

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes  
December 6, 2018  
Alpena City Hall**

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

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 3:56 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes of October 18, 2018 be approved as written.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Nomination and election of Officers:**

Roger made a motion, seconded by Tom that Terry Gougeon be elected Chair of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board for 2019 and that Judy Kalmanek be elected secretary of the board. The motion carried.

**City Update:**

Adam reported that the \$45,000 from USDA Rural Development has been received to help pay for the architectural fees for the Thunder Bay River Center. The architectural plans are now complete up to construction documents.

The City is beginning work on the budget year which begins on July 1, 2019.

Adam will look into making corrections on some of the maps which incorrectly identify the Wildlife Sanctuary. Previously, Tom had given Adam the information on maps that need correcting.

**Update on Thunder Bay River Center**

Judy noted that the architect Bruce Johnson was in Alpena during October for a site visit and to meet with potential sub-contractors. At that time, a number of small adjustments were made to the drawings. For example, Bruce, Roger and Judy met with Jon Benson who has given advice on the kitchen area.

Giving Tuesday netted the TBRC \$2,880. There were 24 people who donated online. Several others made contributions directly to the CFNEM office. It appears that the Facebook page helped with the fundraising.

**Old Business:**

*Smoking Ban.* Boris presented the Wildlife Sanctuary Board's opinion on the ban at the City Council meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It appears that Council will take action on the smoking ban in city parks within the next few months. The Board asked that Boris' letter be sent to the

mayor and council members in support of the ban. Boris will send his draft to Judy so that it can be put on letterhead and signed. The Board thanked Boris for making the presentation.

*Activity Signs.* Elizabeth has given all the needed wording, icons and logo to Omega Electric. She is awaiting a quote from them. It was suggested that she re-contact them to move the project along.

### **Island Maintenance:**

Terry said that he has used brush to cover parts of the hill that have been used both for sledding and as an unapproved trail. The brush was removed on 11-7-2018 and he put it back only to have it removed again on 12-4-2018. Every time he blocks the area, someone removes the brush. It was agreed that heavier cover needs to be placed on that hillside. Roger will cut the jack pines that have fallen across the trail at the head of the hill and it will be used to block off the unapproved trail. Boris, Terry and Judy agreed to help block the site. The Board suggested putting up a No Sledding sign next to the No Bicycling sign on the gate.

There needs to be a strong emphasis on educating people that the Island is a natural area and what that means. It was agreed that 2019 will be a year when the Board will educate people about the erosion problems on Island Park and what needs to be done to control it. That will include information about remaining on the approved trails. The Board would like to create a feature educational article about the erosion danger that could be used for the newspaper, radio, TV and social media. Susie will create the draft and have it ready for board input at the January meeting. The planned demonstration plot will help with the education process and Tom is going to ask Karen Enterline and Catherine Stedman to head up the project.

The Board is still concerned about finding another suitable location for sledding that is near. A suggestion was made to use the berm by Austin Brothers Brewery. Although it is quite steep, it adjoins the soccer fields and perhaps could be easily converted into a sledding area. Adam will find out who owns the property where the berm is located so we can begin to judge the feasibility of it for a sledding site.

### **2019 Budget:**

Terry stated that he would like any board member who is connected with AWS Board projects in need of funds to email their needs to him. He plans to submit an itemized budget for 2019-2020 fiscal year (begins July 1) to the City Council. Terry will contact Mark Beins to see what funds are needed for the Artist-in-Residence program.

A new caricature type city map is being created and Susie suggested that the Wildlife Sanctuary be on it. Roger motioned, seconded by Elizabeth and carried that the Board pay the \$175 fee to be included on the new map.

### **Further Remarks from the Table:**

Roger reiterated that having 100% financial support from both the AWS Board and the TBRC Board is important. He urged members who have not yet made a pledge of support to do so.

Adam reported that leaching is not a problem for the city water system which was a concern of some citizens. Adam will send out via email the sites for taking both the city and county surveys so everyone can give input into the upcoming development of the master and recreational plans.

Judy noted that TBRC has received some financial support from Montmorency County Board. It will be used to help with the exhibit design development costs of the TBRC.

Terry discussed the NE Michigan CWMA meeting that he, Elizabeth and Judy attended. The annual meeting was conducted by Huron Pines who are moving to enable local groups to become more informed and active in invasive species control. There are two levels of training/involvement. The first is educational to help people learn to identify and report invasive species. The second level is certification to handle and use herbicides and pesticides when needed. Terry has agreed to become certified in the use of these chemicals at a cost of \$75. There was further discussion about the great benefit we have received from Huron Pines with the \$2,000 investment we made with them several years ago. Roger motioned, seconded by Elizabeth that the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board again give Huron Pines \$2,000 over two years to support the invasive species control work. The motion carried.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on January 17, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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