

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: October 3, 2024
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of October 7, 2024

DDA Meeting. The DDA held a meeting on September 12th. They had several items and discussion topics on their agenda which included:

- Approval of the purchase of additional bike racks for downtown and signs for all the bike racks.
- Approval of the removal and subsequent purchase of 25 trees on McEwan Street in the downtown. They will be replaced by Cleavland Select Pear Trees. The removal and replacement will occur as time, weather, and planting seasons allow.
- Approval of the expenditure of \$5,000 from the DDA to the Chamber of Commerce for expenditures related to next year's 50th annual Irish Festival.
- Approval of the Holiday Decoration contract with Hometown Decoration and Display for downtown Christmas decorations.
- Discussion of starting the process to expand the DDA boundaries to include the Depot property and two additional parcels (behind and next to the Dollar Store) so that the boundary will be West to the railroad tracks.
- Approval of Meeting Excusals, Minutes, Financials, Payment of Bills – March, 2024
- Note: Long time member of the DDA, Tom Koch, announced his resignation from the DDA. A replacement has already been found, as you approved in the meeting of October 7th. We will be scheduling a recognition for Tom at an upcoming City Commission meeting for his long-time service to the board and the downtown.

Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Mechanical and hydraulic dredging continue with good progress. Mechanical dredging by the city is still operating 10 hours a day Monday through Thursday each week. Hydraulic dredging by Savin Lake Services is now operating Monday through Friday 24 hours a day most days and has also started doing some alternate day and night shifts on the weekends as well. They are still working north and west of Barnes Island and once that is complete will be moving to the West finger of the lake. Recently Luke Potter and I were able to get out on a boat with the owner of Savin and some of the crew to see progress up close and to discuss the next few months planning to wrap up the project. I have attached a couple pictures I took while Luke and I were out and a screen grab from a posted drone video. EGLE is still reviewing the permit for the East finger and area on the East end of the lake by the dam. EGLE has everything from the city and the contractor needed for approval, and we are just waiting for them to finish review and finalize the permit. There is no new news on the second grant and agreement that we were awarded on the dam project. Our engineering firm is working on the next design phase for the dam with the grant funds approved at the last meeting and that will span into next Spring.

Rail Trail. The project is pretty much complete, barring a couple punch list items. Bridge railings have been placed, and the paving has been completed. I have included some recent pictures attached to this report. We are planning to have a ribbon cutting and official trail opening celebration on October 23, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. (see attached flyer).

Attachments:

1. Lake Shamrock Dredging Pictures.
2. Rail Trail Pictures.
3. Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting Flyer.













You're invited to the

RIBBON CUTTING

THE PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL
CLARE GAP IS COMPLETE!!!



Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.
Clare Union Railroad Depot
201 W. Fourth St.
Clare, MI 48617

