

Harmony EDA Minutes

October 4, 2022
11:00 AM

Community Center
Council Room

Present: Kerry Kingsley, Steve Donney, Andy Batstone, and Greg Schieber

Also Present: Senator Jeremy Miller, Representative Greg Davids, Mark Bishop, Amy Bishop, Vicky Tribon, Allison Whalen, Devin Swanberg, and Chris Giesen

The meeting began at 11:00 AM. This special meeting was held to ensure a quorum of the board could be present to discuss the status of the state bike trail extension project with our local state legislators. The purpose was for discussion only. No motions were made and no action was taken.

After introductions of the participants, Giesen gave an overview of the project status. The group expressed their concern that funding may not be adequate to complete construction of the entire project with the current economic conditions. The remaining bonding funds available is \$1.4 million. The total construction cost (including both the spur to the cave and to the Iowa border) is estimated by the DNR to be about \$2 million. It's estimated to cost only \$1.7 million to build the town to cave segment without completing the spur to the border.

It was suggested by Miller and Davids that because of delays by COVID and cost increases due to recent inflation, the community should ask the legislature for the shortfall. Miller and Davids were supportive and wanted to see funding secured to complete the entire project as originally proposed. They will work with the community in the upcoming legislative session to secure funding from various sources including the bonding bill.

It was agreed that additional trips to the Capitol were important and that the next round of LCCMR funding should also be applied for.

The group thanked Miller and Davids for their advice and support.

Additional funding sources were discussed for local projects.