

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**February 20, 2020**  
**Alpena City Hall**

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

Members Absent: Elizabeth Littler

Staff: Adam Poll

Resource: Mark Beins

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 3:57 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion by Susie Austin, seconded by Vernie Nethercut, the minutes of January 16, 2020 were approved as presented.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda

**4. City Update**

Adam said the work in the city lately is clearing snow and removing snow banks.

A bag of throwing sticks has been donated for the Dog Park.

There have been some complaints about the snow between the sidewalk and the street which makes it difficult for people, especially senior citizens, to access the sidewalk after parking their cars. Adam said folks having a concern should contact Rich Sullenger or Anne Gentry at the Downtown Development Authority.

**5. River Center Update**

The main activity presently is preparing for Festivus and Reel Fun. Ticket sales for Festivus are down this year due to the late start on sales. It is anticipated that Festivus will have around 100 people. Reel Fun tickets have picked up and it is expected to be a near sell out.

The TBRC Board held election of officers at its January 2020 meeting. Judy Kalmanek was elected Chair, Michelle Sobek Vice-chair, Meag Schwartz Secretary, Bill Haase Treasurer. The Board was happy to receive a \$10,000 donation from a 96 year old Alpena supporter who is a great supporter of TBRC.

**6. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry reviewed updates to the Island Park Management Plan (IPMP) and the suggestions for this year that Elizabeth Littler sent him. Terry walked through the 2019 plan and noted the items completed and those not yet done. These will be included in the 2020 plan. Terry shared a plan to have Island Park environmentally certified through the Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District. The major component is to have a management plan which the AWSB has for Island Park. Terry will meet with Alleigh Pagels on Monday to learn what we are required to do. It was agreed that the certification sign will demonstrate further our stewardship efforts.

Terry shared his draft of the 2020-2021 budget with the board. It was suggested that we continue

to include the funding for River Rats. Members were asked to submit any additional budget needs to Terry no later than March 1, 2020.

#### **7. Additional Remarks from the Table**

Roger asked if DPI will come again in the fall to help with Island maintenance. They had indicated an interest. Adam will follow up with Tonya Spens and ask, too, about additional donations of wood chips from DPI.

Tom announced the “Let’s Talk–Diversity and Inclusivity in Alpena” a panel presentation/discussion to be held at the APLEX on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. The panel will be preceded by a reception at 6:30 with the panel to follow at 7:00 p.m. The panel is a kick-off for Black History month.

Mark discussed the Artist-in-Residence program. Last year’s artist, Richard Jordan, is planning to bring a group of his students/colleagues to Alpena this summer for three days of plein air painting on Island Park. A couple of these artists are planning to apply for this year’s artist-in-residence position. Reference was made to the sign which will be used by painters and/or Island workers to let visitors know what is happening on the site. Mark is following-up to ensure the sign is completed.

Terry will give his annual report to Alpena City Council on March 16, 2020. Any input from the board for his report should be sent to Terry by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be held on March 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

#### **9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:53 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by  
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary  
Thunder Bay River Center Board