

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
January 16, 2020
Alpena City Hall

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

Members Absent: Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Karen Enterline

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 Minutes December 12, 2019

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Boris and carried that the minutes of December 12, 2019 be approved as presented.

3. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda as presented.

4. City Update

Adam reported that the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament had been awarded a grant of \$1700 from PIE&G to help with the purchase of propane gas ice augers. For a number of years members of the Thunder Bay Walleye Club have used their own augers to drill the 1200 holes for the tournament and a number of the augers have burned out. The tournament has purchased 10 of the augers at a cost of \$375 each from Frank's Great Outdoors. Once the receipt for the augers is received, the tournament will be reimbursed the \$1700 from PIE&G.

5. Funding for River Rats

Adam was contacted recently by Mike Mandrick who is very supportive of the River Rats program. Mike has a donor directed fund named for his deceased wife entitled the Julie Smith-Mandrick Early Childhood Development Fund. Mike will donate \$250 per year to help fund this program with a stipulation that it be used only for River Rats. To obtain the funds an annual application will need to be written to CFNEM to acquire the funds. This annual grant is in addition to the money set aside for the River Rats in the Wildlife Sanctuary Board's budget. Judy motioned to accept the grant with its stipulations; the motion was seconded by Susie and carried. Judy will send a thank you note to Mike for his donation.

6. Kayak/canoe Storage Shed

Judy was delighted to report that at last the bids have gone out for the kayak/canoe storage shed. Terry noted that there had been some concern about the site being somewhat in the 100 year flood plain which would have raised the roof level several feet above the top of hill. That issue has been resolved and the project will proceed with the intended flat roof observation deck. Funds will need to be acquired subsequently for the needed railing and other accouterments.

7. River Center Update

Update on Magic in Our Midst: this December event was a wonder-filled evening for everyone. The evaluation sheets noted that not only were people excited about an evening event on Island Park in the winter, but to a person stated they would return next year if the event is offered again. A follow-up meeting was held and Roger said there were a number of tweaks made, but overall the committee felt the evening went well.

Reel Fun/Festivus: work is on-going for Festivus (02-21-2020) and the Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament (02-22-2020). Tickets to both events were increased this year–Festivus to \$25 per person and Reel Fun to \$30 per ticket. Board members are asked to provide two items for Festivus: an item (preferably outdoor related) which can be dropped off at Judy’s house (184 Long Rapids condos) and bring cookies for the Festivus dinner on 02-21-2020. Both will be greatly appreciated. There will be no live auction nor silent auction this year. Rather, concentration will be made on the Chinese auction.

River Center: copies of the graphically based case statement and accompanying brochure were distributed to board members. The board was asked to note any needed corrections and send them to Judy via email. Members were asked not to distribute or share the two documents.

8. Island Park Maintenance

Terry said there is nothing going on maintenance-wise at this time of year. Boris reported that some of the intentionally placed brush had been moved aside; however, he replaced it across the non-trail that it was blocking.

9. Additional Remarks from the Table

Adam had received a request from MDOT that the state welcome centers are requesting another 1,650 Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary brochures for distribution at their sites. Judy will contact Allegra and have them print another 5,000 after reviewing the current brochure to ensure the information is still correct.

Terry noted that he’ll be presenting the annual report and budget request to City Council in March. Programs that have specific needs should contact Terry to have them included in the budget proposal. The budget will be an agenda items for the February meeting.

Elizabeth emailed Catherine with a proposal to acquire and distribute seedlings (native shrubs and trees). These bare-rooted plants are available in April. It was agreed that further discussion on this topic is needed.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board is February 20,2020.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 4:47 p.m.

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