

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes March 16, 2017

Members Present: Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Tom Orth, Terry Gougeon, Adam Poll, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Jackie Walchek, Christian Stevens (excused), Susie Austin, Melissa Doubek (excused)

Resource People: Karen Enterline, Mark Beins, Catherine Stedman

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roger Witherbee at 4:00 pm

1. Additional Agenda Items:

Additions were made to the agenda: Adventureland Sports, Reel Fun/Festivus Report

2. Approval of the February 16, 2017 Minutes

One correction was noted to the February minutes: Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) was mis-identified in the February minutes. A motion was made by Terry, seconded by Vernie that the corrected minutes be approved. Motion carried.

3. Updates: Adam

Adam noted that the proposed dog walk park is due to be constructed this summer. Funds are being raised in particular on patronicity.org sponsored by MEDC. The project should begin this March 2017.

4. By Laws—Approval

The board needs to review and make any suggested changes to the bylaws. Adam agreed to email everyone a copy of the proposed bylaws so that they can be approved at the next meeting.

5. Island Maintenance Update

Terry reported that he has picked up 3 of the 8 birdhouses on Island Park. He plans to clean them and replace them. The cub scouts originally made the 8 boxes and with Bill Grieg's help mounted them on poles. However, nearly all of them have disappeared due to vandalism. The board would like them replaced (up to 8 in number) and Adam agreed to check with the scout troop to see if they are willing to help. The scouts have bird house construction as a project, but will not maintain them. Terry will email Adam the appropriate hole size for swallows to nest. There are a couple of trees that have fallen across the Chisholm Trail on the Island. Although they are not low enough to inhibit walking the trail, they do need to be removed. Roger will follow up with Terry on having the trees cut and removed.

A large amount of graffiti is appearing on the west dock. It needs to be removed during a work bee which Terry will schedule. Leaving graffiti in place seems to encourage more of it.

6. Artist in Residence

The board welcomed (with open arms!) Mark Beins who has taken on the coordinatorship of the Artist in Residence program. Mark stated that he is glad that we have the program and that he has already revised the application wording and images. Mark has sent out press releases and

contacted 60 to 70 university art departments announcing this year's opportunity. He is looking professionals who have their work exhibited in galleries. Justin from Art-in-the-Loft is interested in being a part of the jury (committee) and will help to promote the program, too. Mark noted that there are numerous similar programs for artists and he wants to certain to point out the many advantages of ours. One is the housing being offered. To that end, Mark plans to contact Avery Aten and take photos he can use in promoting Artist-in-Residence. Mark is looking at this point more toward representational artists rather than those whose work is abstract. Although we need a balance, it appears that most of art pieces are not representational pieces. Mark set a deadline of April 1st for applications to be sent to him. Besser Museum is interested in displaying the chosen artist's work during the period the artist is active in Alpena and the library, again, will offer space for the post work period presentation to the community. Tom Orth agreed to serve on the jury for the selection process to represent the AWS Board. It was noted that the board would like to be more involved with the project. (Mark's bio is attached with the minutes)

7. Board Member Vacancy

Roger noted that we still have a vacancy on the board. It is probable that in the fall, we'll lose Jackie Walchak, who will be going to a four year college away from Alpena. We may lose Christian, too, if he chooses not to attend ACC. We noted that we need younger members on the board. Roger will check to see if the board member to be selected needs to be a city resident or if there are enough city members that we can accept another member outside the city.

Adam stated that some of the other boards have vacancies as well and he'll advertise for members on the city web site and the newspaper.

8. Web Site

Judy and Nancy Green are trying to maintain the River Center (rivercentralpena.com) web site. There is old information on the AWSB pages of the city web site. Adam asked if folks would go through those pages of the web site and send him a list of changes to be made. He said to just copy the page, indicate the needed changes and he'll have them updated.

9. Round Table

The added agenda item concerning Adventureland Sports was discussed by Judy. She indicated that Erin Riopelle has sold her kayaks and no longer plans to operate the kayak/canoe rental business any longer. Several other people in the area do rent kayak/canoes. The board wishes to continue to offer this service during the season. Adam will talk with Tom Doud who rents kayaks. Another source may be Casey Stutzman from Performance Locker who has offered some kayak/paddleboard tours.

Roger updated the board on the Reel Fun which was another successful year. Despite concerns, there was 15" of ice on Grand Lake for the tournament. Judy reported that Festivus cleared about \$3500 this year. Not all of the tickets were sold (the weather was awful!), but the food was great and plans are for Eric Peterson to cater again next year. In place of desserts, hors d'oeuvres will be placed on the table before dinner.

Roger reported that the capital campaign is in organizational mode and moving along well thanks to Ken Nielsen's engineering skills to create a GANTT chart which establishes a time line for the

campaign.

Elizabeth stated that there is a small snag in developing the sign for river's edge set back. The committee is working on the pamphlet to be distributed at the site.

Tom has gathered a number of maps that incorrectly identify the AWS and sent them along to Mary Beth Stutzman to begin the correction process.

There was some discussion on the April meeting and it was agreed to skip meeting in April. The next meeting of the AWS Board will be on Thursday, May 18, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary

P.S. Science in the Sanctuary will be held on Wednesday, August 9th from 10 am until 2 pm.
We'll keep to Wednesday to parallel River Rats.