

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes
November 30, 2023
Alpena City Committee Room

Members Present:

Terry Gougeon, Catherine Stedman, Lucille Bray, Judy Kalmanek, Lisa Kruse, Boris Gerber, Larry Johns, Vernie Nethercut

Member Absent:, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler,

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

A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Boris and carried that the agenda be accepted.

III. Minutes from October 19,2023 Meeting

There was some discussion on an item concerning the bike rack at Sytek Park. The minutes noted, based on a written report, that the bike rack was installed by the Lions Club. This was an error. The rack was done by the Kiwanis Club. With this correction, a motion was made by Larry, seconded by Vernie and carried that the minutes be approved.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment

V. City Report

Montiel reported that the City Recreation Plan is now in its 30 day review. She encouraged everyone to read the proposed plan and to give input into it. The plan has been greatly reduced to a readable 80 pages.

She asked that a social media update be part of the standing agenda items for AWS Board monthly meeting. Everyone agreed that this is a needed item.

The Island Management Plan needs to be revised and updated. Montiel suggested that we begin by setting the goals. Everyone was asked to review the plan and bring suggestions to the January meeting. Perhaps the goals could be placed on the annual calendar.

Lisa gave an update on the social media project. She noted that the addresses and the four administrators need to be the same in order to merge all the pages on Facebook. The plan is to have photos that emphasize educational material and environmental concerns. There was some discussion about how there can be an access file separate from the City for those who would like to use the stored content. Montiel will investigate how this can be done.

Montiel talked some about the proposed warming shelter which is being planned for St. Bernard's by the Friendship Room. There were a number of pros and cons expressed by those attending a planning meeting. The Planning Commission has tabled the project for now.

VI. River Center Report

Judy distributed excerpts from several grant application narratives that discussed the programming for the River Center. She asked that there be an agenda item in February or March

for input from the AWS Board. The TBRC Board has already had an in person meeting to discuss and list what is important to them. However, the AWS Board are the more experienced voices on programs. Judy will email the results of the TBRC programming input to the AWS Board members.

Judy will attend the Youth and Rec meeting on Dec. 7th to update that committee on what has been done so far on the grant received.

New members of the AWS Board were unaware of what Magic in Our Midst is. Judy gave a history of the program and showed the Board the booklets that will be given to children who participate.

VII. Other Business Reports

A motion was made by Catherine, seconded by Larry and carried that Amber Hubbard from Huron Pines be accepted as a member of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board.

Discussion followed that currently there is a 50/50 split of board members between those residing in the City and those outside of the City. The bylaws state that the majority of members be residents of the City. Amber lives in Alpena

Discussion followed that members who are no longer able to assist with outdoor working projects for various reasons become advisory board members. Elizabeth Littler has indicated to some board members that she is willing to relinquish board membership and be appointed to the Advisory Committee. Judy will contact Elizabeth to confirm the idea with her.

VIII. Park Maintenance

Terry asked if the Board still wished to proceed with creating the replacement tree signs. All agreed to creating the new signs. Larry said he would have the tree signs printed. He will pick them up as well. After some research by both Larry and Lisa, QR codes from three sites will be used for obtaining more specific information on a tree. These codes will be printed on the sign. When an update is needed, a patch sticker can be used.

IX. Additional Remarks from the Table

Lisa reported that her Zumba class raised \$125 which is being donated to the River Center.

Catherine had items from the recent Huron Coastal Invasive Species Network meeting. She was able to obtain 75 pairs of work gloves from those donated by Jiffy Products and distributed by The Stewardship Network. (www.stewardshipnetwork.org) Catherine showed a booklet designed to show various native plants/flowers together with some invasive or non-native plants. Folks will be encouraged to choose and plant natives in their landscapes. She said the plan is to emphasize the positives of native plants rather than debunking non natives.

X. Adjournment

It was noted that the next meeting will be on December 21,2023 not December 20th as stated in the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by

Judy Kalmanek, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board