along Washington Street needed for our parking area. Hope to have resolved soon.
		7. Hiring Committee Report – Leach noted that the committee met and has a good handle on application verbiage. Hopes to publish/post in mid-March with 30-day application period. Want applicants to provide their salary requirements. Committee will be meeting again and will update board.
		8. Lighting – Ishpeming – Fulsher asked for direction on lighting grant applications. Negaunee has lighting on trail from Jackson Miners Park to city limits. We have tried to get to Division Street in past; however we will need to go to Ishpeming planning commission since we abut a neighborhood. We could take to 3rd Street, but we have the issue behind Brownstone or we could take only .4 miles to the Howard Oil winter trailhead. Discussion on all three options with pros and cons. Board agreed on Phase I going to Howard Oil.
9. NEW BUSINESS
	1. IOHRA Board Members – Ishpeming & Negaunee reps up for 2023 appointment – Bussone and Hendrickson have been reappointed by Cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee for additional 3-year terms.
	2. Maintenance w.o MDARD grant – If MDARD grant is not approved, should IOHT take on the full costs of the truck, trailer and tractor this year. **Bussone motioned to purchased truck and trailer only if no MDARD grant dollars. Hendrickson seconded motion**. Board agrees that we need truck and trailer this year. Fulsher enrolled IOHT in MI Deals and may be able to get better pricing. **Vote and motion carried.**
	3. Executive Board Action Polar Roll Ultra – The Executive Board met on February 3 (as directed by Board in January) and approved the Polar Roll ultra event permit for 2023.
	4. Interpretive Sign Book – Fulsher noted that Kathy Peters has been inquiring about an interpretive sign book publishing with IOHT and Mqt. Regional History Center sharing costs and profits on book. Fulsher did some initial work on pricing. Book is not in our budget for 2023**. Johnson motioned to delay project until other interpretive signs are finished; Leach seconded motion. Vote and motion carried.**
10. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Fulsher noted she spoke to a PEO group this month (philanthropy group), did a MJ interview for the Progress Edition, and attended Marquette City master plan workshop, and had a Zoom meeting with Elle at LSCP and Matt at Eagle about Sustainability committee.
11. BOARD COMMENT – Brennan noted he will get resolution of continuance and ballot language in front of his board at March meeting;
Hendrickson noted he has been appointed to the Michigan DNR non-motorized advisory committee, and also asked DNR rep if there was any feedback on Polar Roll posting.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.
13. ADJOURNMENT**- Leach motioned to adjourn meeting; Bussone seconded motion. Vote and motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.**

*Minutes respectively submitted by Carol Fulsher, Administrator, IOHRA*