

## **Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes September 15, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Tom Orth, Terry Gougeon, Christian Stevens, Judy Kalmanek, Adam Poll

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Melissa Doubek, Erin Riopelle, Susie Austin, Jackie Walchek

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Roger Witherbee.

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Elizabeth that the minutes of July 18, 2016 be approved. The motion carried.

### **UPDATES: ADAM**

The bridge signage has been ordered and the dedication of the bridge plans are moving ahead. Cassie Stone has been hired to replace Vicki who retired. Adam noted that Cassie can now make copies for us as needed or provide other help. She is not yet able to take on the maintenance of the web site (our portion of the city site).

### **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Elizabeth passed around a copy of the final edit of the tree project. It was noted that James will need to remove a couple of shadows and the watermark on the slides (labeled draft). James is working on obtaining the funding he needs for the plaques. The project is on hold until he notifies us that the funding is in place.

### **ISLAND MAINTENANCE**

Elizabeth and Terry organized an autumn olive removal for Island Park on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 people who helped including 9 students from ACC with their teacher. Several huge piles of cut autumn olive and a number of filled garbage bags were the result.

Elizabeth reminded everyone that the next work bee is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>. There is much work to be done: barking trails, trimming of branches overhanging the trails and moving woody debris to block non-trails.

Adam will ask the city to remove the autumn olive piles/bags and see if the city street sweeper could be used on the paved trail.

Terry and Christian cleaned and organized the storage shed on the Island. It looks quite nice. Terry completed an inventory of the shed's contents as well.

It was noted that we need two new pitchforks. The old one has a sawed off handle, suitable for children to use for barking but not adults. Terry will take care of purchasing the pitchforks and give the bill to Adam.

Elizabeth and Judy herbicided the grass area across the bridge. Elizabeth and a small group will

plant little blue stem grass, Indian grass and annual rye on the site. The seeding will be covered with oat straw which was donated by Green Acre Farm (value of \$35).

Elizabeth, Terry and Ron Young met with the city engineer to plan the demonstration set back plot in the area of Duck Park across from the hospital. Elizabeth had a copy of the plan and a map showing the area. She will send this to the board once the map is finalized and will need comments and other input from the board before the plan is finalized. It was suggested that Elizabeth include a date by which she needs the reply.

Students from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Besser School will be meeting on the Island for an educational experience and work bee on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Roger is working with Heather Rawlings from USFW to set up the learning stations.

### **PAMPHLET UPDATE**

Tom stated that he cannot continue to work on the pamphlet and is requesting that someone else take on this project. Roger said he'll find someone to finish the work. Tom noted that there are still a couple of digital maps needed and Adam said he'll have Steve Shultz take care of the maps. The needed inset maps are one showing location of Alpena in the state, location of the Wildlife Sanctuary in the city.

### **ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

Alice created a booklet showing the history of the Artist in Residence program. A person to take over this project from Alice is still needed. It was suggested that Tim Kuehnlein at the college would be an excellent choice. Roger will make the contact.

The current artist, Mick Grochowski, will be in the area for another month. A suggestion was made that when next year's artist makes a presentation that the library's wireless mike be used. A number of people had difficulty hearing Mick's presentation. There were a number of positive comments about this year's presentation, however. This was the biggest turnout we've had for an artist's presentation, due in part to the fact that Mick grew up in Alpena.

### **UPDATE ON THE RIVER CENTER**

Judy reported that during the summer, a meeting with Architect Bruce Johnson resulted in an excellent new concept design for the building. A model 1/60th to scale was also purchased and gives people a real idea of the proposed River Center. The new concept design shows an underground building, with a "green" roof, geo-thermal heating/cooling and pavilion entrance. Roger and Judy met this week (September 14<sup>th</sup>) with Alan Anderson of USDA Rural Development as a preliminary to seeking funds to help with the architectural/engineering costs of the building.

Roger and Judy presented an update to City Council at a special meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Council was supportive of the River Center. The architectural model was passed around and each council member was given a packet of information, including the concept drawings, of the River Center.

### **BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Roger asked the board members to submit to him a list of criteria they would like to see in new board members. The board was asked to send their suggested criteria to Roger no later than

September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**ROUND TABLE**

Adam said that the bid from Huron Engineering (Dan Kibbe) was the lowest one received for a 1" survey of the River Center site. This TOPO is needed before the architect can move ahead with drawings. The price quoted by Huron Engineering noted that they are very supportive of the River Center and lowered the bid for that reason.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes taken by  
Judy Kalmanek Secretary