

**Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes**  
**June 17, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Terry Gougeon, Roger Witherbee, Tom Orth, Boris Gerber, Susie Austin, Elizabeth Littler, Vernie Nethercut, Karen Enterline, Judy Kalmanek  
Resource Advisor: Catherine Stedman  
City Staff: there was no city liaison present

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Terry Gougeon at 4:07 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes from May 20, 2021**

A motion was made by Vernie, seconded by Susie and carried that the minutes of May 20, 2021 be approved as presented.

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

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

**IV. City Update**

There was no city update since Rachel Smolinski is on leave

**V. River Center Update**

Judy reported that the city has added \$10,000 to the \$45,000 in the restricted fund for the River Center. This \$55,000 brings the total of TBRC funds to \$306,972.71.

The first bowfishing tournament went well and the participants were pleased with the results. Participating bowfishers helped refine the plans for next year and it promises to be a larger, longer event held in the late evening.

TBRC is raffling a 12' boat and trailer. Tickets are \$10 or 3 for \$20 and the drawing will be held on Labor Day.

**VI. Artist in Residence**

Terry contacted Mark Beins' sister who was very interested in having one of Mark's art pieces placed in the River Center. There is no progress on finding a replacement for Mark to coordinate the artist in residence program.

**VII. Island Park Maintenance**

Terry said that a white pine was planted on the Island in memory of Gordon Nethercut. The tree is near a circle of white pines planted in honor of veterans. Vernie and her two sons were present for the planting. It was suggested that a small plaque could be placed near the new tree.

The MSU insect traps have been placed around Island Park again this year. Terry noted that we will receive the report on what is found at the end of the season.

The YVC is interested in helping to spread wood chips on the Island trails. The chips are free from DPI and it was noted that a couple of small piles are there ready for spreading.

**VIII. Additional Remarks from the Table**

Tom explained that the narrow leaf invasive cattail removal will begin next week. The researchers met with several board members earlier in the day to discuss the plan. Using aquatic weed whackers, they will cut the cattails beginning at the site between the covered bridge and the kayak launch and continue around the sanctuary, behind the condos to Fletcher Creek. Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, will be a volunteer work day to remove cattail biomass and the frogbit it is holding. Advertising has been done and reminders to media will be sent out by Tom and Judy.

Susie has both River Rats and Science in the Sanctuary plans well underway. She has created several posters to place on the website and Facebook page as well as around town. She asked anyone who has another list of emails to share the posters with their list. River Rats will be in July with four sessions. The two Tuesday sessions will be open to the public. The two Thursdays will be for the Boys and Girls Club and for the Salvation Army Day Care. Susie reported, as well, that the \$250 grant was for one year only. She has not used it yet. There are 13 stations planned for Science in the Sanctuary. The Audubon group would like some of the *Birds of Island Park* pamphlets to distribute. Terry and Catherine will collaborate to ensure the Audubon has the pamphlets.

Vernie asked whether we are doing an educational piece on the restoration project. Terry noted that so far the signage posted on the fencing is helping people understand. The plan is to leave the fence in place for three more years. The site is restoring nicely.

Catherine has been working to get the watering system restored. The hospital contractors shut off the water when they began construction without inquiring how that would impact anybody else. Catherine is getting help from Alpena Supply and the water should be back on now.

Judy read the thank you note from Gordon Nethercut's family. It thanked the board for the planter and expression of sympathy at Gordon's death.

#### **IX. Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting, July 15, 2021, will be on Zoom.

#### **X. Adjourn**

Upon a motion made by Roger, seconded by Susie, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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