

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**August 15, 2019**  
**Alpena City Hall**

Members Present: Terry Gougeon, Karen Enterline, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Judy Kalmanek  
Staff: Adam Poll  
Resource: Catherine Stedman, Mark Beins

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:00p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Boris and carried that the minutes of July 18, 2019 be approved as presented.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

Vernie added PR report to the agenda and Terry placed it to follow item #4.

**4. City Update**

A comment was made that photographed evidence shows that the May 11<sup>th</sup> motorcycle group did not follow city instructions about taking photos on the covered bridge. Rather they drove across the bridge, drove back to the center and had a professional photographer take the picture. There were numerous participants in the event.

Adam noted that there were city mis-communication errors concerning the proposed kayak storage building. As of this date, work on the drawings is being done.

**4.1 PR Report**

Vernie commented on the excellent full-page article on the wildflowers of the sanctuary which Darby Hinkley wrote. The full page on wildflowers in the Alpena News also "educated" and raised awareness of Island Park with some well-worded explanations and eye-catching photos. Lifestyles Editor Darby Hinkley is very interested in nature and will strongly support us in ideas to inform the public. A number of the photos were taken from the new wildflower brochure. Vernie noted that the article was a good educational piece for the community. Several folks commented that they saved the article. The brochures are printed and ready for distribution. Vernie reminded everyone to send in their favorite Wildlife Sanctuary photo to the Alpena News' 2020 calendar. It, too, will be an excellent opportunity to help people learn more about the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Vernie distributed a dozen (more or less) of the Wildlife Sanctuary/Island Park pamphlets to county and college libraries, NOAA, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Holiday Inn Express, ALL office, Art on the Bay and the airport. They all were glad to have the pamphlets. Previously Boris had put pamphlets at the museum and Judy had given some to Farmers Market.

**5. River Center Update**

The Financial Feasibility Study is nearing completion and the final report should be received from CP Consulting within the next couple of weeks.

Thunder Bay River Center was awarded \$50,000 gift from the Meijer Foundation. Both newspaper and TV announcements of the award were made.

The 2020 Reel Fun Fishing Tournament committee had their first meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>. A number of changes are being made including a reduced-sized ticket, replacement of the rule booklet with a simple brochure. Festivus will eliminate the live and silent auction and return to holding the Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle. A number of preliminary arrangements have been made already.

Two additional fundraisers are being planned. One will be a December evening walk on Island Park where a number of animals will come alive and speak to the walkers. The walk will be followed by hot chocolate and cookies. The second fundraiser is a wine festival featuring made in Michigan wines and wineries. The event is scheduled for July 11, 2020.

## **6. Island Park Maintenance**

*Science in the Sanctuary* went well but attendance was down since the library carnival was the same day. It was suggested that the event be held in June next year just before River Rats begins. The schedule of community events is less in June.

*Knapweed Pull* Elizabeth and Catherine were pleased that 17 people helped pull knapweed and a number of garbage bags were filled.

It was decided that the erosion fencing will be installed on August 29<sup>th</sup>. At least four volunteers will be needed to help with this. Terry will send out an email requesting volunteers.

## **7. Additional Remarks from the Table**

Mark discussed the upcoming Artist-in-Residence, Richard Jordan. The opening pot luck reception will be held on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Judy and Terry Gougeon, 128 Colorado Rd. Terry will send out an email so everyone can RSVP and indicate what dish they will bring for the dinner.

Richard Jordan will be in Alpena from August 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>. He plans to do his *plein air* painting daily often accompanied by Mark and Mark's students. Anyone else is welcome to join the group to paint. Richard will present a demonstration of his painting style at Art-in-the-Loft on August 29<sup>th</sup> and a public presentation on the work he does in Alpena at Besser Museum on a day yet to be determined. Mark will email everyone with the date for this event. Mark is preparing both newspaper and TV publicity for the events.

Vernie would like the board to reconsider the plan to remove the large sign at the top of the stairs on Island Park. Although the sign says Sportsman's Island, the sign contains some island history. A suggestion was made to replace the sign, which is in bad shape, so that it reads Island Park and incorporate the historical information in the sign. Vernie asked that the sign be an agenda item for September and encouraged all board members to visit the sign and re-read it.

Elizabeth passed around an idea for a sign for the rain garden. The sign frame will hold a pamphlet rack for the explanatory brochures on the rain garden.

Tom reminded that the brochures all need to have the same look and include contact information. Judy will check to make sure that all contain the contact information. The overall look is consistent throughout the new brochures.

There are some boats that are speeding through the sanctuary waters, causing erosion and endangering kayakers. Adam suggested that the police be called on the non-emergency number:

354-1800 when a non-compliant boater is sighted. The no wake sign at Washington Park has not been installed yet and Adam will follow up on why it isn't.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on September 19, 2019 in City Hall at 4:00 p.m.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 4:46 p.m.

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