

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**November 11 , 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut, Judy Kalmanek

Resource Advisor: Catherine Stedman,

City Staff: City Manager Rachel Smolinski, City Planning, Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

**Members Absent:** Susie Austin, Karen Enterline

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:08 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Roger and carried that the minutes of October 21, 2021 be approved as presented.

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

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

**IV City Update**

Montiel reported that the City is engaged in strategic planning with serious emphasis on the city parks. This bodes well for Duck and Island Parks since they are the most heavily used in the City. Montiel hinted that MEDC may have some funds available in the form of new funding after the first of next year. She will stay in contact with MEDC and keep the board updated on possibilities for the River Center.

**V. River Center Update**

Judy asked for input on the preliminary sketch done by architect Bruce Johnson. The Board was pleased with the initial work. One comment was to change the wording from “toilet” rooms to “rest” rooms. One Tuesday (16<sup>th</sup>), Rachel, Montiel and Judy will meet with representatives from the DNR Trust Fund Grants office to discuss their interest in funding Phase I of the River Center.

Magic in Our Midst will be held again this year on December 10<sup>th</sup>. New animals have been purchased with a grant from Youth Advisory Council (CFNEM) and the high school has been contacted for volunteer students to help. Boris agreed to contact Civic Theatre and remind them we still need recorded voices for the geese, chipmunk and beaver. We could use a few more adult helpers, too.

Judy has found a coordinator for the Artist-in-Residence program. Her name is Sheri Waldrop who is a plein air artist with a focus on wildlife landscaping and birds. Sheri appears to be a good fit for this volunteer job. She has already created a draft invitation to prospective applicants. Sheri had several questions which the Board discussed a bit. Judy will reply to Sheri about their questions. Vernie will talk to Marcia Aten to find out if the Atens are still willing to house the artist and what are some good dates for them next summer.

#### VI. Island Park Maintenance

Roger had been asked to contact Tonya Spence about the possibility of DPI helping to spread wood chips on the Island Park trails. Roger reported that he did and Tonya no longer works for DPI. Roger will follow up with Tonya and find out who to contact at DPI for possible help.

There was further discussion about the memorial bench that Stephanie Hollander plans to install near the bridge on Island Park. The Board is happy with the chosen site; however, the decision was to advise Stephanie strongly to cement the bench in place as a guard against vandalism. Judy will contact Stephanie and let her know.

#### VII. Additional Remarks from the Table

Judy asked the Board what they'd like to do about the Clean Boats-Clean Water grant application. The Board decided to forgo the possibility this year. We do not have a specific site identified yet. However, if we have an opportunity we'll apply next year.

In Susie's absence, Judy reported on Giving Tuesday which will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Susie is handling the online promotion and will place signs (similar to Science in the Sanctuary) at Duck Park. Judy is preparing a mailing of about 250 invitations to people who purchased boat tickets last summer. These will go in the mail early next week when CFNEM does their "kick-off" for the event. Board members were reminded to give generously themselves and spread the word as best they can. The goal this year is to raise \$10,000 as part of the needed match for Phase I of the River Center.

#### VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

#### IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 4:30 p.m.

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