

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
August 18, 2022
Zoom Meeting**

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Judy Kalmanek
Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman, Sheri Waldrop

Members Absent: Roger Witherbee,

City Staff: City Planning Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

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 Vernie, seconded by Boris and carried that the minutes of July 21, 2022 be approved as presented.

III. Additions to the Agenda

Judy asked that a discussion on the artist in residence be added in place of the City update.

IV. Artist in Residence

Sheri Waldrop, Artist in Residence Coordinator, updated the Board on the withdrawal of the artist who was chosen. The artist arrived and found the accommodations and the schedule unacceptable and left the next morning. Sheri has contacted another artist on the list of selected artists, Steven Gutierrez, who has agreed to come in September. Steven will be accompanied by his wife and seven year old daughter. Steven Gutierrez is an artist, engineer, and educator interested in the intersection of art, technology and the environment. His work has been primarily focused on social and environmental issues. His current research is directed towards finding how technology may be used to help life rather than to destroy it. Once Steven has given Sheri the dates (about a week) when he plans to be here, she will let us know to schedule a reception (pot luck) dinner for Steven and family. If you wish to review more about Steven go his website: <https://www.sgevolution.com>.

V. River Center (RBRC) Update

TBRC continues to move ahead with plans for Phase I Pavilion and Restrooms. UPE&A will soon begin work on the drawings. Otherwise, the project is in a holding mode until news on several grant awards are known.

VI. Board Membership

With the addition of two new TBRC board members, the question of whether to merge the AWS and TBRC boards is moot. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Boris to recommend that Catherine Stedman be appointed to the AWS Board by City Council. The motion carried.

VII. Island Park Maintenance

One of the City's DPW staff members reported that there was vandalism to the fence at the O.B. Eustis lookout. Terry will replace the entire top board (16'). A number of the slats in the fence surrounding the restoration area have been pulled out. Noted vandalism on the Island or Duck Park should be reported to the City Police; they have an officer assigned to investigate such damage. A question was raised about the tree signs. Most have been vandalized. Elizabeth will check with Omega to learn the cost of replacing them with metal signs that can be screwed onto the posts which are in good shape.

The spotted knapweed pull with the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) was successful. Several bags were removed from Island Park. Several of the boys removed the weed growth on the sides of the approaches to the bridge. During the next work session with YVC woodchips were spread along the trail on the west side of the meadow.

Terry plans to schedule an autumn olive pull in September. Meanwhile, it was agreed that since there is no outside help (like Huron Pines and Loyola) coming for a frogbit workday, Board members and others who are willing can just do an individual frogbit pull, place the removed frogbit in a bag and place it near a trash can in Duck Park.

VIII. Additional Remarks from the Table

Tom suggested that Board members who are able will just remove frogbit where and when they can, bag it and place it by the waste cans in Duck Park.

Catherine sent an updated email to Montiel concerning the lack of water at Duck Park. Besides watering the gardens, the water is needed for kayakers and canoeists to wash their vessels prior to moving them from the Sanctuary waters; it's a state law. The water problem appears to have been caused by the hospital turning off the water last winter and failing to drain the pipes which froze and broke. The hospital now has a new system for watering, but would like to retain access to the supply from Duck Park. A plumber (hired by the hospital?) has managed to repair the pump and make water available at the faucet by the tower, but no other spigots are operational due to broken pipes. It was agreed to refer this problem to Montiel and the City to discuss with the hospital. Judy will follow up with Montiel.

IX. Next Meeting

It was agreed by all members that the next meeting of the AWS Board will be in person at City Hall on September 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

X Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:52 p.m.

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