

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
May 16, 2019
Alpena City Hall

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

Member Absent: Tom Orth

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Catherine Stedman,

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes of April 18, 2019 be approved as submitted.

3. Additions to the Agenda

There were no formal additions; additional information will be discussed under Further Remarks.

4. City Update

Adam noted that the permanent sign for the bridge from Duck Park to Island Park is completed and will soon be installed. There will be no noticeable change other than the new sign will not be covered with plexiglass.

The ban to prohibit smoking in city parks is scheduled for its first of three public readings before becoming enacted into law.

5. River Center Update

The financial feasibility study is underway. Christie Perdue and her associate Shannon O'Connor are in the process of interviewing the selected 20 or so interviewees. Christie has had one update meeting with Giovanna, Roger and Judy on May 9th on the progress to date.

The exhibit committee which has been expanded to include other environmental scientists will meet on Friday, May 17th at US F&W at 2:30 p.m. The task for the meeting is to elaborate the six areas of human impact on the watershed that have already been identified. The expansion will be used as the basis for creating the exhibits for TBRC.

There is no news on the two recently submitted grant requests yet.

The proposed wine festival has been postponed from this year until 2020. This will enable better planning and give the wineries enough advanced time to schedule it. The newly formed chapter of the JC's (Junior Chamber of Commerce) has indicated a willingness to play a role in the wine festival.

Roger met with the early childhood education director at the AMA ESD who is quite interested in TBRC and how it can be used as a venue for birth to five programming.

6. Island Park Maintenance

Terry reported on recent beaver activity on Island Park. Several young aspen have been harvested by beaver and the consensus was to watch for further activity. Otherwise, since beaver are native to the area and former activity was minimal, we'll just let nature manage itself. On Saturday, May 18th Terry, Roger and Boris will cut the windfall trees. Those who have time can also help as the brush will be used to block the non-sledding hill from future use. Tom Orth has scheduled the annual kayaking trash pick up for Monday May 20th at 6:30 p.m. Folks will need to bring a kayak and a trash bag. Gloves are recommended, too. The habitat study area is being planned by Karen and Catherine. Terry, Karen and Catherine will measure the area for the wooden snow fencing to mark its boundaries; signage to explain the project briefly will be installed as well. A trail maintenance work project is scheduled for Thursday, May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Workers should bring gloves and either a trowel or a shovel (there are two shovels in the storage shed).

Further Remarks from the Table

Elizabeth said there will be a nature walk at Misery Bay at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. All are invited. On Tuesday, May 14th, volunteers planted the array of native plants obtained and donated by US F&W for the riparian setback at Duck Park. Elizabeth reported that the brochure to accompany the site and the signage for it are completed. The brochure needs to be printed; the sign installed.

Terry would like two loads of bark soon and then another two in June before the end of the fiscal year. Adam will ensure the bark is ordered and delivered.

Adam noted that the horizontal sign below the "Welcome to Island Park" has been installed.

Susie stated that Science in the Sanctuary will be on August 6th this year. Registration for the July River Rats programs for 5-10 year olds is underway. The program will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in July. The flyers she created will be going home in the Friday folders soon. Judy will send Susie the info to access the TBRC website so that she can link it to Facebook where she updates River Rats information.

Karen has identified the plant that is near the kayak dock. It is *nuphar variagatum* often called spatter dock or yellow pond dock. It is recommended to remove the plant and its rhizomes through which it spreads.

Roger said the side-by-side first place prize for the February 2019 Reel Fun has not yet been picked up by the winner. When it is, that will be another large bill to be paid.

Boris would like to install some additional "no wake" signs. Since permission is needed to install a sign on the Chisholm Street Bridge, it was suggested that the sign could be posted in the rough area of Duck Park next to the bridge. Boris will follow-up on the suggestion. He would like to place an additional sign at the Washington Street Park which is the site of much non-compliance of the no wake rule. The task is to educate boaters that the entire Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary waters are a no-wake zone.

Vernie suggested that this is a good time, ahead of Memorial Day, to have a no-wake photo placed in the paper. Adam will follow up with Steve Schulwitz at Alpena News.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on June 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. City Hall.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Vernie and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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