

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes April 23, 2018

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

Members Absent: Karen Enterline, Christian Stevens

Resource Members: Meaghan Schwartz

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Terry Gougeon

An addition was made to the agenda to add

the annual report made by the Chair to City Council

feedback from the Board Governing Seminar at the college today

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Boris that the minutes from March 15, 2018 be approved. The motion carried.

III. City Update

Adam signed an OK for a wedding of under 30 people to be held in June on Island Park. He noted they were told that the service could not be held on the bridge. The Board reminded Adam that the wedding party/guests needed to stay on the trails.

A second item noted that the Thunder Bay River Watershed Council has dissolved and given two gift cards to the Wildlife Sanctuary Board to help with our maintenance projects.

IV. Thunder Bay River Center Update

Judy reported that the Marketing committee is moving ahead with designing the campaign brand. Several sample brands have been designed which will be reviewed and amended by the committee and the board. The name for the campaign was chosen: *our river: our future* which is incorporated into the brand graphics. The opening of the campaign is scheduled for June.

V. Unfinished Business

Storage Shed: As a follow-up to the AWS Board meeting, Judy has prepared a 2019 grant application to the Youth and Recreation Committee for funds to help construct the kayak storage in the hillside at Duck Park. The plan is to have a 12' x 24' ADA observation deck atop the storage building. A ramp to make kayak/canoe access and egress to the launch is planned as well. The Board was reminded that this project has been part of the River Center plans since its inception. There are a number of partners in the storage project including AHS students who are the designers, Huron Engineering who will oversee and seal the plans, Besser Company who will donate the block. Home Depot is being contacted to learn their interest.

Activity Signs: Susie had no updates, but will contact Omega to make further arrangements.

Habitat Study Plot: We reviewed the size (suggestion of 1/4 acre). Tom will take before pictures of the site prior to fencing the area with wooden snow fence. Adam will check to ensure that wooden snow fence is available from the city. Tom will chair the sub committee of himself, Karen and Catherine Stedman. Susie has a friend who can take a drone shot of the area as all the photos will be used as part of the effort to educate people on the fragility of the Island.

No Wake Signs: Adam needs to have photos of the places where the no wake signs are to be placed. There are six signs and the first places to post are the boat launches at the Fairgrounds

and then on the bridges (coming east across Bagley into Sytek Park and on either side of US-23 bridge on Chisholm). Boris will take the photos. A comment was made that the worst spots for violating the no wake law is around Washington Park.

Educating the Public about Island Park: Terry suggested we write a series of three articles. However, the Board suggested asking a news reporter interview Terry and do an article. A similar interview could be done with the TV station and the radio. The emphasis should be on how the Island has changed since it was purchased as a natural area in 1983. Why the change is needed. Terry will follow up on the best way to achieve our goal to educate the public on appropriate activities on the Island.

VI. Island Maintenance

Terry had prepared a list of the needed work for this year. Some of it was left from 2017; but, most of 2017 was completed. Annually, the stairways need to be cleaned; trails need to be barked. There are a couple of non-trails that need to be blocked. This includes blocking either side of the west observation deck. Graffiti needs to be cleaned from this deck especially the top rail. The shed needs to be painted and graffiti removed. There will be work days scheduled for the removal of invasive species (especially spotted knapweed, autumn olive and leafy spurge). Terry has already cleaned the birdhouses and replaced them. Susie asked if YVC's birdhouses could be used in place of the ones that were stolen or destroyed. She will follow up with Terry. On that note, Susie stated that YVC is more than willing to help with any of these project if they can be scheduled Monday through Friday. Consensus was that work could be scheduled on these days rather than weekends.

VII. Further Remarks

Judy said the Audubon Society will conduct a beginning birdwatching/identification program in the Wildlife Sanctuary on June 9th. Karen Tetzloff will be working with a committee from the Audubon to plan, publicize and conduct the event.

Vernie needs more pamphlets (Wildlife Sanctuary) for distribution. Adam replied that he has a box or two of them in his office for distribution.

Boris has seen our pamphlets (one of three from Michigan) at the welcome area going into Ohio. The pamphlets were distributed last year to all the welcome areas in Michigan.

Elizabeth reminded everyone that the Garden Club will be doing a program on planting native plants on May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Terry announced he will have budget planning at the October meeting. That will enable us to plan for and ask Council for specific budget needs.

VIII. Next meeting

As agreed at the March meeting, the May meeting will be on May 24, 2018 rather than the usual third Thursday of the month.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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