

Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority (RMRA)

January 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair S. Jock at 7 p.m. at the CRAF Center

Board Members Present: S. Jock, C. Allen, K. Williams, and C. Hutek (Excused: E. Hart, D. Smitz)

Guests: Tracy Bosworth (Gahagan Nature Preserve), Pat Riss (CRAF Center), Pam Tucker (AuSable River Center), Lori Mattingly & Tammy Menghini (Christmas in the Village)

Public Comment: None

Minutes of November 13, 2019 meeting were approved as presented, motion K. Williams, 2nd C. Hutek, motion carried.

Treasurer Report – Attached. Motion to approve as presented C. Allen, 2nd K. Williams, motion carried.

Payment of Bills: None

Correspondence: None

New Business:

- Schedule of 2020 RMRA meeting dates: Jan 15, **March 19, May 20, July 15, Sept 16, Nov 18. **NOTE: March 19, meeting change of date due to spring break. All meetings will begin at 7 PM.

Old Business:

- Metro Park Bathroom renovation – Renovations are complete with the exception of the floors, which will be done in the spring.
- RARA Progress – Changes were made to the Articles of Incorporation (AOI) at the request of Higgins Township. These changes included a correction in VI. D. Make any purchase of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more, unless authorized to do so by both the Roscommon Village Council and Higgins Township Board. VII. Board of Directors to include an appointed board member by the Village and Township for a period of 3 years; IX. Finances ‘financial records audited every year and submit a quarterly report to the Village and Township. Yearly audits will be completed at RARA’s expense. The AOI’s were approved by the Township November 27, 2019. Due to these changes the AOI document, due diligence was thought to be prudent and the changes were examined by our attorney. It was recommended adding a statement V. J. to the effect ‘if a tax levy (millage) is approved by the voters, donations by the Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township will be waived’. Higgins Township had no action on this at its January 6 board meeting. Certificate of “true copies” need to be signed by the Village and Township Clerks, advertised in the newspaper for two weeks then forwarded to the OFFICE OF THE GREAT SEAL, in Lansing Michigan.
- All property deeds are on hand to be quick claimed to RARA at the appropriate time.
- We plan to advertise and appoint a new RARA Board Member in March 2020
- Members and guests discussed the merging of entity bank accounts due to yearly audit requirements in the AOI. Yearly audits will be completed by the Higgins Township and Village of Roscommon auditor beginning in 2021. P. Tucker asked if the AuSable River Center could have a management lease agreement with RARA that would allow them to maintain their own accounts

(not merge their funds with RARA). P. Tucker said the River Center is willing to get its own 501c3 and EIN number if necessary to maintain their independence but still be part of RARA. Their members are concerned over past participation with the Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce and the use of River Center funds. S. Jock will contact our attorney to seek clarification. It was further clarified that despite the outcome of the River Centers request or attorney's response that a lease would have to be approved by the RMRA board. The overall opinion of the board members that attended this meeting was grim in response.

- Plans/timeline for new RARA Director – will be discussed once AOI's are approved and submitted to the State of Michigan.

Christmas in the Village (CIV) – L. Mattingly – 2019 Event went very well and the committee is pleased with the outcome. Parade attendance was down a little from past years. Christmas in the Village will most likely pull out of RMRA and become a standalone event, getting its own 501c3. CIV merged with the RMRA in the past for insurance purposes.

AuSable River Center – P. Tucker – Cedar strip canoe building continues on Tuesday evenings, they are also rebuilding a canoe. Both offices in the Center are currently rented, the community room is used frequently, the farmers market will continue from spring to fall, and the building itself is used by various groups throughout the year. The RMRA Board would like to see more community interaction at the River Center, whether it is classes, events, activities, etc. to encourage area participation and involvement. This may also garner more volunteers to assist the River Center Board.

Gahagan Nature Preserve- T. Bosworth – In the winter, Gahagan's educator travels to schools and libraries across northern Michigan to deliver a single-topic wildlife program called "The Visiting Naturalist". The theme of this program rotates each year through one of four topics that each showcases a different group of predatory mammals: Wolf Songs, Cat Tales, Bear Tracks and WOW - the Wonder of Weasels. The program provides a rich learning experience to elementary-aged students and uses puppet shows, displays and hands-on activities to impress upon children the need for responsible stewardship of wild places and wild animals. Students are also able to touch and handle pelts, skulls and other natural props from the collection of educational materials that Gahagan developed with assistance from conservation groups like the National Wildlife Federation.

CRAF Center – P. Riss – The Center is doing very well. Membership is at 741 as of today, four years ago it was 149. Revenues are up allowing the purchase of 9 new hoist circuit machines and 6 new treadmills are on order. In the last two years everything in the building has been repainted, updated, and refloored with the exception of the upstairs area used by the cloggers. 'Hell Week' just finished with 23 participants earning their t-shirts. These individuals had to attend 5 classes (four different and one could be a repeat) over 8 days. The event will be held next year with more advance notice. All participants came back with positive comments, enjoying new experiences at the CRAF Center.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn C. Allen, 2nd K. Williams. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Allen, Secretary