

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes  
September 21, 2023  
Alpena City Committee Room**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth,, Catherine Stedman, Judy Kalmanek, Elizabeth Littler, Lisa Kruse, Boris Gerber, Larry Johns

**Member Absent:** Vernie Nethercut, Lucille Bray

**City Liaison:** Montiel Birmingham

**I. Call to Order:**

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

**II. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda and the agenda was approved upon a motion by Lisa, seconded by Boris and carried.

**III. Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2023 and August 17, 2023**

The minutes of July 20, 2023 were approved upon a motion by Elizabeth, second by Boris. Similarly, the minutes of August 17, 2023 were approved after a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Boris.

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no other persons present; hence, no public comment.

**V. City Report**

During the August meeting a decision was made, after reviewing the City's policy on social media, to examine the various media offerings connected to the Wildlife Sanctuary Board. These included the River Center web site, the Wildlife Sanctuary and River Center Facebook pages and the River Center Instagram account as well as the Reel Fun Ice-fishing site.

Lisa had agreed to meet with Montiel and examine these social media accounts. The result was an excellent flow chart showing the various sites which will transition into the City of Alpena website. There were two options in the chart: A—no Facebook, no Instagram, just a page on the City's site. Option B—included a Facebook page, Instagram page and page on the City's website. The new single website page will be called Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Catherine to adopt Option B. Lisa pointed out that this option will require people to be willing to serve as administrators to Facebook and Instagram. Montiel will serve as the actual website page administrator. It was agreed to keep the topic "Social Media" on the list of agenda items for meetings going forward since both Facebook and Instagram will require on-going updates to keep them current. The Reel Fun site will be linked to the new social media sites, too.

Social Media will be an agenda item for the October TBRC meeting and board members will be asked to volunteer to be administrators for Facebook and Instagram. That means they will obtain and post updates to both pages regularly.

## **VI. River Center Report**

Judy reported that the 2022 artist in residence, Steven Guterrez, contacted her. He was unable to come this year since his father died and Steven needed to return to Columbia for the funeral. He does plan to come in June 2024 and present his piece.

The application to MI Community Center Grants was submitted at their request on August 18<sup>th</sup> rather than the due date of August 31<sup>st</sup>. Since then, the due date was extended to September 7<sup>th</sup>.

There is no date set yet for when information on the grant will be available.

Judy will email UP Engineers & Architects to see where they are on the final drawings for Phase I. These need to be completed soon so that Phase I can be bid.

## **VII. Other Business Reports**

*Bench Request* : The board had been asked to approve a request (via email vote) for a request from Don and Jean Stewart to place a bench on Island Park which was done. The bench has been ordered. The site was determined by the bench donor, assistant city engineer and Doug Roznowski of the City DPW who will install the bench. The bench is expected to be received by mid to late October so it can be installed this fall.

## **VIII. Park Maintenance**

Terry said the new tree identification signs will be 8x10" to fit the metal plates already installed. All the signs will be replaced due to vandalism of the original signs. Judy will send the digital copies of the signs to Elizabeth who will contact Omega to have them made.

It was decided to have the annual autumn olive pull on October 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m. Judy will ask Steffen to put it up on Facebook and Lydia to post it on Instagram.

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

Catherine is the AWS representative to the Huron Coastal Invasive Species Network (HCISN). There may be signage and boot brush cleaning stations available from Huron Pines. If so, Catherine is planning to obtain one. It was suggested to place it on the bridge by Island Park. It will be visible there and less likely to be vandalized. These stations are available by grant applications and Catherine will write a support letter to Huron Pines on behalf of the AWS Board.

Jiffy Mix has used work gloves from their plant that they are making available to non profits for work in invasive species. Catherine will secure some of them for our invasive species work—particularly for spotted knapweed and garlic mustard which are both slightly toxic.

Judy passed out the latest single flyers for the revised TBRC to board members.

The next board meeting will be on October 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Committee Room at City Hall.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:07 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by

Judy Kalmanek, Secretary  
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board