

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
November 10, 2022
Alpena City Council Chambers

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Catherine Stedman, Judy Kalmanek

Member Absent: Tom Orth, Boris Gerber

Supporting Members:

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 4:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Elizabeth, seconded by Vernie and carried that the minutes of October 20, 2022 be approved. Note: correct the name of Hillman Goldenrod to Gillman Goldenrod.

III. Additions to the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented

IV. City Update

Montiel reported that the \$5k for the River Center has been deposited by the City into the special account bringing that total to \$65k in 2022.

There has been no update from NOAA on the cruises for 2023. Tom Orth had several suggestions for the AWS Board's involvement in these tours which he had sent to Terry:

1. May: walking tours from Duck Park to Sytek Park with guide. The members thought that would be too long for a number of people. Perhaps a guided walk from Washington Street Park to Sytek would be more feasible. It is all along the bi-path, the river and not too far.
2. June and July: small groups (6 max) could take a kayak tour of the Sanctuary; Tom can do one or two each month. A walking tour of Duck and Island Parks with the guide talking about the butterfly garden and the riparian setback. The idea of a pontoon tour presented too many liability risks.
3. August and September: additional kayak tours if needed and/or walking tours similar to above. We can get helpers for these events from Audubon, Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District, Huron Pines, Fish and Wildlife, Presque Isle foresters.

V. River Center Update

1. Magic in Our Midst will be on December 3rd from 5-8. Tickets will be distributed by Alpena Chamber. We do have enough promised help this year. Northland CU has stepped up; will provide their heated trailer for distributing hot chocolate and animal crackers. A number of their employees have volunteered to help and Lydia Thomson (TBRC Board) has HS students who want to help. A detailed schedule and report will follow soon.
2. Festivus will be held on Feb. 24th at JJ's new facility (The Phoenix) on 2nd Ave. The Menu is being decided. The tickets will have to be raised by a minimum of \$5 to \$10 cover the costs. \$20 won't give us any profit and the ticket price has never been raised. Reel Fun will be much the same as other years. The date is Feb. 25th which is later in February than past years. Prizes are pretty much in line with earlier years; the grand prize is \$5,000. The first 50 to catch a fish win a tee shirt, too.
3. The application to DNR Land and Water for \$150,000 is still pending. We continue to seek other grants. Plans are to apply for \$1M from the SPARK money through the state. The

application is underway. Thanks for all the members of both the AWS and TBRC Boards who suggested 125 people as donors; personal letters went out on 11-10-22 to all 125 of them.

VI. Board Applicants

After some discussion, it was decided that Terry and Judy and any other current member who would like will meet individually with each of the applicants. Terry will make the arrangements and dates. He will notify the Board so that anyone who wishes to be involved with the interview can come.

VII. Sytek Park

Elizabeth reported that Alpena DPW will take over the maintenance of Sytek Park after the road commission has discontinued caring for the park. Montiel will contact Doug Roznowski and Elizabeth to arrange for them to meet at the park to determine where to mow.

VIII. Island Park Maintenance

Catherine distributed copies of the draft article she wrote on the restoration area on Island Park. Judy agreed to type up Catherine's hand written report, do some editing and send it out to the Board for further input/comments. This might be a feature article with Tom Orth's photos for the Alpena News.

Terry showed a photo supplied by Huron Pines of the buckthorn removal they did. It appears they worked in the area of Island Park on the Chisholm Street side. Huron Pines would like to plan a schedule of work for the Wildlife Sanctuary for 2023. Terry will follow up with Samantha Nellis (samantha@huronpines.org)

IX. Additional Remarks from the Table

Judy asked if Chris Powley (secretary TBRC Board) could address the AWS Board in December. Chris has extensive experience with water and outdoor education and would like to incorporate additional QR codes into the tree signs (possibly). There are now some younger members on the TBRC Board who are interested in helping with projects in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Judy reported that about half of the cattails behind the condos were cut by the condo yard crew this past September. The cutting tools will need to be winterized and sharpened in preparation for next season. Judy and Roger Witherbee will take them to The SawSupply Shop and have that work done.

Terry reminded everyone that Board officers (Chair, Secretary) will be elected in December. Montiel asked that Judy send the current Bylaws to her.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on December 15, 2022 at City Hall, Council Chambers at 4:00 p.m.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:03 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary

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