

## **Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes September 13, 2018**

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

**Member Absent:** Roger Witherbee,

**Resource Members:** Catherine Stedman, Mark Biens

### **1. Call to Order**

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Tom and carried that the minutes from August 16, 2018 be approved as submitted.

### **3. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda. Any other information was added to #10 Further Remarks from the Table

### **4. City Update**

A request was received from Brooklyn Martin to hold a Tinker Garden pre-school event on November 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a maximum of 30 children with accompanying caregivers. The event was approved with a reminder that the children remain on the designated trails.

The “no wake” signs have been posted at all the launch sites. The two that will be posted on the bridge entries (Bagley Road and Chisholm Stree) have not yet been done. A comment was made that some boat owners are not obeying the signs and continue to create large wakes near the fairgrounds launch which causes erosion.

### **5. Artist in Residence**

Mark relayed that Charles Pompilius was thrilled with Alpena and actually stayed longer in the area than he had planned. Charles’ painting will be hung at Fish & Wildlife; Mark plans to move last year’s piece there as well. He had ordered a frame for Charles’ piece, but it was not acceptable and was returned. Adam noted that Mark will be reimbursed the cost of whatever frame he selects as well as the cost of the accompanying plaque.

Next year’s artist has already expressed an interest in serving as artist-in-residence. He is a well known artist in southern West Michigan and Mark is staying in contact with him. Meanwhile, after January 1, 2019, Mark will advertise in universities and galleries throughout the state.

It was suggested that language be added to the plaques noting that the collection is being created for the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board and will be hung in the Thunder Bay River Center once it is constructed.

### **6. River Center Update**

Judy reported that the TBRC continues to move ahead slowly but surely. The presentation piece used for both groups and individuals who are interested in making a larger donation/pledge has been re-edited. She thanked the board for making their pledges and noted that 78% of the AWS Board has pledged.

The architect has completed the first three phases of the design. The total cost is about \$59,000

rather than the budgeted \$96,000 which was a huge savings due to the architect's diligence. The TBRC Board is planning to hold a training session for all of its board members on their role in planning and conducting a capital campaign.

## **7. Old Business**

*Activity Signs* Elizabeth showed the graphics again that will be placed on the sign. She was asked to add a camera to the list of icons. Elizabeth is changing the wording to include "designated" trails which includes both the main and secondary trails. It was then agreed that all of our pamphlets and information will include the word "designated" trails.

*Riparian Buffer* Elizabeth and Betsy Hale have worked on the pamphlet that will be used to help explain the set-back area in Duck Park. The Board asked that the words *About the* be added to the pamphlet's title River' Edge to clarify its identity. Elizabeth showed a sample sign that could be used for the newly created riparian buffer. A question was raised about whether we want to move ahead on riparian buffers for the City.

*Garden Club Plans* Elizabeth reported that for a couple of years the Garden Club has asked Mike Kendziorski to re-do the garden area around the big sign on the hill at Duck Park in order to better maintain it. He has agreed to try to do so in Spring 2019 and Elizabeth will talk with him in March or April. A suggestion was made that the pamphlet rack there be moved and it will be put on the October agenda.

## **8. Island Park Maintenance**

At the end of August Terry, Marty (Gougeon) and Judy put up "not a trail" signs on the trail that was made leading out of the west observation deck. They added some trees and a lot of brush to discourage its continued use.

Terry, Marty and a couple of volunteers (who could spend only an hour) worked on spreading the bark on a couple of trails in bad need of bark. It was mentioned again that a way is needed to mark the edges of the designated trails. This will help to keep the bark on the trails and prevent some of the erosion—especially on the sloped areas. Susie had visited a park where simple 2 x 4 boards were used to accomplish the demarcation of the trail sides. She'll get more information on how the boards were secured.

## **9. Trails**

Terry stated that we continue to block the non-trails and it seems to be working on some of them. There is a need to block the one that is used for sledding near the beginning of the paved trail. It was agreed to put up a "not-a-trail" sign at the top and bottom of this non-trail. It may require the use of a chain and two posts.

## **10. Further Remarks from the Table**

The DNR has suggested that the use of high plants near the water deters geese. Even a simple string line along walks seems to work.

The frogbit pulls were a good community work event. During the summer 40 different volunteers helped with the removal of about 8 truckloads of the invasive plant. This included adults and a few kids from Alpena Junior High School who were doing their community service needed for admission to the Junior National Honor Society. It was suggested that we promote the event to both junior and senior high school students for the 2019 summer work. Yet this year Tom would like to map the west end of the sanctuary to see how much frogbit is out in that area. Next year we'll begin early—late May—and work from those areas least infected toward the more

massive areas. That will help to contain the weed somewhat. We plan to spray the cattails early in the spring and Huron Pines has promised to help.

Tom had a couple of additional maps which had the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary mis-labeled. He will try to contact the printers of the maps and have them correct the information on future editions.

The Island Management plan now on ([www.thunderbayrivercenter.org](http://www.thunderbayrivercenter.org)) website needs to be reviewed and updated. This will be an agenda item for January 2019.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

The board will meet on October 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

#### **12. Adjourn**

Judy moved, seconded by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 5:08 p.m. Motion carried.

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