

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
January 26, 2023
Alpena City Council Chambers

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Catherine Stedman, Elizabeth Littler (via Zoom),
Lucille Bray, Lisa Kruse, Larry Johns

Member Absent: Vernie Nethercut, Judy Kalmanek

Supporting Members:

City Staff: City Planning Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:05 p.m. Welcome was given to our new board members Lucille Bray, Lisa Kruse and Larry Johns.

II. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

III. Approval of Minutes

With just a correction of the date of the meeting in the title, the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting were approved upon a motion made by Lucille and seconded by Lisa.

IV. City Report

Montiel reported that our three new people are official members of the board. In addition to promoting the event, she distributed (received from Judy) three February 24 Festivus tickets to each board member to sell. Montiel reported that the city is conducting the budget review and approval process earlier this year, beginning in mid-February. Our board will finalize our budget request at our next meeting on February 16, and Terry will submit this together with our annual report. This timing is acceptable to Montiel, if anything changes she will let us know.

V. River Center Report

Terry reviewed a report Judy had submitted to him:

- The annual appeal letter sent out in December 2022 raised over \$21,000 for the River Center. Part of this was an award of \$5,000 from Consumers Energy Foundation. Among the donations there were several pledges made for future years. A number of donors gave \$1,000 or more.
- The 15th annual Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament will be held on February 25, 2023 on Grand Lake. Tickets are on sale now at various places: Clem's Bait Shop, Chamber of Commerce, Top O'Michigan Solutions, Gonzos Bait Shop, Jimmie's Party Store, and at Frank's Great Outdoors in Linwood, Adrian's Sport Shop in Rogers City and A1 Sports in Hillman. Tickets remain \$15 and are available online as well.
- Festivus will be held at JJ's new Phoenix Room the evening before (Feb. 24th). Heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will accompany 50/50 raffles, Chinese raffles and special raffles/drawings. Tickets are \$25 each and only 130 are available. We are asking members of both the AWS and the TBRC boards to each sell 3 tickets for Festivus.

VI. Other Business Reports

Magnet Fishing. Written report from Judy: Magnet Fishing is being proposed by a TBRC Board member. Details for this event are being worked out and will be reported at the February meeting. Any AWS board member interested in the project is welcome to join us with ideas.

Much discussion followed. Our board members believe we need additional information and input from our partners, such as Huron Pines, before making a recommendation on the appropriateness of magnet fishing within the Sanctuary. Does this activity fit our quiet recreation and education purpose? Any public perception concerns? Any environmental concerns (dragging magnets along the bottom, magnets becoming stuck or lost). We feel we don't know enough to make a decision, and thus should check with specialists to get expert opinions. We feel it is also always important to keep our partners notified and involved in activities planned for the Sanctuary.

Bylaws. Terry presented a draft of our bylaws. Numerous thought and ideas were presented by board members, including:

- Add something concerning "Advisory Members", in the past we have valued having experts attend our meetings, non-voting, but part of the conversation.
- Since our meeting are open to the public, add as an agenda item: "Public Comment".
- Add: "These rules may be amended by a majority vote at a board meeting". Put the date amended at the bottom with the signature of the chair.
- Add in the bylaws the definition of the geographical area included in the Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Regarding meeting date changes, since our meetings need to be announced (placed on the city calendar) in advance: The meeting date can be changed due to inclement weather at the recommendation of the Chair as long as we meet the public posting requirement. (Meeting date changes need to be sent to Montiel and Cassie Stone, to be put on the city website).
- Regarding voting rights of members attending meeting via the internet (e.g. Zoom): We are OK with their votes counting, but as a city committee we may be regulated by their rules, Montiel will check into this. We may want to put the result into our bylaws.

Additional discussion on our bylaws will be an agenda item at our February board meeting.

Budget. These thoughts on July 1, 2023-24 budget items were presented:

- Written report from Judy: Will need about \$500 for maintenance/repair of our cattail cutters. They are at the Saw Supply Shop on M-32. One of them needed a part after the first year of use. MDOT would like another 1,900 AWS brochures this year. I'll check out the supply on hand with Montiel. However, we may need to print additional copies. We usually print 2,000-2,500 which runs about \$450(?).
- Additional Island pamphlets will also be needed, a total budget request of \$1,000 was suggested (total for AWS + Island brochures).
- For the Island trails, we believe wood chips are better than bark, and in past years DPI has supplied these for us at no cost.

The budget will be finalized and approved at our February board meeting.

VII. Park Maintenance

Terry presented a list of Island Park and Sanctuary projects planned for 2023.

VIII Next meeting

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall at 4:00 p.m. on February 16, 2023.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by Boris Gerber, member Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board