

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Tuesday Feb. 14, 2012

11 AM -12:30 PM

South Hall, rm. 304

APPROVED MINUTES

Present

Peter Allen, Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Rachael Bower, Gary Brown, Katrina Forest, Rhonda James, Anne Readel, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Suzy Will-Wolf

Also present

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Janet Batzli (Biocore), Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Seth McGee (Biocore)

1. Minutes corrections: correct name to *Class of 1918 Marsh*

Suzy Will-Wolf moved and Ann Readel seconded approval of the minutes as corrected. The minutes were approved.

2. Janet Batzli provided an overview of the laboratory use of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve by Biology Core Curriculum (Biocore). Biocore has permits to study both at Willow Creek and Biocore Prairie. Janet provided a short history of the Biocore Prairie laboratory project initiated by Emeritus Biocore Director Ann Burgess and the many ways in which it serves curriculum objectives. The research emphasis is on helping students to learn ways of knowing and the instruction team includes representatives from multiple disciplines, (including Katrina Forest, a faculty member of the Preserve Committee.) Janet provided a slide overview of types of field exercises, student research projects, statistics on the number of students who are served, and the use of a variety of grant funds, including the Kemper Knapp support of new waders for student use in Willow Creek.
 - a. Members of the Committee were interested in access to the Willow Creek urban stream ecology data collected annually by the students and Janet said she would make this available. Suzy said that it would be nice to have metadata on “how” this was done, such as including it in the student reports. Cathie added that portions of Biocore prairie are linked to the campus GIS grid so researchers on different projects can access data from the same points. There was discussion about how longer term projects are best done through graduate level positions.
3. Gary Brown provided updates about the parking management of Picnic Point. Through May Transportation Services will be evaluating the situation and we welcome observations. So far there has been a dramatic increase in availability of parking for Preserve users. We are still taking comments.
 - a. Suzy reported that the permit for class use option worked fine.

4. Rhonda James provided an update on the shoreline restoration project that will be paid for by Housing. The landscape improvement project will repair points of erosion, plant native shrub thicket, and install steps down to the shoreline through one of the old boat pin areas.
5. First-Year Interest Group update
 - a. Sissel Schroeder described the objectives of the First-Year Interest Group with an emphasis on the study of peoples past and present, use and impact, with the biological, physical, and social together. The planning is coming primarily from Sissel, Phil Townsend, Katrina, Cathie Bruner, and other staff as they wish to be involved, but there is no cost to the Preserve and no burden on the Preserve from this course. It is a core course linked to two introductory courses, chemistry 103, and an ecology course, with students taking the course being in the same discussion groups for large classes. They are not necessarily linked to a specific residence hall. Katrina said there has been ambiguous feedback about the benefit of the students living together. It can be too limiting, and there may be a move away from that.
 - b. Katrina asked Sissel what was needed, what help does she need?
 - c. Sissel needs by the next day to submit the actual description for the course offering, and could use help on making this attractive to prospective students on the First-Year Interest Group site, instead of the current academic description.
 - d. Bill Barker described his experience with students' lack of information about environmental leaders. Sissel and Bill described their respect for the activities of Charles E. Brown in regard to mounds.
 - e. Suzy asked what it would take to fund the First-Year Interest Group for multiple years. Sissel said that a principle issue is the curriculum limitation, the department need for time for other things.
6. Rhonda provided a summary of the Eagle Heights Woods planning process with the goal to bring diverse stakeholders together so that they can hear each other, and listed the objectives of the public input session Tuesday February 21st at WARF at 5:00. The next phase would be for staff to use that information in preparation of a draft management plan, to go through iterations and drafts and then allow the public to comment on the draft.
 - a. Mike Amato asked what the role of the committee was in this process. Rhonda said the committee will be able to look at it and comment, and we are using this process as a prototype for planning other areas. When we have the goals determined through this process, then staff can say what land management needs to be done to support the goals.
 - b. Bill commented on what an inspiring place Eagle Heights Woods is, and how you can see the seeds of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive paths. Bill and Ann Burgess described the potential to open a spectacular view of Lake Mendota.
 - c. Bill indicated that Dick McCoy was interested in having a major fund raising drive around this.

