

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – February 18, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Alice Holcomb, Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Melissa Doubek, Adam Poll, Christian Stevens, Jacqueline Walchek

Guests and Resource people:

Absent: Elizabeth Littler, Erin Riopelle, Terry Gougeon

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes from the January 2016 meeting were approved.

Updates – Adam

The setback committee has met with Rich Sullinger. Greg Sundin would like to see educational signage for the public at the setback areas.

The new Duck Park sign is up. The new bridge dedication will take place in early May. Over 50 volunteers will be noted on the plaque.

Artist in Residence - Alice

The art pieces and signage have been distributed to public places in the community as follows:

Alpena Chamber of Commerce – Catherine Jennings (Midmorning Shadows)

CFNEM – Craig Clifford (Grasses)

ACC – Gail Panske (Almost Still)

Library – Mollie Oblinger (From the Thawing Mass)

A contract was signed by each organization between the Sanctuary and the organization for the loan of the artwork.

Alice met with Justin Christensen-Cooper of Art in the Loft and he is eager to be part of our jury for artists and art selection. He will be helping with artist contacts and marketing our program also. The artist application packet has been sent to Vicki at City Hall for addition to the web site link. Adam will follow up with Vicki to see that this task is completed.

There is a painting of a Great Blue Heron donated to the Sanctuary by local artist, Anita Harmon, which Alice will create a sign for and give to Adam. He will take care of getting it placed in City Hall.

Tom suggested that the art department at ACC be contacted for artist resources.

Alice asked board members to research their old e-mails from summer 2014 for a picture of Craig Clifford's "Grasses". The Community Foundation would like a picture to make sure it is hung the way the artist intended.

Steering Committee/River Center update – Judy

Judy reported that they are in the middle of the 501.3.c process. Judy and Roger will be attending an ANCA regional meeting on Saturday, Feb. 26, the same day as the Reel Fun. The meeting will be held at Chippawa Nature Center with the keynote speaker being the leading expert on Nature Centers.

The Steering Committee will be working with Katie Wolfe of CFNEM for a S.W.A.T. analysis of the business plan.

Fundraiser and River Center awareness events planned by the Steering Committee include:

June 25 – Science Day and box lunch auction – sponsored by Fish and Wildlife

July – Summer's Eve walk on the Island

September – Autumnal Equinox – bonfire at Duck Park and drumming and/or flute group

January 2017 – Twelfth Night

Brandon Schroeder of GLSI is the programming director for the River Center events. Tickets and admissions will be charged.

Festivus/Reel Fun Tournament – Roger

There are approximately 300 tickets left out of 1000 for the Reel Fun. The Festivus committee is still in need of about 10 volunteers. Christian and Jackie stated that YVC cannot work an event where alcohol is sold. They will let Roger know the volunteers they get for the Reel Fun.

Roger reminded the board that the Festivus needs desserts dropped off anytime on Friday afternoon.

Pamphlet update – Tom

Tom talked to Laurie Wade, ACC Design professor, about recommending students for working on our Sanctuary and Island Park pamphlets. One of the recommended students is interested, but wants compensation. Adam will look into what we paid to Industrial Image for the River Center pamphlet. Jackie offered to talk to the student and discuss the pros of doing the job as a resume builder on a volunteer basis.

Roger informed the board about a DNR report on the sanctuary, which shows discrepancies in size with the original report we have been using by Cindy Kus. Judy will scan the DNR report and email it to the board. The board discussed our responsibility as keepers of the Island and the Sanctuary to make recommendations for its environmental safety. In educating the public, we need to talk about the ecological issues before we simply state, "You can't do that".

Roundtable

Alice and Melissa informed the board that they have contacted other environmental groups about partnering with the Wildlife Sanctuary to help run the River Rats program. An informational meeting with the groups is scheduled for 4:00 on Thursday, Feb. 25 at City Hall. Judy was able to help with contact information to educational outreach people at Huron Pines and GLSI. Alice will make follow-up contacts with these groups as well as NOAA.

Judy has contacted the Nature Conservancy about burning the invasive Narrow Leaf Cattails at Duck Park. This has to be done in the winter. It must be removed in order to get to the Frogbit. The Nature Conservancy will be here to look it over on Feb. 23rd.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary