

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
February 15, 2024
Alpena City Committee Room

Members Present: Lucille Bray, Boris Gerber, Terry Gougeon, Amber Hubbard, Larry Johns, Judy Kalmanek (via internet), Lisa Kruse, Elizabeth Littler (via internet), Vernie Nethercut (via internet), Tom Orth, Catherine Stedman (via internet)

Members Absent: None **City Liaison:** Montiel Birmingham

Guest: Kevin Fisher, Alpena Harbormaster

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Kruse at 4:01 p.m.

II. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda

Terry motioned to accept the agenda as presented, Lucille seconded and the motion carried.

III. Minutes from January 18, 2024 Meeting

Terry motioned to approve the minutes from January 18, 2024, Larry seconded and the motion carried.

IV. City Report

Montiel reported that the city received a request from the Sunrise Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, asking for permission to install wood duck boxes at various locations within the Sanctuary. They indicated that they would clean and maintain the boxes in future years. Discussion indicated that previous duck boxes installed in the past, by a different organization, came with the same maintenance promise, but was never followed through, with the boxes soon falling into ruin. Montiel will email a copy of the request to the board members for their review, for discussion at our next meeting. The general feeling expressed was to start with a limited number of boxes, perhaps four, at locations chosen by us, and then see if these are maintained before adding more.

V. Task Items

Review of Draft Annual Report: It was recommended to separate the 2023 accomplishments into two sections, one for activities performed by our Board, and one for other relevant activities in the Sanctuary performed by other groups (e.g. oiling of eggs, insect trapping on Island). A final draft will be sent for review and approval at our next meeting.

FY2023 Budget: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, we will be printing 2,500 AWS pamphlets for a price of \$810, plus including other miscellaneous expenses (supplies for the full replacement of the amphitheater benches, estimated at \$61, and adhesive tubes for installing the new tree signs). Adding these expenses still leaves us well under the \$2,000 budget.

FY2024 Budget: Lisa will send a draft of the budget for review at our next meeting. Not for the budget until we know more, but discussion was had regarding landscaping around the bridge. At times the weeds are ungainly, but a problem is that selective weed whacking is needed, to avoid destroying native grasses. We'll take a look this spring. It was also mentioned that our budget is for smaller maintenance items, and not for major items as future dock replacements. The city Recreation Plan includes some of the larger items, but no guarantee, as many items city wide need to be prioritized.

AWS Pamphlet Review: The QR codes and social media language will be updated, and then given to Allegra in the next two weeks to meet timing requirement to send to the Michigan Welcome Centers. Printing 2,500 pamphlets at this time will meet this spring's need. New QR stickers will be put on the existing stock of brochures. Other changes to the pamphlet, possible photo or wording updates, will be discussed later for later printing.

MOWA nomination: Lisa will submit the application for the possible \$500 award for environmental principles to the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association.

Artist in Residence Program: Different ideas regarding restructuring the program, for example forming a partnership with local high schools or our community college, were discussed.

Management Plan: Lisa will send a draft of the plan, to include the entire Sanctuary and in cohesion with the city's recreation plan, for review and discussion at our next meeting.

VI. Island Park and Sanctuary Maintenance

We wish to promote volunteer events on social media as soon as possible, offering a variety of time of day and day of week events. Amber will invite her coworker Logan, who plans Huron Pines volunteer events, to our next meeting.

VII. Education

Larry, Catherine and Amber will get together to propose educational events and dates.

VIII. Social Media

Larry will look at doing a history story project.

IX. River Center Report

Judy reported that we did not receive the Community Center Grant for Phase II. Requests for bids for the Phase 1 pavilion will go out by the end of March. A joint meeting of the TBRC and AWS boards will be held tentatively on March 12 at 5:30 at Grace Lutheran Church, subject to the availability at the church. Judy indicated that for donations to the River Center, donors can use a QR code that goes directly to the TBRC account at the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan.

X. Additional Remarks from the Table

Amber will setup a Google Drive for our Board to store any and all documents. Only Board members will have access to this Drive, and will have editing and adding capabilities.

XI. Public comment

There was no public comment.

XII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be March 21, 2024.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Boris Gerber, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board