

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**January 20, 2022**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut, Judy Kalmanek  
Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman,

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

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

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:02 p.m.

**II Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Boris and carried that the minutes of December 16, 2021 be approved.

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented

**IV. City Update**

Montiel had updated information on the request by several residents to install benches on Island Park. Any bench to be installed in a City park will need approval from the City Engineering Department. Steve Shultz told Montiel that he has a source which offers benches at a discounted cost of \$1200. He can help as well with the concrete pads for the permanent installation which are 3' x 5' and 4" thick. The cost will include any engraving the applicant would like to have on the bench. Terry suggested that if the bench is placed on a sloping area there will need to be posts as well to prevent the bench from sliding down hill.

Terry agreed to draft a set of guidelines which will include a procedure to be followed. At least one request has been for a plaque on the bench rather than engraving. That issue will need to be addressed in the guidelines. Vernie and Montiel agreed to edit Terry's draft which will then be submitted to the Board for input/approval.

**V. River Center Update**

Judy reported that the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Reel Fun Fishing Tournament is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at Grand Lake. Ticket sales are going well and people can now purchase tickets online using their credit or debit cards. The money will be directly deposited into the TBRC account at Northland Credit Union. Brian Bartosh did the work to enable this procedure to occur and any future fundraisers for TBRC will be able to use the URL.

The application to USDA-RD is well underway and will be submitted in February. If successful, the grant will help pay for the final 20% of the remaining architectural/engineering costs.

Shannon Smolinski is working with the UP Engineers & Architects, Inc. so that they become the architectural firm of record for the rest of TBRC planning and construction.

City Manager, Rachel Smolinski has arranged for Judy to give an update on TBRC to the City Council on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The last update to Council was in 2018.

**VI. Island Park Maintenance**

Artist in Residence: Terry noted that he was contacted by an artist trying to apply online who was unable to access the application. Judy reported that Sheri has updated the TBRC site so that folks can obtain information and request an application from her.

Insects: Again this year MSU researchers reported that all of the insects found in their traps are native to Michigan and are the ones usually trapped. Terry sent a copy of the insect (beetle) report to all Board members.

Budget: Terry reviewed his draft budget and asked for input. Tom suggested adding \$250 for supplies which will be needed when the frogbit season arrives. Judy received a request from MDOT for 1500 Wildlife Sanctuary brochures to replace those that have been distributed. She noted that this is a service not just to the Sanctuary, but to the City and Northeast Michigan area. She had sent 1500 brochures last year and they have been used. Montiel agreed to find the invoice from Allegra for the brochures so that more can be ordered and the cost put into the Wildlife Sanctuary budget.

#### **VII. Further Remarks from the Table**

Vernie gave a publicity report so the Board would be aware of how the Sanctuary is promoted. Each month she excerpts information from that month's minutes to write an article to update the community on the AWS Board's work. News media reports of Wildlife Sanctuary Board meetings are sent to radio and tv stations, the Alpena News and regional newspapers and to several nonprofit and governmental organizations. This work on her part helps to increase people's understanding and interest in the AWS.

#### **VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on February 17, 2022.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:39 p.m.

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