

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes March 15, 2018

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

Members Absent: Elizabeth Littler, Christian Stevens

Resource Members: Catherine Stedman,

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 3:59pm.

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There were several corrections to the minutes of February 22, 2018. In item #7, Vernie asked that her motion that a sledding site be created at Mich-e-ke-wis be amended to read “in the city” rather than specifically Mich-e-ke-wis. The second correction was that April should have read March meeting. It was also suggested to change item 9 from “Round Table” to “Around the Table”. The board agreed to this change and future minutes will reflect this change. Upon a motion made by Roger, seconded by Susie, the minutes were approved with the suggested changes. The motion carried.

III. CITY UPDATE

Adam reported that the city does have the “no wake” signs requested by the board. They are awaiting instructions from the board about where the signs should be placed.

Casey Stutzman, who rents kayaks at Duck Park, is planning to put up a 12' x 16' by 14' high storage shed on the parking lot near the porta-jons at Duck Park using his own funds. Adam passed around a graphic showing the shed. The board emphasized that the shed needs to be designated as temporary and will be removed once the in-ground storage is constructed. There were many concerns expressed about the shed blocking the view. Approval for the shed needs to be included in Casey’s annual contract with the city. Any signage should be small, since Casey already has flags placed near 23-N when kayaks are available. The board supported the storage shed since they recognize that storage is quite necessary and saves Casey the time and expense of trailering the kayaks in and out of the site.

IV. UPDATE—RIVER CENTER, FESTIVUS/REEL FUN

Both Festivus and Reel Fun were successful events. The final tally of net income isn’t finished yet since some bills are still outstanding.

Work on identify potential grants/funders is on-going. A draft letter of inquiry has been composed and during the summer probably 30-40 of them will be sent out to prospective granters. Currently, TBRC is using funds from the \$46,000 in two grants made for the architectural fees. The plans are completed through phases 1, 2 and 3.

Dennis Schultz has completed the budget for TBRC. A copy was passed around for board members to see. The budget document will be invaluable in applying for funding from both donors and granters.

The kick-off for the major campaign is scheduled for May 1st.

V. SIGNS (SYMBOLS FOR ACTIVITIES)

Susie will talk with Omega to find out where they are in devising the signs we requested earlier. It was pointed out that a no-sledding sign needs to be added. This can be a symbol of a sledder with a red line through it (similar to the no bicycling sign).

In order to change the community perception of Island Park and its purpose, it was suggested

that the board draft several educational articles to be published perhaps as news releases and/or as simple pamphlets to be placed in the pamphlet rack at Duck Park.

The board would like to have the large sign at the top of the steps removed. Adam will check to see what needs to be done and if there is a need for some signage since the property was obtained with a DNR Trust grant.

VI. ISLAND MAINTENANCE

Terry suggested that both sides of the south dock need to be blocked off in some way to keep people from trampling the fragile dunes area. A simple fence would guide the visitor onto the approved trails on either side of the dock. The notion of having a stairway leading down to the water in that area is still under discussion.

Tom suggested that we might fence an area or two on the Island, he'll take photos of the area before fencing and as the area recovers. These can be used as educational tools to help people understand the fragility of the Island. A few rolls of wooden snow fence would work well. It was suggested to begin with a sizeable area on the dunes and that Terry appoint a sub-committee at April's meeting to work on this idea.

VII. FROGBIT

John Frye from Huron Pines attended the invasive species seminar at CMU and reported that "it is recommended (by the state) that we clear out the whole shoreline of cattails and frogbit with herbicide, and follow up with mechanical effort afterwards". This is the plan for summer of 2018. Judy will keep the board apprised after she attends the planning session in early April.

VIII. Around the Table

-Tom and Elizabeth have photos of man-made sledding hills. Tom will email his to Adam to share with the Recreation Advisory Board with Terry's letter about sledding.

-Judy reported that the Audubon is revising the birding pamphlet for Birds of the Sanctuary. The work is being done by an Audubon committee. Members are Bill Grigg, Lynn Fields, Betsy Hale and Judy Kalmanek. It is anticipated that the brochure will be completed prior to the June 9th Beginning Birding Class to be held at Duck and Island Park.

-Terry will be giving the annual report of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board to Alpena City Council on Monday, March 19th at 6:00 pm. Any board member who wishes is encouraged to attend.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be April 19, 2018.

X. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 4:48 pm.

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