

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
April 21, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Susie Austin, Judy Kalmanek
Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman,

City Staff: City Planning, Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

Members Absent: Roger Witherbee, Boris Gerber, Karen Enterline

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:01 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2022

A motion was made by Vernie and seconded by Tom and carried that the minutes of March 17, 2022 be approved as amended.

III. Additions to the Agenda

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

IV. City Update

Montiel reported that the City has applied for many grants recently and are awaiting the results. One of them is for Phase I of the Thunder Bay River Center.

V. River Center Update

Judy reported on the City GPC (Goose Poop Committee). The committee has met twice and are committed to the annual oiling of goose eggs by USDA who have done it these past years. The GPC would like input from the AWS Board on the difference among the types of swans. The information will be used to educate the public on why we should discourage mute swans and encourage the native trumpeters; it was suggested to include the smaller tundras. Elizabeth will look into information on the swans and compile it. She will contact Karen Tetzloff of the Audubon and see what information Audubon may have.

The River Center Board is holding a wildflower sale of native Michigan wildflowers. The packets are \$5.00 each. Members of both the TBRC and AWS Board are asked to each sell 20 packets. The packets have been placed in area stores as well. The sale is going well and about \$500 has been realized within the first two weeks of sales.

VI. Artist in Residence

Sheri Waldrop, Artist in Residence Coordinator, received 19 completed applications for the 2022 opportunity. She selected the top seven and has asked the AWS Board to select the artist for this year. A rather long discussion followed; the Board did a visual review of the seven applicants especially the three Sheri had selected as finalists. Following the discussion and review, a motion was made by Tom, seconded by Judy and carried that the 2022 artist in residence position would be offered to Emily Drew Yates of Elkville, IL. Emily describes herself as a “Painter and maker of colorful, joyous artworks in acrylic and watercolor; uplifting paintings and maps celebrating the magic and mystery of the natural world and reverence for the great outdoors, inspiring enjoyment of nature and life”. The Board’s second choice is the couple (Caley Buck and Sadie

Swenson) who create beautiful ceramic pieces from objects found in nature—beach glass, stones, seeds. Their aim in working on pieces together is to eliminate the artist from the piece to encourage viewers to touch the work, become immersed and not think of the artist who created the piece. They would be offered the position if Emily Yates was unable to accept it.

VII. Island Park Maintenance

Following up on last month's discussion about Huron Pines' plan to work on invasive species on Island Park and in the AWS, Terry will ask Huron Pines to share their plan with the Board. Judy will contact Steve Woods who coordinates the Huron Coastal Invasive Species Network (HP-ISON) to see about sharing the plan. Some of the questions Terry would like answered were: how to dispose of the removed biomass and whether the plan to use herbicides. The HP-ISON is meeting in Alpena on May 19th and would like to tour both Duck Park and Island Park. All Board members are encouraged to be present for the tour at 10:30 a.m. Judy suggested that Terry join the meeting of the group which will be held from 12:30 until 2:00 at Grace Lutheran Church (119 W Dunbar St, Alpena, MI 49707). Other Board members will be welcome to attend as well.

VIII. Additional Remarks

Tom has planned kayak tours with Adult Lifelong Learners (ALL) beginning on May 26th (rain date May 27th). The exploration tour will begin at the Fairgrounds launch site. A second tour will be held on June 2nd starting at Duck Park and a third will be launched from the Fairgrounds on July 7th. Anyone wishing to participate may contact Tom.

Todd Wills, Captain of the *Tanner*, has agreed to help reset the buoys in the sanctuary's Blue Heron Water Trail. The buoys have not been reset in about 4 years.

Elizabeth said that so far DPW has no interim grass cutter helpers for Summer 2022. Montiel said notices advertising the various positions with the City for the summer have been posted at the college. Although the City would like full time (40 hours) workers, they are willing to take part time (20 hours) workers.

Susie will have the updated schedules for both River Rats and Science in the Sanctuary ready for the May meeting.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. on May 19, 2022. In the secretary's absence, Montiel agreed to take the minutes.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:49 p.m.

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