

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
February 21, 2019
Alpena City Hall

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Boris Gerber, Karen Enterline, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Judy Kalmanek

Member Absent: Susie Austin,

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource member: Catherine Stedman

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 3:58 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Boris that the minutes of January 17, 2019 be approved. The motion carried.

Additions to the Agenda:

Since there were no additions to the agenda, the agenda was accepted as presented

City Update:

Adam stated that the city budget for 2019-2020 is well underway. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is nearly finished. Terry will be presenting the annual report of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board together with its funding request for 2019-2020 to City Council within the next couple of weeks. Terry will send the board a copy of his annual report.

Adam suggested that board members might like to attend the public planning discussion about Mich-E-Ke-Wis Park development. The public meeting will be held on March 12, 2019. The meeting place and time will be in the newspaper and on other media. The plan to build an RV park at that location has been removed from consideration at this point.

The board had previously suggested looking at the berms near Austin Brothers Brewery as a possible sledding hill site. Adam noted that most of that property is on private land; and, that additionally, the berms would need a fair amount of work to make the project successful.

Update of River Center

Judy reported on grant writing progress. Major grants, requiring substantial match, cannot yet be completed and submitted. However, one that does not require a high match percentage will be submitted next week. TBRC is moving forward with accumulating money in the building fund. Roger and Judy, at the suggestion of TBRC Board member Beverly Bodem, met in Petoskey with Harry Whiteley. During the presentation on TBRC, Harry described it as a "noble project". The meeting was very positive; Beverly presented Harry with a framed copy of an article from the Alpena News which described Harry's life and contributions to the environment during his 25 years as a member of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. He served 6 terms as chair of the commission.

IPMP Update;

Following the January 2019 meeting, Elizabeth and Terry edited the IPMP. They removed the items that have been completed and inserted the board's new goals and tasks. The board accepted the edited report. Elizabeth will email Judy a copy so that it can be posted on TBRC's website. It was suggested that the board's upcoming events and work sessions be added to the minutes so that people will be informed and schedule their volunteer hours. Roger motioned,

seconded by Elizabeth that the schedule be attached to the minutes to be posted on the city website. Judy will add Terry's email address (as the contact person) to the Island Park Maintenance Plan. The motion carried. Judy will ask Cassie to see if it can be posted on the city website as well beyond the area where the minutes are posted.

Wood Duck Boxes:

Adam was contacted by a member of Ducks Unlimited about placing wood duck boxes, made by children during a learning day, in the sanctuary. The board needs more information and an opportunity to see one of the actual boxes. Many concerns were raised about the boxes. The bluebird boxes placed by a scout troop have never seen a bluebird; the three remaining boxes are used by swallows. There is a wood duck house out in the sanctuary already. It was placed there years ago by the Audubon and has never been a wood duck nesting site. Adam will ask for more information from Ducks Unlimited for the March board meeting. Once more information is available, contact will be made with the Thunder Bay Audubon Society for their input and advice.

Island Park Maintenance:

In addition to the above discussion on the 2019 work schedule, Terry distributed copies of the board's proposed budget for 2019-2020. The itemized budget plan shows a request to increase funding for the coming year by \$1400.

Further Remarks:

Adam noted that he has received a list of expenditures and receipts for same from Terry. These are the funds on two credit cards for Home Depot that were donated to AWSB by the Thunder Bay River Watershed Council when they disbursed.

Tom introduced a discussion focused on the annual water clean up and when to start frogbit work. Judy reported that by early May frogbit is noticeable and can be easily pulled; although willing, we won't plan to involve children's classes in the work due to the fact that an area needs to be cleared of all pieces of the plant. Small escaping pieces of the plant can spread it to new areas. The plan this year as described by Terry is to work by "best practices" which means a survey of the area, noting the further extent of the invasive plant, and then working to remove the species from the extremities. Huron Pines has indicated that they wish to treat the large masses with herbicide. Judy will contact them to see what their actual plan is and when their implementation date is.

Vernie was pleased TBRC board members met with Harry Whiteley. She believes the meeting and Harry's promised support will be a big step for TBRC.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting the AWS Board will be on March 21, 2019 4:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Adjourn:

Judy motioned, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 4:43 p.m. The motion carried.

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

ALPENA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY BOARD