- d. Roma Lenehan asked for an update on the removal of hazard trees from the mounds. Gary reported that the ground was still too soft. Adam Gundlach reported that we had cleared the access route for the tree removal operation.
7. Suzy reported on the Planning and Implementation subcommittee serving as a resource group to toss around plans and feed information to Rhonda, preparing a list of plants for the mounds based on past presence, and supporting management plans when Cathie brings questions.
8. Rachel Bower reported on the archival effort serendipitous coming together of needs on campus of Kristen Eschenfelder`s approach to Cathie about her digital library service learning class and Cathie being able to bounce this to Rachel. The students are working with Cathie, Bryn Scriver and others to use resources on Picnic Point. It is a learning experience for students; then instructors will manipulate what they do. Rachel can go back in and add some things to the student project. Kristen had approached Bill about looking where funds might be available.
 - a. This spawned discussion about the large amount of data Suzy has, and the challenges of original cataloging.
 - b. While the class can do more of this in future years, the discussion consensus was that the reality is that graduate students would be the only effective level for advancing this, as opposed to continuing the undergraduate class projects)
 - c. Grants to make this possible are worth the effort (needs to be at least ½ to 1 million dollars and an NSF grant could be considered.
9. Bill concluded the update and report sections of the agenda with the comments that the archiving project and the First-Year Interest Group are moving along; he has only heard positive responses about the Picnic Point tip, and that it is all beautiful.
10. Gary and Bill reminded the Committee about the importance of attendance at the Eagle Heights Woods planning meeting and all stakeholder meetings in general.
11. Gary presented the 2012 DRAFT budget and work plan for discussion and approval, with the comment that there had been no meaningful change since the committee had last seen it and asking if they wished to vote on it as a whole or in three pieces (work plan, operating budget, capital budget).
 - a. Suzy asked if there were any changes to the work plan and Gary responded they were only minor wording changes. He itemized the changes that had been made to the capital budget:
 - i. Addition of audio trail to the capital budget
 - ii. Increasing the budget for Wally Bauman Woods year 1, of 3 year project, from \$5,000 to \$7,000
 - iii. Removal of Bills Woods as a capital project as it now becomes an ongoing work place item, not a capital item
 - b. Bill asked about the storm water plans in the capital budget and Gary explained they were fully funded out of other funds, and described the wetland goals for the Lot 60 turnover.

- i. Bill asked when the Picnic Point parking lot would be turned into a wetland. Gary responded that with the build-up of funds associated with parking he would like to redesign and expand Lot 130 so that they can close Lot 129.
 - ii. Bill asked when the Trachte buildings at Willow Creek Woods would go away and Gary described the Natatorium renovation changes and the potential for the two sheds to go away this year.
 - iii. Katrina expressed her concern about the amount of impervious surfaces around new buildings. Gary explained the problem encountered for years with state funded building standards and that the buildings coming on line now have more pervious surroundings.
 - iv. Gary described the other stormwater work: 4 bioswale facilities at Eagle Heights. Glenda Denniston asked when this would happen and Rhonda responded that they are in design and scheduled for later summer into fall.
 - v. A concern about mosquitoes was raised and Bill, Rhonda, Gary, and Cathie responded that an expert from entomology was involved in the planning and intended to use the project for research.
- c. Gary itemized the changes that had been made to the operating budget:
 - i. Kubota cab equipment budget line increase
 - ii. Evelyn Howell and student research and academic surveys Eagle Heights Woods
 - d. Gary summarized that in general the budget is the same as last year, a little higher.
 - e. Katrina moved approval; Suzy seconded the motion. The motion to approve the work plan, capital budget, and operating budget for 2012 was approved unanimously.

12. Meetings the remainder of the semester

- a. Dates were confirmed: March 13, April 10, May 8
- b. It was proposed that Evelyn and her student come and talk about Eagle Heights woods

13. Sissel moved that the meeting be adjourned; Rachel seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment

Submitted by Cathie Bruner