

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
January 21, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber Vernie Nethercut, Karen Enterline and Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Susie Austin, Elizabeth Littler

City Staff: Andrea Kares

Resource Adviser: Catherine Stedman

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:04 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Roger motioned, seconded by Karen and carried that the minutes of November 19, 2020 be approved.

III. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

IV. Election of Officers

Roger made a motion, seconded by Tom and carried that Terry Gougeon be elected Board Chair and Judy Kalmanek Secretary for the year 2021.

V. City Updates

Andrea reported that City Hall is now open for business since Monday (January 18th). Most of the City Hall staff have received the Covid-19 vaccine.

Two of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board members have terms that will expire February 1, 2021. Both Roger Witherbee and Terry Gougeon agreed to be reappointed to the Board.

Roger congratulated Andrea on her ongoing support of both the Wildlife Sanctuary and Thunder Bay River Center Boards. She noted that since she has attended only two meetings, she perceives that both boards are working well.

VI. River Center Update

The Reel Fun Committee at their Tuesday evening meeting (January 19th) made the hard decision to cancel both the Festivus and Reel Fun Tournament for 2021. The more limiting restrictions from the state January 15th made it impossible to follow the new guidelines. A press release was put out to the media who responded kindly and announced the decision. Planning will go forward for the 2022 event that will be bigger and better!

Two grants have been submitted for upcoming Thunder Bay River Center (TBRC) events. One is an application to CFNEM for a community impact grant of \$2800 to purchase a boat/trailer to be raffled in connection with the bowfishing tournament May 15, 2021. The other application is to CFNEM's Youth Advisory Council for \$975 to purchase realistic, life-sized, resin cast animals for *Magic in Our Midst*. If approved both grants will move TBRC forward.

VII. Island Park Maintenance

Budget Terry is in the process of compiling the annual report to City Council. In it he'll include the needed budget. This includes materials needed to construct a stairway from the area near the lookout to a dock on the west side of Island Park. Also, money will be requested to do some refurbishing of the O.B. Eustis Lookout. Printing funds for needed signage (like artist in residence at work), pamphlet re-printing and money for River Rats will be included.

Management Plan Terry will make a list of possible projects that can move ahead this summer. It will include the removal of the top rail of the sign that reads "Sportsman's Island", removal of invasive species, some clean-up work.

There was some discussion concerning the number of trees that have fallen. Boris stated that walkers can still manage to walk around the trees. There is an area near the amphitheater that is blocked by fallen trees and we could use some help from the city maintenance department to remove them. Andrea will check and see what can be done. Boris will take photos of the trees to show their location and ensure that Andrea has them.

Another area of concern is the missing hand rail on the steps on the Chisholm side of the Island. Boris will check that out as well.

Terry asked that Board members review the 2019 management plan to see what tasks were listed but unable to be completed in 2020.

VIII. Additional Remarks

Vernie asked Terry to send a copy of his annual report to the Board; he agreed to do so.

Judy will contact Shane Lishawa to see if the frogbit project for June-July 2021 is still on track. She noted that Drew Monks will probably be coming to Alpena in March to further refine the project territory. A mention was made of the art fair that will be held at Duck Park June 26-27th. This will be during the period when sanctuary waters may be lowered and there will be some odor connected with it. Andrea noted that no art fair vendors will be allowed to set up on the Island.

Tom stated that he will photo-document the restoration site for the on-going record. Members commented that the areas around the site show signs of new unauthorized trails being made on each side of the restoration.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be via Zoom on February 18, 2021.

X. Adjourn

Roger motioned to adjourn the meeting and Terry adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

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