



**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP –  
PUBLIC INPUT MEETING  
SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN, March 9, 2022 – 3:00 pm**

The City Council met for a workshop meeting at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall, 102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lewis at 3:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem Dean, Council members Bekken, Gardner, Leo, and Trester

**Absent:** Council member Stanton

**Others Present:** City Manager Heise & Project Coordinator/Deputy Clerk White

City Manager Heise gave a general background on the progress of the Blue Star trail project and the two grants that the City of Saugatuck is pursuing: the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant. The public input session for March 9, 2022 is for the MNRTF grant.

Council member Leo echoed that the MNRTF grant is the second of two grants the City of Saugatuck is pursuing for the trail project.

**2. Guest Speaker:**

**A. C2AE Presentation and Overview of Proposed Blue Star Non-Motorized Trail:**

Roger Marks and Rusti Owens of C2AE appeared via Zoom. Roger Marks provided a brief overview of the proposed Blue Star non-motorized trail project. Marks reviewed each of the four trail segments.

Mayor Lewis clarifies that for the MNRTF grant, the City of Saugatuck does not need to ante up any more money for this project.

**3. Public Input Session:**

Barbara Lucier (resident) noted how pleased she is with the progress of the trail project. John Mellein (non-resident) noted how pleased he is with the development and progress of the trail.

Patricia Gifford (part-time resident) noted how proud she is of the trail progress and would appreciate the extension and connection of the trail.

Dick Waskin (non-resident) thanked City Council for the work and collaboration with the Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Committee. He noted support for the grant and the trail.

**4. General Public Comment:**

Council member Leo thanked the staff of the Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Committee for their efforts behind the scenes and their collaboration and cooperation. She appreciated the level of support from the community.

Council member Bekken asked C2AE to provide a timeline for the MNRTF grant. Marks of C2AE stated that the City would have an understanding of whether they received the grant by August of 2022.

Council member Leo clarified that the City should receive a notice about the MDOT TAP grant within the next month or two. Marks confirmed that that was correct.

Council member Gardner looked for clarification on whether the grant dollars proposed were the best-case scenario in terms of award amount. Marks confirmed that that was correct.

Council member Bekken asked about the timeline of the project in terms of getting the grant money and the design phase. Marks stated that receipt of funds would occur in 2023 and then the Tri-Communities could move into the design phase. Municipalities would have about 2-3 years to spend the funds.

Council member Leo noted that the Tri-Communities would engage with the community in the design phase.

Council member Lewis confirmed that the C2AE engineers would be working with the Tri-Communities in the design phase.

**5. Adjournment:** A motion was made by Mayor Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Council member Trester, to adjourn at 3:15 p.m. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Kate White  
Project Coordinator & Deputy Clerk