

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
June 20, 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,

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Roger motioned, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes of May 16, 2019 be approved as submitted.

3. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda

4. City Update

Adam said that bark for Island Park trails has been ordered and planned delivery is for Friday, June 21st so that it is available for the work bee on Monday the 24th. Additional bark can be ordered as needed.

The permanent sign to identify the donors who helped with the covered bridge to Island Park is completed and awaiting installation.

Dedication of the new dog park is scheduled for Friday. All were invited to attend.

5. River Center Update

Judy reported that she and Roger made the TBRC presentation update to the Alpena Lions Club on May 28th. Members asked questions and are supportive of the project. A subsequent article on the presentation was in the June 3rd edition of the *Alpena News*.

On Wednesday June 19th Roger and Judy met with Eric Keller, regional director for Senator Peters' Office. He promised to send materials that will be helpful in seeking government grants. Another presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th, for the Chamber of Commerce Board. The financial feasibility study being conducted by CP Consulting is moving forward. It seems that most members of both the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary and Thunder Bay River Center Boards participated. Interviews with individual community stakeholders continues and is nearly completed. An interim report will be made by CP Consulting within the next couple of weeks.

6. Island Park Maintenance

Terry, Catherine and Karen have measured the area for the habitat restoration project. About 450' of fencing will be needed. The identified area will begin below the O.B. Eustis Lookout, descend from there to the trail and continue below the trail to the water's edge. Karen will draft text for the two signs which will be placed at the site. Photos documenting natural plant restoration will serve as the report on the site's progress. No additional plants will be installed at the site until the natural plants have had a chance to demonstrate their ability to recover.

7. Additional Remarks from the Table

Tom asked if the Wildlife Sanctuary could be listed on the city website as one of the city parks. Adam agreed to have Cassie add the Sanctuary to the city site.

Tom observed a boat in the sanctuary that was spouting "rooster tails" as it sped along. Adam said if we can take a photo and/or identify the boat, it can be reported to the city police for follow-up.

Tom noted that there were 9 volunteers for the water clean-up; some were new volunteers. It was suggested that we should initiate a support group "Thunder Bay River Keepers" to help with various projects. Tom, Susie and Terry have lists which they'll send to Tom to be compiled into a single list.

Tom reminded the members that there will be a clean-up on Saturday, the 22nd, at 9:30 at Duck Park. Frogbit is beginning to emerge; although the plant sightings on the west side of the sanctuary appeared to be quite small, it is very early in the season and much of the frogbit is still submerged. We need to be vigilant at all the sites for frogbit emergence. The plan for this year is to work on the edges of the infestation to keep the plant from spreading.

Catherine said that she and Elizabeth met with Sean from DPW and Mike Kendziorski to plan for the re-arrangement of the butterfly garden. Currently, it is both difficult to mow the area above the garden and for the volunteers to weed the area on the very steep incline. The plan is to place stones to create a definite boundary between the garden and the sidewalk. Mike will supply the stone.

Susie reported on River Rats which has all the sessions filled already. She has limited the session sizes to 30 children with accompanying caregivers. Susie plans to have a separate session for the Salvation Army day care children since it is a large group in itself. After some discussion, it was agreed that Science in the Sanctuary will be held on Wednesday, August 7th, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Susie has heard back from several of last year's station hosts. Judy agreed to contact the Audubon to see if they can manage the date change.

Roger said that Dennis Schultz is doing the drawings for the kayak storage building. Once they are completed, the city will put the package out for bids.

Elizabeth and Betsy Hale are working on an updated wildflower brochure which is nearing completion.

Vernie asked if we could have some information to educate the public about the difference between native and invasive cattails. Judy agreed to draft this information and email it to Vernie. It appears that many people are not aware that there is an Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary, let alone what it is. We need to create educational publicity. It was suggested that contact be made with Darby Hinkley to see if a *Lifestyles* page can be placed in the paper in the near future. Susie agreed to make the contact with Darby.

Judy reiterated that Shane Lishewa will be in Alpena on July 8th to see how he can help harvest the narrow leaf cattails and subsequently control the frogbit. Judy will email an update on his plan to the board once it is finalized.

Terry asked that an updated contact list of board members be sent to all. Judy agreed to send out the list to board members.

8. Next Meeting

The board will meet next on July 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall.

9. Adjourn

Judy motioned, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 4:47.

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