

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
February 16, 2023
Alpena City Committee Room

Members Present:

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

Guest: Chris Powley, Secretary Thunder Bay River Center Board

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 4:03 p.m.

II Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Catherine and carried that the agenda be accepted as presented.

III. Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Lucille, seconded by Tom and carried that the minutes of January 26, 2023 be approved.

IV. Public Comment

No others, besides the board and guest, were present. There were, therefore, no public comments.

V. City Report

Montiel reported that the City Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) met on February 13, 2023. The committee approved an additional \$5,000 for the TBRC and noted that the \$150,000 from the DNR grant has been approved.

Target Alpena has hired Lenny Avery who is an experienced grant writer and promoter for Alpena. He can assist the City with future grant applications.

Montiel had checked on the open meetings requirement. She noted that since the AWS Board is governed by the open meetings act, members will need to be physically present to vote.

VI. River Center Report

The TBRC is busy with the upcoming Festivus and Reel Fun (February 24 and 25). Festivus will be held at JJ's new Phoenix Room from 6-9 p.m with 50/50 and Chinese raffles. Reel Fun fishing will be held at Grant Lake at the DNR launch site off East Grand Lake Road from noon until 3:00 p.m. First prize is \$5,000 and there are a total of 30 prizes.

UPE&A drawings for Phase I of the TBRC are continuing and a draft of the floor plan has been completed.

Artist in Residence: this program needs to find housing for the 2023 artist. It was proposed to allocate \$250 (cleaning fee) to obtain use of a house on State Street owned by the family of Justin Christianson-Cooper. Vernie made the motion to do so which was seconded by Boris and carried. Judy will follow up with Justin to learn some dates when the house will be available. Edith Gerber has agreed to coordinate the Artist in Residence program in 2023.

VII Other Business Reports:

Camera Chris Powley (member of TBRC Board) discussed the possibility of having a 24/7 camera which will observe wildlife (and, possibly fish) in the AWS and be connected via WiFi to social media. A similar camera installation at the Sault has been in use for many years and generates a lot of interest. Possible sites for the camera location were mentioned including on the covered bridge, water tower, an island off of Cow Island. Chris agreed to do further research about cameras and costs and report back to the Board. Once decided, a grant for the cost will be submitted to CFNEM.

Bylaws: the Board reviewed the draft of the Bylaws written by Terry. There were several needed changes including adding that members need to be physically present to vote and a majority of members will be City residents. Boris motioned, seconded by Larry and carried that the Bylaws with the noted changes be adopted.

Budget the Board was supportive of the budget presented by Terry. He has added the \$250 needed for housing the Artist in Residence. The budget request totals \$7,800. Judy motioned, seconded by Lucille and carried to accept the budget.

VIII Park Maintenance

Terry presented the proposed summer work plan on invasive species suggested by Huron Pines. These will be full day works on summer Wednesdays: June 14, July 19 and August 9. Other work days will be scheduled as needed by Terry. These will include cutting and removing autumn olive and knotweed brush during September and October. Terry will put out reminders for workers for these work days.

IX. Additional Remarks from the Table

Terry asked Judy to check on the status of a support letter for Huron Pines' invasive species grant application.

Boris, Catherine and others would like the trash can by the bridge crossing gate to be restored. Montiel will follow up on this.

Vernie requested that information about media reports/contacts be included in the annual report. Terry will make the inclusion.

Tom would like a clarification on the relationship between the AWS and TBRC Boards. Judy will follow up and draft a reply.

Larry suggested that we need a way to track our volunteer hours, donated materials and other donations in order to demonstrate what we are accomplishing. This will be an agenda item for the March meeting.

X. Next Meeting

Because of several scheduling conflicts, the March meeting will be held on March 23, 2023.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary

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