

**MINUTES**  
**ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD**  
**City Hall – April 16, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Roger Witherbee, Adam Poll, Vernie Nethercut, Alice Holcomb, Tom Orth, Terry Gougeon, Elizabeth Littler, Karen Enterline, and Cindy Kus

**Roger called the meeting to order** at 4:00 p.m. The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

**Updates – Adam**

Mike Kendziorski will be starting the bridge work anytime. The materials have been moved to the Island.

Bark for trails will be purchased at a later date from an area sawmill.

Adam has not heard from USDA regarding the grant. Judy has been contacted and it will be mid-May before we hear any news.

Port –o-Johns will be placed at Duck Park prior to the Birding Trail groups visit.

**Island Management Plan - Elizabeth**

Elizabeth reported that she has done a walk about on the Island and cleaned up trash. She also noted there were lots of people on the Island. The shed will be painted and paint has been purchased. The completed IMP will be added to the City website. The Garden Club has cleaned up the Butterfly Garden. Elizabeth has added a few pamphlets to the kiosk.

**Island Friends - Vernie**

Vernie asked that the board consider a Friends Group. She and others have been in contact with some people who are interested in helping with projects. A paper was passed for board members to list people who may be interested and ideas for group projects, such as, brushing trails, and invasive species work.

**Artown “Lake Huron Discovery Tour” (Oct. 9-12)- Erin**

Erin was absent from our board meeting, but has attended the March 31 meeting with organizers of the event and will update the board when possible.

**Spring Newsletter**

Judy would like to begin work on a spring newsletter. Board members were encouraged to help Judy with ideas and articles.

**ANCA (Association of Nature Center Administration)- Roger**

Roger talked to the director of the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland and was very impressed with their Center. Roger stated they have six foundations helping with funding. Roger asked that the board consider joining the Association of Nature Center Administrators.

**Possible mini grant from DTE – Roger**

Roger has information about a grant opportunity to build turtle predation exclusion devices for Island Park. Huron Pines has already done an analysis of turtle populations and predators on the Island. Discussion followed as to whether it was feasible to keep

predators away from turtle nests and whether it's interfering with nature to do so. Tom made a motion to submit the grant for the turtle exclusion device, Vernie seconded. Motion carried. Roger will submit the cost information and include cost of signage to DTE.

### **Roundtable**

Tom is working on contacting Scott Engineering regarding aerial photos.

Elizabeth questioned the signage at the entrance to Island Park and what will happen after the new bridge is completed. She feels the board should be involved in where and what signs go up. Adam asked for photos of existing signs. Elizabeth asked that the board think about what else we want visitors to the Island to know.

Alice reported to the board on the Artist in Residence Program, which is going into its 5<sup>th</sup> year. Alice explained the reasoning our last three years artists have all been from the Oshkosh, WI area. It takes time to build Alpena as a credible residence. By going with the recommended artists they can attest to their honesty and maturity who will represent us well in the community and be reliable tenants of the Carriage House owned by the Atens. The AR committee members are Karen Magness Eubanks, Catherine Jennings, Jeff Parsons, Marcia/Ave Aten, and Alice Holcomb representing the board. Karen, Catherine and Jeff are professional jurors and hold PhD's in Fine Arts. The goal of the jury is to provide the community with a museum quality collection held in trust for public view. Karen and Alice are suggesting that we add a web page link to the Wildlife Sanctuary Board web page for Artist in Residence. In addition to a description of the program, it would include a picture of the artwork, and information about the artist and artwork. Karen and Alice are also suggesting purchase of signage (museum quality Plexiglas for each piece of artwork). The signage would include: Title, artist name, medium/media, Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Artist in Residence, year.

The board requested periodic reports on the AR program.

For 2015 there was one artist who met the criteria and is interested in coming to Alpena, Andrew Reddington, a sculptor. Karen is in contact with an artist from Grand Haven, a quilter, who may be available next summer. She quilts natural scenery.

Gail Panske, 2014 Artist in Residence, is currently doing a residency in Sweden.

Alice asked Adam to consider displaying "Grasses" in City Hall. Adam agreed to talk to Greg Sundin.

Adam asked what kind of contract the board has with the artist and also if we get a receipt of the art as a gift. Alice will talk to Karen about these questions and get back to the board. Also Alice will find out some prices for the artwork signage.

Terry reported he and some church friends cleaned up a lot of trash on the Island recently.

Elizabeth suggested we have an open "work bee" on the Island and see who comes, as they would be potential "friends".

Vernie suggested we call the potential friends group "Wildlife Sanctuary Friends" in keeping with the "Sanctuary" branding in Alpena.

Tom asked if the 1980 Planning Study by Cindy Kus had been scanned. Adam stated it had, but the file was too large to e-mail.

Tom suggested the City consider adding a public sledding site to the Recreation Plan that is being revised.

Karen E. mentioned an available source for native Michigan grasses in the Lansing area.

Roger stated parts of the River Center website are getting outdated. It is important it is kept current. He asked that we read it and make suggestions for updating.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alice Holcomb, Secretary