

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**December 16 , 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Elizabeth Littler, Boris Gerber, Vernie Nethercut, Judy Kalmanek

Resource Advisor Catherine Stedman, Artist-in-Residence Coordinator Sheri Waldrop

City Staff: City Planning, Development and Zoning Director Montiel Birmingham

**Members Absent:** Susie Austin, Karen Enterline

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:08 p.m.

**II Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Vernie and carried that the minutes of November 11, 2021 be approved.

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented

**IV. Election of Officers**

Upon a motion made by Tom Orth to continue with the 2021 officers, seconded by Roger and carried, Terry Gougeon was reelected Chair of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board and Judy Kalmanek reelected Secretary to serve in the respective roles for 2022.

**V. City Update**

Montiel noted that she will join the Zoom meeting with Judy on Monday together with engineer Shannon Smolinski, architect Bruce Johnson and consulting contractor Dennis Schultz to move the architectural work to a Michigan architectural/engineering firm. This will enable the remainder of the design work to be completed.

Montiel has continued to meet with MEDC to see if there is any possibility of funding for the River Center.

**VI. River Center Update**

In the absence of Susie Austin, Judy reported that \$6,690 was collected on the day of Giving Tuesday. The following day, checks totaling \$750 were received bringing the total to \$7,190. Additional checks have continued to come in by mail bringing the total up further to \$7,940. Our goal was \$10,000 for this year. These funds will help with the construction of the pavilion—Phase I of the River Center.

Reel Fun Tournament is shaping up well. The usual sponsors are on board again this year; tickets are printed and being distributed. The decision was made not to hold Festivus in conjunction with Reel Fun but to hold it at Duck Park in either March or April. It will be a drive through picnic event. More on that later!

**VII. Artist in Residence**

Sheri Waldrop joined the meeting. The Board is delighted to welcome Sheri as the Coordinator for the Artist in Residence program. She has already done quite of bit of preparatory work for this summer event. Sheri had asked the Board for suggestions and several ideas surfaced for places and people to contact to advertise for artists.

Judy had sent Sheri what she could find in the files on the program from the past minutes. Tom agreed to contact Eric Magness-Eubanks to see what he might have in his files.

#### **VIII. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry noted that Sean McNamara had the paved path on Island Park swept/groomed. This helps with the fall leaf debris and keeps that pathway safe for handicapped persons.

Terry had a request from Dave Matash to place a park bench on Island Park in honor of his parents. Since this is the second request within a few months, the Board agreed that there needs to be some guidelines prior to agreeing to any bench placement. The Board wants the bench to be secured in concrete footings and to be similar in design. Terry will appoint an Ad Hoc committee in January to develop the guidelines beginning with looking at the city park standards for benches.

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

Amazingly, there were no further remarks!

#### **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be on January 20, 2022.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:42 p.m.

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