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**IRON ORE HERITAGE RECREATION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES AND BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2023**

**ISHPEMING SENIOR CENTER**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. ROLL CALL – Don Britton, Chair, Chocolay; Glenn Johnson, Vice Chair/Secretary, Marquette Township; Lauren Luce, Treasurer, Marquette County; Al Reynolds, Executive Committee, Negaunee Township; Jim Brennan, Republic; Bob Hendrickson, Negaunee; Nick Leach, Marquette

Excused board member absence: Larry Bussone, Ishpeming; Dawn Hoffman, Tilden
Staff: Carol Fulsher, Administrator
Guests: Mark Ballhorn, Rob Katona, Mike Springer

1. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items – Limit to three minutes) – Mike Springer congratulated the Board on getting front page news article in *Mining Journal’s* Progress Edition.
2. PUBLIC HEARING – Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Application RP23.0053, Ishpeming Trail and Trailhead Amenities

PUBLIC HEARING – Michigan Trust Fund Grant Application TF23.0121, Ishpeming Trail and Trailhead Amenities – Britton opened the Public Hearing at 4:35 pm.
Fulsher reviewed the accessible trailhead components we want to add along our corridor at HOB and the lighting to be extended from Negaunee. Project entails underground utilities, light poles, dark sky lighting, accessible picnic table and seating, aggregate path from paved trail to interpretive sign. We would also work with City of Ishpeming to put in paved parking space, but that would be outside the grant scope items. Our request would be for $85,900 and we would match at $40,000 for total of $125,900.
Mike Springer supported the project.
Public hearing closed at 4:45 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA **-Brennan motioned to approve consent agenda as presented; Johnson seconded motion.** Consent agenda included February meeting minutes, February balance sheet showing assets of $843,966; liabilities of $33,519 and equity of $810,447; February profit/loss showing income of $1353, expenses of $10,027 for net income of ($8674). YTD income of $315,577; February budget v actual showing revenue at 99%; and expenses at 95%; February General Ledger showing checks written 1556 through 1567; and March bills to be paid totaling $9557. **Vote taken and motion carried.**
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – **Johnson voted to approve agenda with the addition of Item VIB8. NTN Trailhead letter of support; Johnson seconded motion. Vote taken and motion carried.**
3. OLD BUSINESS
4. Michigan Grant Updates
	* 1. MDARD Grant 2022 – MDARD grant awarded this week. $56,000 with our matching funds of $24000 for total of $80,000 for purchase of truck, trailer, and tractor.
		2. Michigan Recreation Passport Trail/Trailhead Amenities
			+ 1. Background – Fulsher reviewed background of project
				2. Resolution **– Leach motioned to approve and sign the Resolution to submit the Recreation Passport grant application; Brennan seconded motion. Roll call vote taken and motion passed 7 ayes; 0 nayes; and 2 absent.**
		3. Michigan Trust Fund Grant Trail/Trailhead Amenities

a. Background – Fulsher reviewed background of project.

b. Resolution – **Brennan motioned to approve and sign the resolution to submit the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application; Leach seconded motion. Roll call vote taken and motion passed with 7 ayes; 0 nayes; and 2 absent**.

1. Projects
	* 1. Negaunee Boardwalk – Sanders hired another person in office to help. Bid documents should be ready within 2 weeks.
		2. Lakenenland - Fulsher noted that she applied for the Sault Tribe 2% funds and KBIC 2% for $25,000 each through the County of Marquette. Will help with the Lakenenland project.
		3. Property Acquisition,176 acres – Title work is finalized and submitted; North Jackson Company will do the ESA work when snow melts. We are waiting for grant agreements.
		4. Trail Sustainability Update – no update.
		5. Winthrop Junction Update – Ishpeming approved lease for Washington Street right of way. Fulsher noted that Sanders will provide drawings so we can bid project. Parking area will be gravel, square parking area with road perimeter so trucks can pull through. Parking spaces s/b 12’ wide x 60’ long. May be able to get 15 or so parking spaces on each side of center road.
		6. Hiring Committee Report – Leach reported on process. Asked for applicants through Facebook post, Linked in, and other local web sites. One applicant thus far. Open until April 14. Discussion on using Manpower. Decided to review options at later date. Fulsher will pass on application info as she receives.
		7. Maintenance Vehicle – Fulsher noted that we were looking for 2 door, 8’ beds but those type of vehicles are difficult to find. Can go to 6.5’ bed with larger cab. We have some leads and will come back in April with more definitive options.
		8. Marquette Township NTN Trailhead Support Letter – **Brennan made motion to provide support letter for Marquette Township NTN Trailhead project; Johnson seconded motion.** Discussion on need for such trailhead for single track use, location is near Vandenboom/Grove Street intersection. **Vote and motion carried**.
2. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Fulsher noted that r/r gates should be closed on April 1 (if snow allows). Fulsher on vacation March 31 through April 10. Noted that our Annual meeting is next month and she will set up the volunteer appreciation meal at Congress Pizza following meeting.
3. BOARD COMMENT – Hendrickson stated that a local man, David Kero, was killed on his bike while riding in Arizona. As a tribute, a group will use the donated artwork from Perkins to build a bigger fireplace at HOB.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT - Ballhorn asked about wetlands project location. Also noted that signage needed on ski trail for winter trail etiquette.

Katona noted that he is still working with MDOT on multi-use r/r crossing. Decided that IOHRA, MDNR, City of Negaunee and Negaunee Township should be included in site study.

1. ADJOURNMENT– **Leach motioned to adjourn meeting; Johnson seconded motion. Vote taken and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.**

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