

MINUTES
ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD
City Hall – February 19, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Roger Witherbee, Judy Kalmanek, Adam Poll, Erin Riopelle, Vernie Nethercut, Alice Holcomb, Melissa Doubek, and Tom Orth

Roger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Updates – Adam

Adam stated that the City is working on the next budget year. He is assuming the \$2,000 from the last budget will get spent on control of invasives at the boat launch per the agreement with Huron Pines. If not, it will not be replaced.

Reel Fun Tournament/Festivus results – Erin and Judy

The tournament was a success and essentially sold out with approximately 1,000 tickets sold. Judy encouraged members to check out the website www.icefishingalpena.com for pictures and details or check out the Reel Fun on Facebook. The Festivus was also sold out and at capacity at 178 people. The raffle netted \$650 and the Chinese raffle \$1,300.

Island Management Plan Final – Adam

Adam shared a copy of the revised IPMP with highlighted grammar revisions. Adam will e-mail a copy to all board members by Tuesday for a final vote. Once board approved the IPMP can be posted to the website.

Roger stated that he and Terry discussed the Jack Pine cutting and have decided that they will oversee selective cutting and work on eradication of invasives within the Jack Pine area during the process. Terry knows individuals who can help with the cutting.

Adam stated that March 31 is the deadline for ordering new tree seedlings. The previous plantings are starting to grow well. Adam offered the City might be able to help with maintenance of plantings.

Board opening – Roger

Tom Orth has expressed an interest in filling the empty board position. He has been attending meetings and is familiar with our group and mission. Vernie made a motion to accept Tom on the board, Melissa seconded. Motion carried.

Roundtable

Vernie contacted Bay Athletic and talked with Tracy the manager regarding outdoor adventure Boot Camps on the Island. Tracy informed Vernie that there are never more than 20 people and they may use the Island one time per month. They only run on the barked trails, stairs, and platforms. They have camps from May to October. Boot Camps are held at other areas within the county also.

Adam contacted the Alpena City Police chief regarding the dog training reported on the Island. The chief said they are NOT using the Island for training, but perhaps it had occurred in the past or with a group they are not aware of.

Discussion continued regarding the winter sledding on the Island and ramps being used. The board discussed whether a campaign to educate the public or brush barriers or

even rock barriers should be implemented. Some signage is in place on the hill and we may need more or better signage. Adam will get some photos of what is there now. Melissa suggested we begin collecting yearly photographs of the sledding area during the seasons to assess the damage the activity is creating. Melissa will ask Nicole Gruelke from the Alpena News to help us ask residents for old or historic photographs of the Island and the changes it has been through. Vernie will try to request some photos in her column also.

Judy reported that Mac West will be back in Alpena next Monday through Wednesday and has a full schedule. When Melissa meets with Mac she will bring a list of Michigan nature centers comparable to the proposed River Center.

Roger has been contacted by Dr. David Dargis about purchasing the old Big Boy restaurant to renovate for the River Center. The board agreed this is not what we are looking for.

Erin shared that the City website still has the 2009 groundbreaking picture displayed and should be updated. Erin suggested we open a Facebook page, which could be easily updated. Erin agreed to get this started.

Roger has received a letter from the Alpena Chamber congratulating the board and committee on the success of this year's Festivus and Reel Fun.

Alice will send a thank you letter to the Walleye Club for their time and effort with hole drilling and to Tonya Spens for her committee work to make the event a success.

Roger has gotten to know the new employee at the CFNEM, Katie Wolf, and her husband who are new to the area. They are both interested in helping with the River Center and Katie has lots of outdoor education background and management skills. She will be meeting with Mac West next week.

Vernie stated that the new director for Child and Family Services may also be interested and helpful.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Holcomb, Secretary