

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
October 18, 2018
City Hall, Alpena

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Karen Enterline, Tom Orth, Borris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Susie Austin, Adam Poll, Judy Kalmanek

Members Absent: Roger Witherbee

Others in attendance: Meag Schwartz

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes from September 20, 2018 be approved with the corrections as follows: Adam will send letters to map manufacturing companies about correcting the wildlife sanctuary name on city letter head.

3. Additions to the Agenda

The no smoking ban was added to the agenda.

4. City Update

We have received the OK for cement work. The city will will contact the board for approval once it is staked out. We are still working on finding out if the Porta John will remain in the parking of duck park lot year round. There was an inquiry about a Porta John in Sytek Park, Adam replied it is not technically controlled by the city but he would inquire. There was an inquiry about how well the kayak rental business went this year, we have not received an official report from Casey Stutzman yet. It was brought up that there were still a few missing no wake zone signs, Adam responded that they were all supposed to be put up, and if there were any missing they would be completed in the spring.

5. Smoking Ban

Borris reported about the proposed new no smoking ban in city parks. The new ordinance would ban smoking in public parks but would allow smoking inside your vehicle in the parking lots. It was noted that there is an abundance of litter created by discarded cigarette butts that must be removed by volunteers. The board discussed the issues caused by the cigarette butt litter within the wildlife sanctuary. Borris volunteered to draft a letter in support of the ordinance and present this letter to the city council on behalf of the wildlife sanctuary board. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Susie to have Borris draft and present the letter of support for the no smoking ban in city parks.

6. Activities Sign Update

Elizabeth reported that she is still working with Omega on the Island Park approved

activities sign. They will add the extra symbol so there will be 7 icons not 6. She estimated that the sign would be under \$200 as the last quote was around \$150.

7. Pamphlet Rack

The question about where the pamphlet rack should be located as come up as the garden club is thinking about redesigning the planter where the current rack is located. Terry and Susie suggested that the rack be moved on the other side of the bridge, onto the island. Elizabeth suggested that we table this until the garden club has come up with a plan for the garden. The board agreed to discuss this over the winter and will table the location until late spring/early summer when the rack could be moved.

8. Island Maintenance

Autumn Olive - Terry reported that Roger, Terry, and Judy were on the island working on removing and spraying for Autumn Olive. 1 full bag was removed and there was lots of spraying to prevent new growth.

“Sledding Hill” – A tree fell down and Terry moved the tree to block the top of the “sledding hill” to discourage use.

“Erosion sign” – the second erosion sign was found in the water. Terry put it back in place with cement.

Buckthorn - Borris brought up buckthorn and inquired if the WSB had any plans for it. It was reported that as much buckthorn as possible was removed when the bridge was out. Elizabeth has spoken to the Minnesota DNR about ideas for control or eradication. It is all over the island, it may have already spread too much to control, but we are aware of the problem.

9. Thunderbay River Center update

Judy dated that the architectural drawings are complete and Judy is in the process of writing the final report. The next phase is the exhibit design, to be completed by Larry Hutchinson. Judy and Roger presented the River Center plans and progress to Alpena/Montmorency Conservation District. There are possible grant possibilities that are due in December. Bruce, the architect, will be in town Tues – Thurs for a meeting with subcontractors for the construction phase. Giovanna Meek of Presque Isle has been elected the campaign chair.

10. Future Business – Terry

budget – would like a more structured budget. The budget is presented to the city at the end of March, we would like to have an idea of where money was spent, or will be planned to be spent in areas like frobit removal, river rats, herbicide, signs, pamphlets, artist in residence, etc. If you are in charge of one of these areas please think about your expenses and share your ideas to the board in a future meeting.

Informational signage – there are no signs around the wildlife sanctuary indicating that you are in a wildlife sanctuary. Let’s think about more signage for educational purposes.

Elections – elections will be held during December’s meeting. All positions are available.

11. Round Table

Susie – The school district has requested that we remove the supplies used for River Rats from their building. She will be moving the supplies to her basement, but inquired about space in the shed on the island. Many members volunteered space if there is not space in the shed. They will revisit in the spring after the snow has melted.

Vernie – Asked if there were any new ideas on how to make the “designated trails” more identifiable. Susie suggested lining the trails, or at least the ambiguous ones, with 2x4s or fallen tree branches like the one Terry did on the dunes. Terry agreed that in many places we would only need to do one side.

Judy – There is a youth and rec grant that she will apply for the permanent kayak storage building. The high school students are excited about the kayak building and want to be involved. They are going to do a fundraiser and they want to be involved with building the structure. She also reported that Kayak rentals went really well this year with the addition of the temporary storage building.

11. Next Meeting

The board will meet on December 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

12. Adjourn

Judy moved, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Susie Ausitn
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board