

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
October 21 , 2021
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Karen Enterline, Boris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut, Susie Austin, Judy Kalmanek
Resource Advisor: Catherine Stedman, Heather Rawlings
City Staff: City Planning, Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham was absent due to a technical problem

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:03 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes September 16, 2021

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Vernie and carried that the minutes of September 16, 2021 be approved as presented.

III. Addition to the Agenda

There was an addition to the agenda. Heather Rawlings of USF&W was invited to discuss establishing a working committee to address the European frogbit problem.

IV. City Update

There was no City update since Montiel was unavailable.

V. River Center Update

Judy reported that the River Center Board has agreed to begin construction on the River Center by building the pavilion and including bathrooms as phase 1 of the project. Currently, the construction advisor, Dennis Schultz is working with the architect, Bruce Johnson, on designing the bathrooms into the pavilion so that they will be adjacent to and accessible from the River Center proper when it is built.

The initial meeting of the Reel Fun/Festivus Committee met on October 19th. The members agreed that Festivus will be held on February 18, 2022 followed by the Reel Fun Fishing Tournament on February 19, 2022. Festivus will be a drive through “winter picnic” at Duck Park between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. or until the food is gone. Jennifer Lipps is working with vendors to donate food for this event. The menu will be either a brat or a burger together with a bag of chips, cookie and a soft drink or water. Cost will be \$5.00 per ticket for the meal. Tickets will be a different color to distinguish brat choice from the burger choice.

Magic in Our Midst will be held on December 10th from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. The new animals have arrived; their scripts have been drafted and Boris has made contact with the Civic Theater to record any new animal voices. Initial contact has been made with Alpena High School to secure the help of 14 volunteers. The students will again use their phones to activate their animal and other students will help with set up. The bridge to Island Park will be closed at 2:00 p.m.

VI. Island Park Maintenance

Terry had a request from a person who wanted to explore Island Park using a metal detector. He refused the request stating that would allow the person to go off the marked trails which is

discouraged. Digging holes would also disturb the sensitive flora of the Island.

Judy received a request from Stephanie Hollander who would like to place a memorial bench on Island Park in memory of Tracy Broyles. She would like it placed facing the river just over the bridge on the east side. The Board is in favor of the bench but had several questions and asked Judy to follow up with Stephanie. Judy will do so.

Paige Payten (MSU) has collected the insect traps she placed on Island Park during the summer again this year. She will send a copy of the report once the insects have been identified.

VII. Additional Remarks from the Table

Heather Rawlings is interested in heading a subcommittee on frogbit. She indicated that a plan must be devised to address frogbit at its source site which is Fletcher Floodwaters near Hillman. Board members who are willing to be a part of the committee are asked to contact Heather (heather_rawlings@fws.gov).

Catherine said that a bench has been donated to the butterfly garden and is located near the water tower in Duck Park. It was suggested that it might be helpful for Stephanie to examine it to see if its design will help with the one she wishes to place on Island Park.

Vernie asked whether we could place the Artist-in-Residence program on the November agenda. We need to move ahead with finding a coordinator for this annual program. Judy has agreed to contact Sheri Waldrop, a wildlife artist to see if she is interested.

Susie noted that the fishing docks need to be repaired. They need to be re-connected to their ramps. Susie will see if she can find someone to do the work. Susie is also coordinating the Giving Tuesday Campaign this year. This campaign is largely online and requires someone (like Susie!) who is knowledgeable about Facebook to run it.

Roger would like to see the remainder of the trails done with wood chips. He will contact Tonya Spens at DPI to see if they would be willing to continue the work and donate the chips.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting conflicts with deer season. The Board agreed to meet instead on November 11, 2021 via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. Terry asked that Tom set up the Zoom meeting.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:42 p.m.