

Lakeshore Nature Preserve
First Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday Sept. 27, 2011
Room 132 WARF, 5-6:30 PM

Present:

Kris Ackerbauer, Peter Allen, Bill Barker, Kathy Brock, Tom Brock, Gary Brown, Cathie Bruner, Amanda Buckley, Ann Burgess, Matt Covert, Gretel Dentine, Adam Gundlach, Paula Hogan, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Andy Jaw, Roma Lenehan, Dick McCoy, Marcia Schmidt, Bryn Scriver, Karen Soley

Brown – Welcome. Our budget timeline: draft documents will be presented to the Preserve Committee by the end of the semester; stakeholders and the Preserve Committee will see a final draft of the budget in January; the Committee will vote on the final draft budget at their February meeting. The purpose of today’s meeting is to let stakeholders know where we are 6 months into the current workplan and to get input from stakeholders before we draft next year’s workplan and budget.

Handout – 2011-12 Work Plan 6-month status report_final.pdf.

2012 Preserve Workplan Brainstorming List:

- 1) Fundraising for Eagle Heights Woods
 - a. Burgess – Is there a timeline for fundraising?
 - b. James – Data is being collected over this next academic year then we’ll have a public input process before we pull together a draft plan for review.
 - c. K. Brock – Are the mounds in Eagle Heights a separate planning process from the rest of the Woods? I heard that there was separate funding for the mounds and that restoration would start soon.
 - d. Brown – The mounds are a feature of the woods and they will be included in the overall vegetation management plan. No timeline has been set yet. There is no separate funding source for mound management.
- 2) Deer management
 - a. Dentine – Deer have become an issue in the Eagle Heights Gardens. Are there any deer control ideas?
 - b. Barker – The Preserve Committee will discuss the issue this year. First we need to gather information on the deer population. The Arboretum does manage their herd on a regular basis, however we’re not at that point yet.
- 3) Operating hours signage
 - a. Officer Jaw – [2nd shift UW police officer] Would like to see improved crime prevention at Picnic Point and in the Preserve overall. The UW police typically get about 100 contacts per year for activities occurring on Picnic Point. There was a 200% increase in contacts in July and August. This number does not include the parking lots at Frautschi Point or Raymer’s Cove. Two-thirds of UW police contacts are between 8pm and 4am. A lot of their contacts are “normal” citizens who did not know they were in violation of the open hours. Even some of the police officers don’t know the open hours. We don’t want these people out there,

especially students, when people are out there doing malicious things. The area is not lighted. The hours are only posted on the kiosks and on-line, and no one looks at the kiosks because there's so much information on there.

- b. James – We'll soon have new trailhead signs with hours listed at most entry points into the Preserve.
 - c. Jaw – The signs [the kiosk signs?] are in green letters and green doesn't stand out well in the Preserve. [Actually wording is in white lettering on a green background.]
- 4) UWPD should present their call report to the Preserve Committee after Dec. 2011
- a. Barker – We would like to see the data and possibly post it on the Preserve website. How often are officers out there?
 - b. Jaw – Most often during the middle of the week (Wed. and Thurs.) when they have some down time. It's all self-initiated. Most 2nd and 3rd shift officers go out 1 time per night, most of the time between 10:30pm and midnight. UW police has gotten a lot of calls about the Picnic Point gate being open. The place looks less inviting if the gate is closed.
 - c. Lenehan – Do we have winter hours so people are not out after dark? (Note: Open hours in the Preserve are the same throughout the year, 4 AM to 10 PM.)
 - d. T. Brock – The Arboretum has a ranger program. Does that help them?
 - e. Jaw – The rangers only work business hours and officers have a harder time getting out to the Arboretum.
- 5) Follow-up on resprouts in cleared areas
- a. K. Brock – the cleared areas along Picnic Point are a good step in the right direction but resprouts need to be followed up on. There are 100s of 6" buckthorn that still have leaves and this is an ideal time to treat them.
- 6) Cottonwoods at lot 34 blocking view of Picnic Point—management plan
- a. McCoy – Tall trees interrupt the view of Picnic Point from Observatory Hill.
 - b. Brown – We need a management plan for the area along lot 34 including the trees on the south side of lot 34. Not part of the current work plan but can be looked at in the future.
- 7) Willow Creek Woods management plan
- a. Brown – We need a long-term management plan for Willow Creek Woods which includes the area across the Lakeshore Path along University Bay.
- 8) Lot 34 bioswale status report
- a. Brown – wants to see how the plantings have done.
- 9) NW Bill's Woods area
- a. Brown – We need a plan to get water to infiltrate below the garden compost pile in upper Bill's Woods.
- 10) Follow-up on Picnic Point areas
- a. Bruner – We will be piecing together little restoration areas from Upper Bill's Woods to Farmhouse Hill including areas where we have been removing buckthorn to get to porcelain berry vines at the base of Picnic Point. We will also daylight some oaks even if it means opening up the canopy.
- 11) Tent Colony Woods—continue management
- 12) Erosion control
- a. Brown – We will continue to stabilize areas along the Lakeshore Path.

- 13) Willows Beach to Elm Dr. shoreline
 - a. Brown – We are working with Housing to fund restoration work in this area.
- 14) Status reports back to donor groups
 - a. McCoy – Would be good to report back to the Classes to say here’s what we did with your gift and thanks.
 - b. Brown – We do provide reports to the foundation who reports back to the donors. Lots has been done with the Class of 54 gift; it would be good to report back to update them.
- 15) Class of 1946 - Frautschi Point entry; work scheduled for next year
- 16) Bike Path-Swale area between Lake Mendota Dr. and Oxford Rd. –buffer area
 - a. K. Brock – Who’s in charge of this area?
 - b. Bruner – We’re working with Grounds to manage.
 - c. Concerns about “rusty old signage” east along Picnic Point could cause bike/pedestrian conflicts.
- 17) Burn planning
 - a. T. Brock – Surprised that there were no burns this spring. Fire is one of the most important management tools.
 - b. Gundlach – We just didn’t have the right wind conditions this spring; we need to consider the UW Hospital.
 - c. T. Brock – Are the prescribed burn plans too restrictive?
 - d. Dentine – The gardens will need notice of fall burns.
- 18) Class of 1918 Marsh plan
 - a. K. Brock –1918 Marsh trail; what about rest of marsh?
 - b. Brown – We’ve been talking to the “marsh mafia” (Zedler, Harrington, Howell, Q. Carpenter, Potter). Also discussing with the west campus design team possibly directing clean rooftop water to the marsh. (Note: clean roof water is already being directed to the Class of 1918 Marsh.)
 - c. K. Brock – The vegetation needs work.
- 19) Picnic Point Marsh plan – future project; not on current work plan

Other:

- 20) Accessible bird viewing area
 - a. Hogan –What was the thinking was behind having a dedicated bird viewing area at the base of Bill’s Woods?
 - b. Brown – The area is an accessible area where people can go close to the parking lot, not deep in the woods, where there are plants with food for the birds and a sitting stone for people accompanying a wheelchair.
 - c. Bruner – Denniston and Lenehan had the initial idea. The UW will place a flat stone there soon for a natural looking bird bath.
 - d. McCoy – Is anyone was using the space? Lenehan said Denniston has talked to people who’ve used it. The people are elderly and don’t want to go far from the parking lot.
- 21) Trachte shed removal in Willow Creek Woods
 - a. Barker – Is there a timeline for the removal of the Trachte sheds?
 - b. Brown – These will be removed. He’s working with Housing and Rec Sports on funding and implementation.

22) Willow Creek siltation

- a. McCoy – Is it in the Preserve purview to do something about the siltation at the mouth of Willow Creek?
- b. Brown – The University has started talks with the City and County who have jurisdiction over Lake Mendota and the stormwater coming through Willow Creek. The watershed for Willow Creek is huge, reaching as far south as Mineral Point Road and beyond.
- c. Bruner – The USGS will remove a weir in the creek this Sept. or Oct. which may open up more flow and add more sediment to the bay. (Note: this work is complete.)

Brown – This is the 1st of two stakeholder meetings. Preserve staff will develop a draft work plan and review it with the Planning and Implementation subcommittee. Any carryover from this year's workplan would also be included. If anyone has an interest in submitting a proposal for a capital project that you want to help fund or provide assistance for you can do so before Dec. 1. The next public stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 24