

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes November 22, 2016

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

Members Absent: Jackie Walchek, Christian Stevens

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roger Witherbee at 4:02 p.m.

The Minutes of October 20, 2016 were approved upon a motion by Vernie, seconded by Elizabeth.

3. Updates–Adam

Adam noted that the bridge dedication and seasonal lighting is scheduled for Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. The ceremony should take about 30 minutes. Mayor Walligora, City Manager Greg Sundin and bridge creator Mike Kendziorski will speak. All members of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board received invitations to the dedication and were encouraged to attend.

The city website is being revamped and updated. Adam stated that the Wildlife Sanctuary page will remain the same, but the entire site will have a new look.

Adam has had an extremely busy autumn with the Planning Commission, but should now be more readily available and in his office most days.

As a note, Adam said that Pat Haggarty, member of the Planning Commission, will be replacing Barbara Franz as the CEO of CFNEM when she retires in March 2017.

4. Board Membership Criteria–Terry

Terry had suggested originally that the board membership criteria should avoid demanding language which would be off-putting to a number of potential members. The board agreed with Terry's wording of the criteria. Comments were that some language needed to be included about un-excused absences from board meetings. Some research has indicated that the Wildlife Sanctuary Board doesn't have bylaws. Adam will prepare a draft of bylaws for the next meeting and the board can comment and vote on them. Included in the bylaws will be Terry's criteria, meeting attendance and the city rule that 51% of the board must be composed of city residents. It was noted then, that the next board member will need to be a city resident to maintain the ratio.

5. Giving Tuesday–Judy

Judy reviewed the materials to promote *Giving Tuesday*, an online giving event sponsored by CFNEM. There are 30 organizations who were allowed to participate based on a first come response to the invitation from CFNEM. The Thunder Bay River Center is one of the thirty entities. To publicize the event, CFNEM gave each participating organization 5 posters, 50 postcards and a promotional packet to use for their own organizations. The River Center placed posters at Duck Park, Jimmie's Party Store, Anscheutz's, and City Hall. After the initial 50 post cards were mailed, an additional 300 were mailed to people on the newsletter mailing list. An email invitation to participate was mailed to 200 persons on the email newsletter list. Another

email update will be sent to the email list just prior to *Giving Tuesday*.

6. Island Maintenance Update–Terry and Elizabeth

The recent work bee to remove autumn olive was reported. It was noted that there is a large patch of the young bushes that will need to be sprayed in the spring. At the same time, one of the non-trails was blocked off using downed trees and brush.

An experimental riparian buffer zone has been created in the sanctuary in an area across from the hospital. Elizabeth reported that 25 short-growth shrubs, both flowering and berry types, were planted in the area. Plans call for educational signs both to identify the project and explain its value.

Elizabeth stated that the Venture Scouts, a high school group, would like to be involved in Island maintenance. Shannon (city engineering) is the contact for the group. The scout group will be contacted in spring when the maintenance work begins again.

Melissa reported that the high school robotics team members remain interested in doing summer work on the Island (wildlife sanctuary). The board is delighted to have young, strong workers to assist in the maintenance work.

Roger reported that James Shultz has received a \$1000 grant from the DNR for the tree identification project he is doing for his Eagle Scout Badge. Judy has sent the final draft of the PowerPoint to James and will follow up with him on it. James plans to have the signs printed and install them yet this fall. She will have James email her a copy of the final with the DNR logo on it and the word “draft” removed from the PowerPoint.

7. Pamphlet Update–Judy

Judy distributed copies of the latest draft of the Wildlife Sanctuary brochure compiled by her sister, Betsy Hale. The board was accepting of the draft. Betsy has some additional small corrections she needs to make and Judy has some concerns about some of the font sizes. These will be corrected; the brochure will be converted to PDF and emailed to the board for review prior to the December board meeting.

Conversation ensued on where and when the brochure should be distributed. Judy agreed to contact Mary Beth at CVB once the brochure is finalized and voted upon in December to solicit her help in distribution.

8. Artist in Residence Update–Roger

Roger said he has contacted Danyeel Dorr, who works at Besser Museum, about coordinating the Artist-in-Residence program. Danielle is interested and Roger will speak with her about it soon. The board was reminded again to vote on which one of Mick Grochowski’s paintings they would like for the River Center. A large number of Mick’s paintings will be on display at Art-in-the-Loft during the reception on 12-1-2016 from 5-8 p.m. and on subsequent days. It is important to vote as Mick will be selling the paintings during the exhibit.

9. Wildlife Sanctuary Boundaries?

Adam will remind Greg to put the Wildlife Sanctuary boundaries on the agenda for City Council. Once decided by Council, Steve Shultz will determine the number of acres in the sanctuary. At that point the number can be inserted into our new brochure and notification sent to CVB so that

their publications can be updates as well.

10. Roundtable

Judy reported that Nancy Green has been able to update the River Center website, to make needed corrections and add new information.

The next meeting of the board is December 15th at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek
Secretary.