

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes January 19, 2017

Members Present: Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Tom Orth, Terry Gougeon, Adam Poll, Melissa Doubek, Susie Austin, Judy Kalmanek, Jackie Walchek, Christian Stevens

Guests: Michelle Sobek and Pam

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roger Witherbee at 4:07 pm

A motion was made by Susie Austin, seconded by Terry that the minutes from the December 15, 2016 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Updates–Adam:

Adam stated that he had not yet had time to work on the sanctuary boundaries question. He needs to have an updated map from engineering first.

By Laws:

The draft bylaws were basically approved. Judy suggested removing the line stating the secretary needed to keep bound copies. She noted that there are electronic copies of the minutes. Tom asked whether the official minutes aren't kept by the city which was confirmed by Adam. There was a question concerning the board membership criteria written by Terry. It was agreed that the criteria will be a procedural document and not a part of the bylaws. Suggestions for edits are to be sent to Adam who will make any needed revisions noted and will send the document out prior to the February board meeting. The bylaws will be finalized at the February meeting.

River's Edge Committee:

Elizabeth distributed copies of the committee meeting held on January 9, 2017. Discussion followed on Elizabeth's presentation. The committee thought the size (4 x 6 ') was too large and perhaps the sign should conform to what is already in place for the bridge. There was general agreement on this. In addition to the contents of the sign, the committee suggested that a pamphlet on the value of green belts be created and a holder for them attached to the sign post. Huron Pines has agreed to help with the language, design, construction and costs for the sign.

Island Maintenance Update:

Terry distributed the Island Maintenance Projects list for 2017. In the discussion the question was raised whether the scouts would help with the removal of the old tree signs when the new ones were installed. Adam reported that the scouts would do so. There is a desire to re-furbish the bird houses on the Island. Tom suggested that NEMROC does make bird houses and could be contacted about obtaining some for replacements. It was agreed also that the large emerging patch of autumn olive will be sprayed in the spring. Elizabeth added that the native plants that didn't survive would be replaced for free.

Wildlife Sanctuary Pamphlet:

Judy reported that 2000 pamphlets were printed and are ready for distribution. Prior to the

meeting board members helped to package them into packets of 50. Judy has obtained a commodity code from MDOT and will be mailing 1400 brochures to MDOT's central warehouse for distribution to all the Michigan Welcome Centers. The other 600 brochures will be available for local distribution. Judy will bring some to the February board meeting.

Artist in Residence:

Roger called for a vote on Mick Grochowski's paintings. An individual, written vote was taken. The result was the selection of *Sturgeon Moon* as the Wildlife Sanctuary Board's choice. Roger will notify Mick of the selection.

Roger has been in contact with Danyal Dorr at Besser Museum who is interested in collaborating on the Artist in Residence program. Roger will talk with Chris Witulski to ensure that there is no conflict with Danyal serving in the capacity of coordinator of this program.

Election of Officers:

Roger called for the annual election of officers. Adam agreed to chair this portion of the meeting to prevent any conflict of interest.

There was unanimous call for Roger Witherbee to remain as chair of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board.

A nomination was made by Tom Orr, seconded by Judy Kalmanek and carried that Susie Austin be elected vice chair of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board.

Upon a motion by Melissa Doubek, seconded by Elizabeth Littler and carried, Judy Kalmanek was elected secretary of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board.

Round Table:

Roger gave a brief update on the Capital Campaign Committee's work. The committee has met three times and is beginning the silent phase of the campaign to raise funds for the River Center. He reported that the River Center received a gift of \$40,000 from a local family trust fund.

Tom showed a group of old maps with misinformation on them about the Wildlife Sanctuary (both name and location thereof). Tom will connect with Mary Beth Stutzman to see how they can be corrected.

Christian reported that he has 2-4 volunteers for the Reel Fun Tournament.

Elizabeth questioned whether there could be a restriction placed on the length of dog leashes when walking dogs on the Island. There is nothing in the city ordinance to address this, but it might be possible for the Island Guidelines.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek
Secretary