

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**December 15, 2022**  
**Alpena City Council Chambers**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Catherine Stedman, Judy Kalmanek

**Member Absent:** Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler

**Supporting Members:**

City Staff: City Planning Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

Prior to calling the meeting to order, three candidates who were invited to the meeting, were interviewed by the Board. The candidates are: Lluccille Bray, Lisa Kruse and Larry Johns. The conversation enabled the candidates to query the Board on the specific duties, activities and events of the Board. Board members, in turn, asked the candidates what specific skills and time commitment they bring to the Board.

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:25 p.m. and the candidates were invited to remain for the meeting.

**II. Election of Officers**

The current officers, Terry Gougeon Chair and Judy Kalmanek Secretary agreed to remain in office if no other nominations were made. A motion was made by Tom Orth, seconded by Boris Gerber and carried that the current officers be re-elected for another term.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of November 10, 2022 were approved upon a motion made by Catherine and seconded by Boris.

**IV. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

**V. City Update**

Montiel reported that the City is applying for several Spark grants. These include the volley court and the skate park. The City is cooperating with NOAA to create outdoor recreation enhancements in the space between the skate park and NOAA's outdoor pool area. Basketball courts have already been installed there.

There was no update of the 2023 cruise ships that will stop in Alpena next year. Tom noted that the AWS Board's list of possible activities for cruise ship tourists remains relevant.

**VI. River Center Update**

Judy reported on current grants. TBRC was awarded the \$150,000 from DNR Land and Water for Phase I of the TBRC. Other applications are in process to help with Phase II. TBRC has received donations and pledges totaling about \$10,000 in response to their annual appeal letter although they did not participate in Giving Tuesday this year.

Magic in Our Midst had to be cancelled this year since there were no student phone handlers.

The committee has determined to automate the voices of the animals so that the adult guides can initiate the animal voices as they arrive at each animal site.

Reel Fun tickets are available on line at [icefishingalpena.com](http://icefishingalpena.com). The cost remains \$25 per hole and the money from ticket sales is directly deposited into the operational fund at Northland Credit Union. Festivus this year will be held JJ's new Phoenix Room. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar are on the menu. A Chinese raffle and 50/50 tickets will be sold during the event. Tickets are \$25 and will be sold at Jimmie Garants, Chamber of Commerce, and other locations.

### **VII. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry was contacted by Amber Hubbard of Huron Pines to learn what type of schedule will work for the ASW for removing invasive cattails and frogbit from the sanctuary. A suggestion from several members was that it needs to be at least a monthly event. There is a need to recruit a group of regular volunteers—an AWS Friends' Group—to help with this enormous task. Tom noted that pre-Covid there was a substantial group of volunteers for these events. Judy reported that the cattail cutters are currently being serviced and sharpened prior to use in the spring.

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

There is a need for someone to coordinate the River Rats and Science in the Sanctuary summer programs. River Rats occurs twice weekly for about an hour and is focused on children from 4-10. This program runs in July and culminates with Science in the Sanctuary. The latter program is directed toward families and is more of an "Open House" approach where parents/guardians with children of all ages can learn about their environment by visiting and "working" at various stations on Island Park.

Sheri Waldrop coordinated the Artist in Residence program in 2022. She is unable to continue doing this service. We need a coordinator for this program, too. It consists mostly in advertising via social media for artists to apply for the opportunity to spend up to two weeks creating artwork in the Thunder Bay River Watershed and/or the AWS. One of their pieces will be donated to be displayed in the River Center when it is completed. In the past, housing has been provided for the artist and plans are to continue that in 2023. Soon after the artist arrives, a potluck reception is held for the artist by the Board to help her/him get acquainted with the board and the area.

It was noted that the coordinators of any of these programs need not be board members.

### **IX Next meeting**

The next meeting of the AWS Board will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall at 4:00 p.m. on January 19, 2023.

### **X. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:58 p.m.

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