

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes July 19, 2018

Members Present: Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Karen Enterline, Adam Poll, Boris Gerber, Terry Gougeon, Elizabeth Littler, Susie Austin, Judy Kalmanek

Member Absent: Roger Witherbee,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 p.m. by Chair Terry Gougeon.

2. Approval of June 21, 2018 minutes

a motion was made by Boris, seconded by Vernie and carried that the minutes be approved as submitted.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Frogbit discussion was added to the agenda under Island Maintenance.

4. City Update - Adam

Adam asked that in all future weed pulling activities, we include Tami Romel (tamir@alpena.mi.us) in emails so she is notified and can provide a truck if needed. This is especially true for all the upcoming frogbit pulls.

Adam will check on the bark order with Tami and let Terry know the status.

Adam will look over the proposed sites again and make arrangements to have the *No Wake* signs installed.

5. River Center (TBRC) Update - Judy

The TBRC is moving along. Judy thanked all those board members who have already pledged to the project. She emphasized the need to have 100% of the members of both AWS and TBRC participate in the pledge campaign. Board pledges will show the solidarity of the boards in supporting TBRC and make raising other funds an easier sell.

As of now the building fund is around \$200,000, which includes the reserved fund of \$45,000 held by the city.

The billboard on the TBRC site at Duck Park will soon be replaced with the campaign logo and the rendering of the building.

6. Activities Encouraged on Island Park

Significant Trails and non-trails: after some discussion, it was agreed that we will maintain those trails that are so marked on the current map and block the non-trails. An exception is the loop trail by the West Dock which is nearly closed anyway by vegetation. The non-trails will be blocked with brush and tree limbs and small signs installed to indicate a non-trail.

Sign at Top of Stairs: Susie made a motion, seconded by Judy that the sign at the top of the stairs be removed and make it into a bench using the existing posts. The motion carried.

Discussion followed on what activities we want to promote on Island Park and in the Sanctuary. We want to encourage responsible use to include walking, bird watching, quiet exercise like yoga and tai chi. It was suggested that the trees and brush around the amphitheater be trimmed to make that area a welcoming gathering place for group activities. Further agreement was to place a sign next to the *no bikes* sign that states *no sledding*. A second sign should be placed by the area where sledding has occurred.

7. Island Park Maintenance

Boris and Terry will put up the *no-trail* signs discussed above. Terry will send out an email to everyone asking who will be available to help with the work. There will be a knapweed pull on August 9th. Terry will send out an email notification about the pull and Susie will make sure it appears on Facebook.

Frogbit: the board was greatly concerned about the huge mats of frogbit in the sanctuary. Judy reported that she and four Huron Pines AmeriCorps workers pulled on Saturday (July 14th) behind the condos. They removed 10 very large bags of it and hardly made a difference. The same was true on Monday evening, July 16th when a group of 9 (and two very young volunteers) in kayaks (one in waders) pulled an area of about 50 square feet. A huge pile about two feet high covered a large tarp. Again, the results were negligible.

Tom suggested that we need to do weekly pulls with as many volunteers as we can attract from now through August. The frogbit is in bloom and will shortly form its turions from which it mostly spreads. Tom will send an email to Judy with suggested dates. Judy, in turn, will forward the email to all of the various contact groups asking for help. Once dates are set, Susie will put them on Facebook.

Terry will set another date to plant the milkweed that was obtained by the Friends of the Lake Huron Watershed. At least one of their members will be available to help plant the milkweed and Bronwyn's Girl Scout troop will help, too. Catherine and Terry will site the areas for planting both the wetland and highland varieties.

8. Further Remarks from the Table:

Susie gave an update on River Rats which has gone very well this summer. There are over 30 children participating each time. Although most have registered on line, there are always a couple of walk-ins, too. The time and having River Rats twice a week seems to work well and provides continuity to the program. Vicki McCoy from LaFarge has been a great help as have the Youth Volunteer Corps.

Elizabeth had a question about the parking and driveway for the TBRC. Judy stated that the driveway will be moved further west on Long Rapids Road. However, the exact location has not been established yet.

Vernie noted that when she writes the article for the newspaper from the AWS Board minutes, she sends a copy to all the rest of the media, too.

9. Next Meeting will be August 16, 2018.

10. Adjourn

Judy motioned and Karen seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 5:07 p.m. Motion carried.

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