

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**March 23, 2023**  
**Alpena City Committee Room**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Vernie Nethercut, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Lucille Bray, Catherine Stedman (via Zoom), Elizabeth Littler (via Zoom), Judy Kalmanek (via Zoom)

**Member Absent:** Lisa Kruse, Larry Johns

**Supporting Members:**

City Staff: City Planning Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

**I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

With only five members present in person, the required quorum was not met. The meeting discussion was started by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:07 p.m. No votes were taken at the meeting.

**II. City Report**

Montiel presented a draft of recommended “street trees” (those on the “tree lawn” – the space between the curb and sidewalk) for the city to use in future plantings. The draft includes trees and shrubs that should not be used (invasive species or not desirable for other reasons). The list, when finalized, could be used for advice for homeowners choosing trees for their own properties. She also noted that our 7/1/23-24 budget was received and filed by the city.

**III. River Center Report**

Judy reported that the River Center Board received a \$10,000 grant from First Federal last month. Additional grant applications are being finalized and will be submitted to both Kubota (which owns property in the Thunder Bay watershed) and to the Alpena Youth & Recreation. Phase 1 plans are well underway, with reserve funds to be available for Phase 2.

The seeds for the annual seed sale have been ordered and Allegra will be printing the packages.

Jennifer and Ryan Lipps have stepped up to be the leaders of fundraising activities for the River Center, including Festivus. They are planning for a “fun” fundraising picnic at Sytek Park, which would include games as well as food!

**IV. Other Business Reports**

Tracking Donations. It was noted that we should keep track of our receipts and note, perhaps in our annual report, the cost of unreimbursed donated materials and other donations. The true cost of maintaining the sanctuary is not apparent without this information. We get a budget from the city every year, and not using it may be interpreted as not needing the funds. Montiel recommended that we indeed do submit our receipts for reimbursement.

Artist in Residence. No local “residence” for a visiting artist has been acquired for this year. We are making a call for local artists to fill this position for this year. Edith Gerber has revised the call and application for our current situation. Betsy Hale is preparing posters, and will place a poster and five applications at each of: Art in the Loft, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Alpena Community College, Besser Museum and the Alpena Public Library.

AWS Brochures. Lucille reported that we have currently about 2,000 brochures available. Brochures will be sent to MDOT, and Lucille will deliver brochures to NOAA, Besser Museum, the Alpena Convention and Visitor Center, and the Library, as well as fill the racks at Duck Park (by sometime before Memorial Day). Montiel will check if there is a way to distribute the brochures to the cruise ships visiting Alpena.

#### **V. Park Maintenance**

Terry reported that permission has been granted again this year to place insect traps on the Island. Sometime in May a cleanup of stairs and the paved walkway will be scheduled.

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

Concerning a clarification of the relationship and responsibilities of the AWS and TBRC Boards, Judy has put together material and will present this to the Board. Vernie requested that this be a topic for discussion at our next meeting.

Heartfelt thanks, and a round of applause, was given to Judy in appreciation for her tireless time, effort and devotion to both the Wildlife Sanctuary and River Center.

#### **VII. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be held in Alpena City Conference Room at City Hall at 4:00 p.m. on April 20, 2023.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:45 p.m.

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