

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes September 18, 2019

Call to Order

Called to order @ 4:03

Members Present: Terry Gougeon,, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Roger Witherbee, Susie Austin, Karen Enterline

Members absent: Boris Gerber, Judy Kalmanek

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Mark Beins

Approval of Minutes August 15, 2019

Terry noted that the August minutes should be updated to reflect the fence was placed on the island on Aug 29th. Motion to approve revised minutes made by Vernie, seconded by Tom.

City Update:

Adam gave the staff report and discussed the proposed public improvements around the NOAA facility utilizing an MEDC grant. Terry asked the status of the kayak storage building. Adam noted that Judy was working diligently on that project and was optimistic it would be constructed. Roger added that it would soon be underway.

River Center Update:

Roger gave the River Center update. He noted that a "December Magic" event was being planned utilizing the staff of the Thunder Bay Theater. Rog noted that the wine festival committee met and appointed Diane Shields as chair and that volunteers were need for both events.

Artist in Residence:

Mark gave the artist in residence wrap up. Mark noted that the painting was selected and was present for viewing at the meeting. Mark noted the website would need to be updated and may need to update the QR codes for the signage. He noted the WBKB interviewed Richard, the artist, and Mark and filmed Terry being presented with the painting. Liz asked where the painting would go. Mark noted he was looking at options that included City Hall, Fish and Wildlife and Thunder Bay Transportation. Mark indicated that Richard had discussed the potential for signage and handouts to discuss the program as many people had questions for him while he worked. Richard was also interested in bringing up his artists from southwest Michigan for an artist retreat. Terry noted that a simple sign for island projects could be utilized as well, but indicated that could be discussed next month.

Island Park Maintenance

Terry discussed that the Sportsmen Island sign at the top of the stairs had been approved by the board to be removed. He indicated that he was opposed to saving the sign. Vernie noted that multiple people had indicated to her that they like the sign and that she would like to see the sign kept and restored. Liz noted the sign looks homemade and does not seem relevant. Susie noted the top of the sign could be replaced with a matching sign but indicating "Island Park" instead of Sportsmen Island.

Additional Remarks from the Table

Susie discussed educational activities upcoming including that Besser 5th graders would be on the island and Duck Park October 4th and September 26th.

Terry noted that Tonya Spens was arranging a DPI community day on October 16th and 23rd where DPI employees would volunteer to do work on the island. Terry requested a load of bark be obtained, and that DPI offered some of their woodchips for the lower trails and they would provide the wood chips.

Terry noted that the erosion control fencing and signage had been installed.

Tom noted that buoys have been installed and properly located by the DNR and that a thank you note should be sent. Tom noted that he talked with Alpena Police Officer William Gohl who indicated awake/speed complaints can be filed with them, but any witnesses would have to appear in court. Tom noted he discussed the wake issues with the DNR as well.

Next Meeting

Terry noted that the next meeting would be held on October 17, 2019. Tom moved and Karen seconded to adjourn.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Meeting notes taken by Adam Poll,
Minutes formatted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board