

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes  
December 21, 2023  
Alpena City Committee Room**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Catherine Stedman, Tom Orth, Judy Kalmanek, Lisa Kruse,, Amber Hubbard,  
**Member Absent:**, Lucille Bray, Boris Gerber, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Nethercut  
**City Liaison:** Montiel Birmingham

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Gougeon at 4:00 p.m.

**II. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda**

Judy motioned to accept the agenda as presented, Lisa seconded and the motion carried.

**III. Minutes from November 30, 2023 Meeting**

Lisa motioned to approve the minutes from November 30, 2023, Judy seconded and the motion carried.

**IV. Public recently**

There was no public comment

**V. City Report**

Montiel said the new City Recreation Plan is now in its 30 day review. It will be finalized at the meeting of the committee on January 9, 2024. Montiel noted that the response from the community has been good with suggestions and suggested edits. For example, a suggestion was made and will be incorporated into the plan to put a receptacle for used fishing line at LaMarre Park.

A group from St. Anne's Church is sponsoring a homelessness awareness event at Island Park. The group plans to place signage along a lighted path on Island Park reminding the community of the 150 people who are homeless in Alpena. The luminaries will be placed the afternoon of December 28<sup>th</sup> and removed on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. Social Media**

The last remaining administrator on the old website has removed herself since she is no longer involved. This will enable Lisa to add the recently approved site administrators to the new social media sites. It was agreed that the new website should be a city website under the city's main site. Some concerns were expressed about the problem of navigating the city site for information on the Wildlife Sanctuary. Lisa plans to address this issue. For example, the TBRC is referred to in some places as the River Center, in others as TBRC or Thunder Bay River Center. Lisa will make the language consistent.

Lisa did a quick "scour" of the sites to make sure the data is accurate; otherwise, she removed it. Meanwhile, Scott Gasparin (TBRC advisor) is tracking down all the sites where either the AWS or the TBRC is mentioned and clearing it.

Lisa plans to have the new site and the connections to Facebook and Instagram linked within the next few weeks.

She will be calling for relevant photos soon. Larry had taken a sunset photo that can be used on the main page.

## **VII. River Center Report**

Judy reported that the 2022 taxes have been filed and received. Steve Shultz and Judy met with UPE&A who have finished the draft of the plans for Phase I. It was determined that a full site plan is needed and Judy will contact Huron Engineering to have this done; it will include a MISSDIG map of the area. UPE&A expects to have their work completed so Phase I can go out for bid by the end of January, 2024. There has been no word on the application to Community Centers for the money for Phase II. Notification of awards for this grant are expected in January.

## **VIII. Other Business Reports**

*Amend the Bylaws* Since the order of the agenda has been changed to reflect the inclusion of Social Media as an on-going agenda item, the bylaws needed to be amended. Terry called for a vote which won unanimous approval. He signed the amended bylaws.

*Nomination and Election of Officers* Terry called for separate nominations for Chair and Secretary. Judy nominated Lisa Kruse for Chair of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board. There were no other nominations for chair. Lisa Kruse was unanimously voted for Chair. Judy nominated Boris Gerber to serve as secretary; although absent, Boris had agreed to the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. Boris was elected by unanimous vote to serve as Secretary of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board.

## **IX. Park Maintenance**

Terry gave Lisa a paper containing a list of all the needed maintenance items for the Wildlife Sanctuary. Some were annual, others seasonal, still others on-going. Terry will retain being Chair of the Island Maintenance Committee.

Lisa noted that there needs to be a “List of Lists” which will include documents and other pertinent information that will be accessible to any board member. Lisa would like to know what board members bring to the board, their area of interest/expertise. She will prepare a Google form and send it out to all board members in the next few weeks.

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

Catherine thanked everyone for the care she received when she fell on Island Park steps and broke both sides of her tibia.

## **XI. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board will be January 18, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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