

## **Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes January 18, 2018**

**Members Present:** Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Adam Poll, Boris Gerber, Terry Gougeon, Karen Enterline, Christian Stevens, Judy Kalmanek,

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Littler, Susie Austin,

**Resource Members:** Catherine Stedman

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 3:58 pm.

Two items were added to the agenda by the chair:

1. Artist in Residence (Mark Beins)
2. River Center Board report

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion by Roger, seconded by Vernie, the minutes of December 6, 2017 were approved as submitted.

### **III. Membership Renewal**

It was noted that the board memberships for Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee and Tom Orth need to be renewed. Adam will have them updated as all three members agreed to continue their board membership.

### **IV. City Update**

Adam stated that NOAA had applied for a Coastal Zone Management grant under the auspices of the city for a kayak/canoe launch and an outdoor amphitheater.

There will be a public hearing on the idea of creating an RV park at Mich-e-ke-wis. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the APLEX.

### **V. Festivus/Reel Fun**

Judy reported that the two events are moving ahead. This year, due to a change in leadership, the events are behind schedule but are doing well. Ticket sales are underway; the website has been updated and posters created and displayed around town. Both Reel Fun and Festivus tickets can be purchased with a credit card at Top O'Michigan Insurance. Clem's and Buck's bait shops, Franks (in Linwood), Adrian's in Roger's City are selling fishing tickets only at \$25 cash or check. The Chamber is selling Festivus tickets (cash or check only).

This year Festivus is adding a live auction and a number of large prizes have been added. Other items will be part of the silent or Chinese auction. Dinner will be catered by Fresh Palate.

### **VI. Finalizing the Mission and Vision Statements**

After some discussion and review of the current suggestions, a motion was made by Judy, seconded by Roger that the mission statement as written in the Island Management Plan of 2015 and the vision statement with the revisions made be adopted. The motion carried. The statements now read:

*Mission:* The Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board stewards the Sanctuary by providing creative leadership and expertise to maintain, enhance, and promote this unique natural resource for

public education and enjoyment.

Vision: The Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary will be a natural area. The Board will conserve and protect its ecosystems enabling native flora and fauna to thrive by controlling invasives. The Board will engage the public in its mission by providing nature-based education and quiet recreational opportunities.

## **VII. Island Park Maintenance**

Boris stated that he and Roger used a chain saw to clear not one but two trees which had fallen across a path. The tree signs as repaired by Christian and Terry remain intact as do the “Not a Trail” signs.

## **VIII. High School Representative**

Christian reported that he will continue to serve on the Board until he leaves for college in late summer 2018. At that time a new student board member will be selected.

## **IX. Chairperson Pro Tem**

Terry said he would be unavailable for both the February and May meetings. It was agreed to change the dates of both meetings to accommodate Terry’s schedule. The February meeting will be changed to the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the May meeting to the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **X. Next Meeting**

Accordingly, the next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be February 22, 2018 at City Hall beginning at 4:00 pm.

## **XI. Round Table**

Mark discussed his plan for the Artist-in-Residence program. He is re-writing the description for the website into a more narrative style. He would like the process to seem less competitive. However, he was pleased with the number of applicants who eventually applied in 2017. He is looking for the piece that is acquired from each year’s artist to be very professional and pleasing to the observer. The Board had requested last year that more realistic art work be sought since much of the current work is abstract.

Mark suggested and the Board agreed to look at the work of Charles Pompilius who had applied last year and is still very interested. It was agreed that the Board would look at Mr. Pompilius’ website and discuss him as a the 2018 artist at the February meeting. The site is:

<http://charlespompilius.com>

his landscape work can be viewed on Facebook at:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/charles.pompilius.portraits/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/charles.pompilius.portraits/photos/?ref=page_internal)

Vernie motioned that the Board extend thanks to Roger Witherbee for the many years he served as the Chairman of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board. Roger continues to be chair of the Thunder Bay River Center Board. Tom seconded the motion which carried amid applause from the Board.

Residents are still sledding on the back dunes of Island Park. It was agreed that the Board needs to take a more active role in educating people about the original intent of the Island’s purpose

after it was purchased from the Sportsman's Club.

It was suggested that to counteract the sledding on the delicate dunes area, another sledding site needs to be established and promoted. One suggestion was to create such an area at Mich-e-ke-wis.

The children's library summer program will be on Tuesdays this summer and therefore will not be in conflict with River Rats on Wednesdays. On this same note, Judy stated that the Audubon Club would like to help with one of the River Rats programs (early June) to help more children become involved in birding. The Audubon is revising the birding pamphlet that is available in the rack at Duck Park.

Beginning with the February meeting the Board would like to have a report on the Thunder Bay River Center progress. Judy will do this.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.

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