

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**January 17, 2019**  
**Alpena City Hall**

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Boris Gerber, Karen Enterline, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Roger Witherbee, Adam Poll, Judy Kalmanek

Member Absent: Susie Austin, Tom Orth

Resource member: Catherine Stedman

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Vernie and carried that the minutes of December 6, 2018 be approved as corrected. Adam's name was omitted from members present in the minutes of that meeting.

**Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions made to the agenda. Those that were made via email were deferred to a later meeting in order to complete the review of the Island Management Plan.

**City Update:**

Adam noted that DPW has taken down all the city Christmas decorations including those on the bridge and Island Park.

He did receive a call about why there was a brush pile across the "sledding hill". Adam explained that there is no "sledding hill" and why sledding is causing severe erosion on that site. The plan in the spring (March) is to replace the brush across the trail and drop several dead jack pines across there to permanently mark it. An explanatory sign will be placed at the top and bottom of the hill to help people understand why there is no sledding permitted.

Adam is still checking on the possibility of using the berm by the soccer fields adjacent to Austin Brothers Brewery as a sledding site. This will require permission from the private property owners if it is on their land. Otherwise, Adam believes that the soccer fields themselves are owned by the county or the DNR so that can be a possibility.

**Update on River Center**

Judy reminded everyone that Festivus and Reel Fun are coming up on February 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Board members are once again asked to bring finger type desserts (cookies, brownies). Board members were encouraged to donate items for the silent and Chinese auctions as well.

Roger and Judy have made several presentations since the last meeting. The first was to the Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District who were very helpful and supportive.

Subsequently, they made a follow up presentation to the Montmorency County Board who agreed to reimburse expenses for the educational exhibit designs of the TBRC up to \$2500.

Another presentation was made to the Presbyterian Church Women's group. They, too, expressed enthusiasm for TBRC. They were most impressed with the in-ground design and grass roof feature.

**Budget**

Terry has drafted the 2019 budget which will be effective July 1, 2019. The Board had previously given him input for funds for projects and programs. Terry is still revising the budget

and will have it ready for his annual report to the City Council. The Board agreed that our donation to Huron Pines for invasive species work should take the first \$1,000 from this year's remaining funds and then the second thousand after the July 1, 2019 budget takes effect. Terry still needs input from Susie for River Rats and Mark Beins for the Artist-in-Residence programs.

### **Island Park Maintenance**

Terry reviewed our maintenance work and accomplishments over the past year. We have done a lot:

- All stairs and walks were cleaned of debris and trimmed back;
- 200 yds of bark were spread on the sand trails;
- some of the old tree signs were removed;
- invasive species were removed (spotted knapweed, autumn olive, frogbit, some barberry);
- the shed was painted and the graffiti removed from some of the outlook railings;
- no-wake signs were designed, ordered and installed;
- the buoys were found and restored to the original sites;
- trash removal from the water edges was done;
- special days for frogbit removal were done which involved a number of volunteers.

Terry noted that he'll create a list of maintenance projects to be done this year.

### **Island Park Management Plan Review**

The 2015 Island Management Plan was reviewed by the Board. Those recommendations and action items that have been completed will be removed and a few new ones will be added. For example: blocking the sledding hill, adding information about erosion causes and cures, revision of the wildflower brochure, increasing membership in the volunteer/friends group.

Adam will check on the reading of the city's leash law. If it says leash, we'll make sure it is part of the signage. Elizabeth will compile the changes to the Management Plan for our next meeting.

Karen and Catherine will work on the planned erosion demonstration plot.

### **Further Remarks:**

Boris showed a lovely photo calendar created by his family. It was probably not a feasible idea for fundraising, even though everyone loved the calendar. A suggestion was made to make it an educational handout on erosion. That led to the idea of making a photographic erosion booklet. We'll continue the erosion discussion next month and the wording to make it educational rather than punitive.

Terry reported that he was invited to participate in the water quality intake committee. The focus is on maintaining the quality of the water surrounding the intake pipe for the city.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be February 21, 2019.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:14 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by  
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary  
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board