

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – August 20, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Tom Orth, Erin Riopelle, Alice Holcomb, Judy Kalmanek, Roger Witherbee, Melissa Doubek, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Netherut, Terry Gougeon, Adam Poll
Guests and Resource people: Karen Enterline, James Shultz

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Judy made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18 meeting, Terry seconded, motion carried.

Roger introduced James Shultz, a Boy Scout from Troop 92. James made a presentation to the board for an Eagle Scout project. The project is to identify and create signage for tree identification on Island Park. James presented handouts with sample signs. He would create signs for 16 trees plus one on erosion and one on invasive species. Roger suggested that Elizabeth and Melissa walk the Island with James and work with him on the project. They agreed to do so. The cost of the signs would be the responsibility of James. It was suggested that James look into possible grant opportunities from the Community Foundation, DTE, or the Watershed Council. The board suggested a leaf or needle photo on the signs, and to use an upper case letter for the genus and lower case for the species.

Publicity Action Plan – Vernie and Alice

Vernie and Alice have met and outlined a plan to educate the public about the Island prior to the grand opening of the bridge. Diane Speer is the contact for the paper and Vernie will also contact local radio, TV and Erin for facebook updates. The consistent message is for individuals to stay on the trails. The first article would include a picture of a trail with deer or other wildlife included and the caption would read, "Stay on the Trail". A week or so later the second article would include a picture of people quietly enjoying the Island, family hiking, or a dog on a leash. The caption would read, "Respect for Island Park". This article would include the Guidelines for Island Park. The third article would include a picture of barking trails or cleaning stairs, pruning, or transplanting. The caption would read "Volunteers at Island Park". Alice and Vernie are working on the text for the articles.

The follow up to the publicity articles would be the bridge opening. This news would be taken care of by the city to the news media. Adam noted that his most recent update on the bridge from Mike states completion should be sometime in November.

Island Management Plan - Elizabeth

Elizabeth passed out the finalized management plan. The final copy includes grammar corrections. The IPMP was voted and accepted at the March 19, 2015 meeting. Board members were asked to write the date on their plan copy.

Work Bees – Terry and Elizabeth

Terry reported on the recent work bee on the island to clean up trails and walkways. The stairs and walkways were trimmed and cleaned except for the west dock, which needs loppers to do a thorough job of trimming the vegetation back. Terry will schedule another work bee to push and cut back the dirt and growth on the asphalt path. Roger suggested a street sweeper from the city go over the path two times per year to keep it clear. Adam will see if this is possible.

Elizabeth reported that there were 5 volunteers for the weed pull last weekend. Although the Spotted Knapweed was much less prevalent than in previous years, volunteers still picked 5 large bags full. There was a dead red pine on the ridge trail, which has now been moved off the trail. Elizabeth stated that Terry should get a key to the shed from the City so he has access to the loppers and wheelbarrows and tools on the Island. The paint for the shed has been moved to the Island and Elizabeth has a couple of volunteers willing to paint next week.

Water Trail update - Erin

Erin passed out information cards on the Lake Huron Discovery Tour taking place Oct. 9-12, 2015. The Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the tour and Erin will be hosting guided kayak tours.

Erin is concerned about the amount of weed growth in the sanctuary. In some places it has become impassable. Melissa stated that it is important to educate the public as to why there is so much growth – the fault of fertilizers upriver. Erin has discovered a couch and a fire ring on the edge of the sanctuary. Adam will look into whether it is on city or private property. If it is city property Erin agreed to talk to Mike about using the pontoon to remove the items.

Erin has begun work on the Wildlife Sanctuary pamphlet. A copy of the rough draft was passed around for comments. Tom stated that we should have a specific purpose for creating it.

Artist in Residence Program - Alice

Alice explained the reason for the change in prints from Gail Panske, 2014 artist. Due to the cost of the set of four for framing and shipping, Alice suggested we get the single print, "Almost Still" which is still available to us. A photo of the piece was circulated. Alice made a motion that we get this print and have it framed locally. Judy seconded. Motion carried. Alice will contact Gail. Alice passed around the Plexiglas signage frame, which will be used for each piece of artwork on display at the County Library. The signs will state the title of the work, the artist, Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Artist in Residence, Year.

Eric Eubanks has come up with a place for the fragile ceramic piece, "Grasses", from 2013 artist Craig Clifford. The place would require a scaffold or way to get the piece placed above the staircase. Adam will check with the city to see if there are resources to do this.

Roger questioned the contract for the Artist in Residence program and wants to make sure we address this for the future.

Frog Bit pull update – Judy and Elizabeth

Judy passed out the news release from Huron Pines regarding the Invasive Species Training Day at Duck Park on Sept. 3 at 10:00. Participants will learn about invasive species and hand pull frog bit.

Signage – Adam

Roger questioned the new sign he heard about going up on the island. Adam was not aware of it but will look into it.

Adam confirmed the new leash law for pets in the city.

Feasibility Study/ grant update - Judy

Mac West will arrive in Alpena on Monday, Aug. 24 and meet with the Steering Committee on Tuesday, Aug. 25 in the morning. The public meeting to hear about the study is Tuesday evening at 7:00 at ACC room 106 of the Center Building. Judy encouraged the board to attend and be ready for questions regarding the study. The cost of the study was approximately \$46,000. A \$32,500 grant was applied for of which we were approved for \$15,000. We also received \$2,500 from the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan for a total of \$17,500 in grants. We received \$14,000 in in-kind donations. Adam estimates that the Wildlife Sanctuary has to pay approximately \$15,000 - \$17,000 in additional costs.

Roundtable

Roger has contacted Joy from Huron Pines to come and talk to the board about reptiles and amphibians on the Island so we have a better understanding of what can be done to help the populations.

Elizabeth stated that the Duck Park kiosk padlock is rusted shut and Franks Lock and Key will have to remove the lock. In the future she will find a better lock for outdoors.

Tom has had contact with Mark Straley and will be working on digitizing some prints from the past of the Island. All the pictures can be digitized but it gets expensive. Mark is willing to cut some negatives from the roll.

Terry will be scheduling a couple more work bees. One should be for Burr Oak transplanting. Melissa suggested placing some in the east side wetland area. Tom made a motion to have Terry head up the tree-transplanting project with work bee volunteers. Melissa seconded. Motion carried.

Judy passed out a handout that will be available at the Feasibility Study meeting next week for board members to become familiar with. It states the Mission and Goals for the AWS and goals and investments needed for the River Center.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary