

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Tuesday April 26, 2011

12:30-2 PM

Birge Hall, rm. 447

APPROVED MINUTES

Present

Bill Barker, Rachael Bower, Gary Brown, Katrina Forest, Anne Readell, Sissel Schroeder, Laura Shere, Phil Townsend, Suzy Will-Wolf

Also present

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), John Magnuson (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve)

Minutes

The minutes from the March 29, 2011 meeting were approved as amended with the following changes: add the word “gardens” to the buffer zone project description “Eagle Height *Gardens* Buffer Zone Use” and the Eagle Heights Community Gardens *not* CALS will dedicate workers to getting plants installed and maintaining it over time.

Public comment

None

Volunteer Report

Scriver gave the following update on the Preserve Volunteer Program:

Volunteer numbers and hours donated by activity since Jan. 1, 2011:

Total buckthorn and honeysuckle removal 92 volunteers = 158 hours

Total pulling garlic mustard 107 volunteers = 246.5 hours

Total planting 8 volunteers = 14 hours

TOTAL 207 volunteers = 418.5 hours

(Note: Numbers do not include Glenda Denniston’s hours)

Focus:

- Forge new volunteer relationships and bring in a more diverse population of volunteers
- Continuing our outreach to the Eagle Heights Community
- Repeat volunteer groups

Recruitment:

- volunteeryourtime.org
- Isthmus
- Nelson Institute Environmental Events calendar
- Preserve and Friends websites

- Friends “Preserve!” newsletter
- Email lists
- Posting temporary signs
- Preserve Facebook page

We continue to partner with the Friends to co-host 2 drop-in workparties each month. For the first time we will offer volunteer training in cooperation with the UW-Madison Arboretum’s volunteer program. The Friends are sending 6 interested volunteers to 3 training sessions equaling 15 hours on topics such as management techniques, tool use and maintenance, safe herbicide use, first aid, and conflict resolution.

Check the Preserve website for summer volunteer opportunities and Friends field trips!

Goose control

Barker gave a brief report on goose control. The problems associated with geese are: feces and bacterial contamination of swimming beaches and nitrification of lakes. Forest asked if resident geese increase the potential for bird influenza risk; Barker thought they were a salmonella risk for sure. Nonlethal solutions undertaken at the UW include planting taller vegetation at the edge of the lake and ponds (geese don’t like to go where can’t see predators), oiling and addling eggs, the use of chase dogs, and flashing a green laser over the Bay in the early morning hours to scare away geese. In response to a question of whether or not using a laser would scare off other waterfowl, Barker thought it may be a non-issue since geese may be keeping those other species away anyway.

A goose control report for the Madison City Parks Commission is expected by May.

Project Updates

Brown gave an update on Preserve projects:

- a. The Picnic Point Improvement project construction plans are 100% complete. The bid date is June 2, 2011. Work is expected to begin by July. The donors have signed off on everything except the plaque and text.
- b. Designs are underway for the west campus stormwater project. The locations for handling stormwater are: the north end of lot 60 (the current overflow parking), the northwest corner of 1918 Marsh near the volleyball/tennis courts, and Eagle Heights.

Magnuson added that there’s a lot of interest by the Friends in stormwater management as evidenced by a half dozen people attending a Preserve stormwater walk by Dave Mickelson in a spring snow storm.

- c. A new indoor practice facility will be built near the Goodman softball diamond. Brown thinks the building will be up tight against the Nielsen tennis stadium. He’ll know more details by the Fall. The facility will have a visual impact on the

1918 Marsh.

- d. James is still working on plans for the shoreline across from the new Lakeshore residence hall and dining facility. Views will be opened up to the lake.

Townsend asked how the new lakeshore resident facility would affect stormwater. Brown said the facility will feature a large section of green roof and rain gardens to take care of water. Brown said he could forward a pdf of the plans.

Magnuson stated that the land along the Lakeshore Path near the new residential facility was higher on the west end than the east end causing erosion on the path and runoff to the lake. He said he had talked to James about removing the gravel path and relocating it 15-20 feet away to the location of an existing cement path. Brown had not heard of this proposal.

- e. A Landscape Architecture graduate student has been working on collecting data for the Eagle Heights Woods planning process under Evelyn Howell. The student should deliver a report by the Fall.
- f. Barker asked how we can get the Quonset huts out of Willow Creek Woods. According to Brown they should be removed in the next 2 years after temporary storage facilities are built on the back side of the Natatorium.

Other project updates:

Gundlach announced that Peter Allen, a Nelson Institute Dissertator, had submitted a proposal for a summer intersession capstone course titled “The Campus Ecology Project.” Students would use the old field south of Caretaker’s Woods and the F.H. King Gardens for their hands-on class component.

Barker installed prothonotary warbler nest boxes in the Picnic Point swamp. While doing this he witnessed a screech owl nesting in a wood duck box.

Planning and Implementation Subcommittee Report

Will-Wolf said that members of the subcommittee have surveyed the Eagle Heights mounds and found natives coming up under the buckthorn canopy. They will go out again as a group during their May meeting to survey the mounds together.

She asked the Committee to give the Subcommittee permission to create a procedure to propose changes to Preserve place names. Barker said the Committee could put together a brief to do that.

Communications Subcommittee Report

The Communications subcommittee met once under Elsa Althen as chair.

Members of the new subcommittee are Bower, Magnuson, Burgess, and Scriver. Will-Wolf will help as needed. Can we get help from Dorothea Salo and Pete Gorman both of the Library Technology Group?

Bower believes the Communications subcommittee's charge is to develop a repository of scanned and online data and resources.

According to Bower, initially there will be a large chunk of work to do with scanning. Later maintenance won't be as time consuming. Without funding this will all be volunteer. A mission of the UW Library System is to archive but they have lost a lot of staff. Maybe we can get volunteers from library school?

Some of Bower's initial questions are: Do we need to [physically] archive some stuff too? Are older documents historic? Are people ok with key pieces of some materials being saved but not all pieces of all materials? How will we catalog and store materials—digital or paper? Keep at Steenbock?

Bower said that for materials that were “born digital” we can relatively quickly put those things on the server and point to them.

In all cases, we need to find the materials; how much energy do we want to put into finding materials?

Bikes on Picnic Point

Barker thought the listening session on bikes was well announced. He surmised that since so few people came that it must not be an issue.

Townsend made a motion to ban bikes from the main Picnic Point trail. Forest seconded it. The floor was opened for discussion.

Barker clarified that the Committee was making a recommendation to the Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning and Management, and that he would take the Committee's recommendation.

Brown asked when a ban would be implemented.

Townsend suggested that it coincide with the July start of construction on Picnic Point. Will-Wolf thought this was a good suggestion and asked if it would be possible to beef up the bike racks by the first of July. Currently at the entrance to Picnic Point there are two good bike racks and one with 1 bent tire slot.

Forest asked if it would be better to implement the ban before summer started, like Memorial day weekend. Bower agreed that a mid summer change in the bike policy might be confusing.

Bower said we need signage that is clear since it's easier for people to enforce if there's a sign they can point to. She noted that funny, interesting or eye catching signs tend to be better received. James noted that a kiosk design is in the works and will be ordered soon but that it won't be ready for Memorial day. Someone suggested the temporary use of a sandwich board or something different that stands out. Readel thought that early signage could say, "No biking to protect the children and wildlife". Will-Wolf suggested "No bike riding. Walk your bike." signs to which someone replied they'd prefer that people lock up their bike at the entrance. Shere said a picture or icon will be needed on the signs for international students and families.

Readel and Brown suggested the need for a follow up in the paper and with UW Communications about a change in policy. Brown also pointed out that we need updates to the Preserve website to get rid of all references to bikes.

Barker agreed to call UW Police to let them know of a change in policy and also to let them know we don't expect them to be able to enforce the policy.

Brown suggested an evaluation after 1 year to see if the ban is working. Magnuson suggested following up in Fall 2012 after the construction on the Point was finished.

Barker will follow up with Dr Westman.

The motion to "disallow bikes on the main Picnic Point path starting Fri. May 27, 2011" passed unanimously.

Barker thanked the committee members for their time and talents.

Readel moved to adjourn and Will-Wolf seconded it.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver