

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

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

Members Absent: Susie Austin

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Catherine Stedman,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the minutes of October 17, 2019 be approved and presented.

3. Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented

4. City Update—Adam

The public meeting concerning Mich-e-ke-wis Park plan was held at NOAA on November 13, 2019 and was well attended. Various groups raised concerns about the plan during the meeting. However, the plan was generally well received as presented by Steve Schnell. It was noted by the AWS Board that a sledding hill was not part of the plan although the board had requested it. The problem remains that a site needs to be located for a sledding hill within or close to the city. Both formerly used sites (which are causing erosion) on Island Park have been blocked.

Judy reported that a one year extension for the kayak/canoe storage building has been granted by the Youth and Recreation Committee as well as the funds awarded by the Youth Advisory Council. The building permit has been obtained and the plans sealed by the engineer for the project. Weather permitting, some part of the building may be done yet in 2019.

5. River Center Update:

The TBRC Board is planning *Magic in Our Midst* to occur on Friday, December 13, 2019 on Island Park. The magical walk will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The plan is to have groups of up to 6 people, led by a guide, walk a pre-marked trail on the Island. Although the event is free, tickets stamped with the group's walk time can be picked up at Muddy Paws after November 30th. With permission from the Spirit of the Island, seven animals (stuffed) will come alive and talk with the walkers. These voices will be pre-recorded by actors from Thunder Bay Theatre and activated via phone that evening by HS volunteers. After their walk, groups will be invited to have hot chocolate (compliments of Top O'Michigan) and cookies provided by both the AWS and TBRC Board members. Walkers will have an opportunity to take a photo with live animals found on Island Park and provided by Muddy Paws. The walk will take each group about 30-45 minutes and the groups will be spaced 10 minutes apart. The event will accommodate up to 108 walkers. The bridge to Island Park will be closed to traffic, other than ticket holders, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Boris Gerber, Tom Orth and Catherine Stedman

volunteered to serve as group guides for the event.

6. Island Park Maintenance

Terry reported that volunteers from DPI who worked two successive weeks on Island Park did a great job of covering trails with bark (from AWS Board) and chips provided by DPI. The chips are especially effective on the low lying muddy paths and the sandy ones. Additionally, the volunteers cleared the trail edges of overhanging vegetation and cut dead trees which were close to falling. They removed several bags of autumn olive and cleaned the paved pathway. It was a great clean up event and the volunteers have tentative plans to repeat the work next year. A thank you note, complete with members of both teams and photos, has been sent to DPI together with a thank you poster for their bulletin board.

Boris found a “not a trail” sign that had been pulled out and tossed across a trail. He returned the post to its original site and it will need to be reinstalled in the spring.

7. Additional Remarks from the Table

A portable sign to indicate when the artist-in-residence and/or maintenance work on Island Park is occurring has not been done. Terry will talk with Mark Beins and see where the project is.

There was concern by the Board that placing the large re-cycling bins at the fairgrounds near the water and the boat launch is problematic. There is always escaping trash from these bins and it will end up in the river. It was suggested that the bins be moved inside the fairgrounds away from the water, possibly within a fenced area to reduce the spread of trash. Adam will follow up with Don Gilmet to see what can be done, before the problem becomes too serious.

Terry reminded the Board that election of officers, Chair, Secretary, will occur during the December Board meeting. He asked all to think of nominees for these positions.

Board members were advised that their cookie donation for the December 13th event can be dropped off at Island Park on that day beginning at 3:30 or if that is inconvenient, drop them off at Judy’s house prior to that date.

Tom noted that the buoys on the water trail were re-positioned to their designated locations by the DNR Fisheries crew. Jeff Diamond is the crew captain and accomplished this much needed and appreciated task. Judy will write a thank you to DRN Fisheries.

8. Next Meeting

It was agreed to move the December meeting from December 19th to December 12th to avoid the holiday.

9. Adjourn

Roger motioned, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

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