

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
April 18, 2019
Alpena City Hall

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Karen Enterline, Vernie Nethercut, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Susie Austin, Elizabeth Littler, Judy Kalmanek

Member Absent: Boris Gerber,

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Catherine Stedman, Mark Beins

Guest: Mark Hunter

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 3:59 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Vernie motioned; seconded by Roger and carried that the minutes of March 21, 2019 be approved.

Additions to the Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda

City Update:

Adam reported that the city's budget is being finalized and that the Wildlife Sanctuary Board's request will be slightly reduced to \$5,000.

Based on the board's approval last year, Adam permitted the Tinkergarden (ages 18 months to 5 years) to hold sessions on Saturdays from 10:00 until 11:15 a.m. from April 20th through June 2nd. The introduction to the outdoor environment will take place on Island Park.

Update—River Center:

Judy stated that she and Roger have made eight presentations to various individuals and groups over the last month. Reception to the update on the TBRC was quite positive.

The financial feasibility study being conducted by Christie Perdue of CP Consulting is progressing on schedule and the needed documents have been drafted by CP and edited/approved by TBRC's Campaign Committee.

The Exhibit Committee met with designer, Larry Hutchinson, on Monday, April 15th and are beginning to develop the overall exhibit plan. Larry had prepared a 3-D white model of the building's interior to help the committee better visualize the various areas. The committee will meet again on May 17th to further define the overall plan.

Artist-in-Residence:

Mark Beins, program chair, distributed information and some sample paintings by this year's artist, Richard Jordan. Richard will be in Alpena from August 22nd through September 4th. He heads up the Plein Air Artists of West Michigan, a group of about 100 artists. During part of his time in Alpena, Richard will welcome anyone who has the materials to accompany him outside when he is painting. Richard often conducts outdoor painting workshops. Once again, the artist

will be housed by Dr. And Mrs. Aten at their carriage house and the board will host a welcome for Richard with a potluck at Terry and Judy Geogon's house.

Motorcycles Crossing the Bridge:

A request was made to Adam from a motorcycle group who will be part of a motorcycle blessing on May 11th. They are requesting to have the gates to the bridge open from 11:30-5:00 p.m. so that riders can cross the bridge turn around and have a photo taken in the middle of the bridge. The group said they would police the bridge to ensure that no bikes went on the Island. After much discussion, Tom motioned that the bikers not be allowed to cross the bridge to the Island, but the gates should be open and the riders allowed to move their bikes into position on the bridge and have a photo taken. Elizabeth seconded the motion and it was carried with 6 votes in favor, 3 votes against citing noise, oil/gas leakage which will impact the water. There was concern, too, that this might set a precedent.

Riparian Planting:

Elizabeth reported that the board will be receiving a selection of native plants, donated by Fish and Wildlife, for the riparian setback. Heather Rawlings will pick up the plants on May 7th and Elizabeth will send out an email with a scheduled planting time. Catherine added that she has received promises from 4 or 5 master gardeners who have agreed to assist with the planting. Catherine will complete the needed forms so that the master gardeners will receive their needed credit from MSU Extension. The plants will be set in mulch (similar to that used for trails) to give them a good start.

Island Park Maintenance:

Terry has completed and passed three tests to enable him to apply pesticides and herbicides. This will ensure that any chemical applications we need to use are done correctly. He passed around a diagram provided by Ducks Unlimited that showed where the five wood duck houses have been placed in the sanctuary. There are none on Island Park. Additionally, Terry cleaned the three remaining bird houses which appear to be used by swallows and wrens. There are several trees that have fallen and need to be cut and moved to use as blocks for non-trails. Roger and Boris will help with this. Susie asked if the branches could be used along some of the trails to prevent the bark from running off.

Further Remarks from the Table:

Elizabeth has re-visited Omega about the needed signage after they admitted to losing the original information she gave them.

Susie distributed a colorful poster for this summer's River Rats program. It will be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays during July (6 sessions) from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The group size will be limited to 30 children. She will schedule separate sessions as needed for the Salvation Army Day Care program.

Catherine has walked the Island and noted that a number of the non-trails have eroded significantly due to people tramping around off trail. This is especially true in the area we are

planning to use for a demonstration plot to help people understand how their actions negatively impact the fragile sandy soil. Catherine suggested that the proposed fencing be installed soon before vegetation can be further trampled. She and Karen will measure the area and report to Terry so he can obtain the fencing and posts.

Vernie agreed to draft a letter from the board to the Mich-e-ke-wis study group re-iterating the need for a sledding hill, perhaps one for small and one for larger children. The board is supportive of this idea. We need an alternative site for sledding; if not Mich-e-ke-wis then another place.

Roger reminded the board that prior to kayaking season, the buoys need to be checked for accurate placement. As of now, it appears they are all in place and match the Blue Heron Water Trail brochure.

Tom will schedule the spring water's edge clean up in the next few weeks. While doing the clean-up, we'll be looking for signs of frogbit especially in the western end of the water. The map provided by Huron Pines showing frogbit locations was done in 2016 and many new instances have been spotted since then. Our objective this summer will be to remove frogbit from the new areas. This invasive usually emerges in early May and we'll be alert for its first appearance.

Adam said that the Office of Great Lakes Coastal Zone Management is interested in river water levels and how that will impact development along the river.

The 2020 US Census will be starting soon and there are a number of jobs available to help with this. The pay is \$14 per hour and the hours worked are up to the individual. If interested, contact Adam.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on May 16, 2019 in City Hall at 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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