

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday February 14, 2013

9:00AM-10:30AM

350 Bascom Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Rhonda James, Kelly Ignatoski, John Magnuson, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Andrea Coffin (Scout Project), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Mike Kinderman (Housing), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Dick McCoy (Friends), Ron Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Suzy Will-Wolf (Academic Staff)

Minutes

Raffa moved and Schroeder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2012 which passed. Quorum was not met for the December 6, 2012 meeting; notes were provided.

Public comment

Raffa said he is concerned with the overuse of barriers in front of the crew house and for things such as barbeques. The use of the barriers minimizes the sense of cohesiveness of the Preserve. He perceives a sense of ownership over that portion of the Preserve by Athletics. Barker agrees that we need to revisit the policies and address the sense of entitlement or ownership by Athletics.

Will-Wolf announced that her course is expanding its use of the Preserve (as opposed to the Arboretum) for general ecology because of its convenience and proximity to the classroom.

Project status reports (James)

West Campus stormwater project—West campus stormwater bio retention ponds have been installed at Eagle Heights Apartments and we are only waiting spring for seeds to germinate and for more plantings to go in. Phase 2 of the stormwater project which includes the University Bay Drive ditches will go out for bid soon and construction will likely start in Fall 2013.

The impacts of these projects will help the University reach 40% total suspended solids campus-wide. When asked James said water will still go through the Raymer's Cove gully to the Lake but the water will get there slower.

Kiosks—Kiosks will be installed at the east end of the Lakeshore Path near Limnology and at Frautschi Point when the snow and ice are gone.

2013 Budget & Work plan, final approval-ACTION item

Everyone should have 4 documents:

Draft 2013 Operating Budget —As we continue to restore areas of the Preserve we must replant more areas and are moving from plugs to seeds so we increased the \$3000 plant budget to \$9000. Barker pointed out that it looks like overall spending is going down but only because staff is now on 101 money so we are using Stewardship funds less quickly. Barker is impressed that the UW is putting in more resources to the Preserve when overall resources are scarcer.

Draft 2013 Capital Budget —Funding for the Class of 1918 marsh trail went from \$3000 to \$3500 to provide money for bench repair. The budget for Tent Colony Woods was adjusted down from 25,000 to 20,000. The funds for the Heritage Oak project were adjusted from \$2000 to \$4000 to continue to support that project in the next year.

Draft 2013 Workplan—No significant changes were made to the workplan.

2012 Annual Report—No comment.

Schroeder said she was impressed with how much the Preserve does with so little; “Thanks for making the most of the resources you have.”

Amato asked what plants were purchased and where they came from. Bruner said plugs were used mainly along trails where we wanted instant color or where we had erosion problems and seeding is done with quick germinating species to hold the soil. Plants are purchased from local nurseries who supply locally sourced materials. The furthest we go for seed is to Prairie Moon Nursery which is near Winona, MN just across the state border. They supply seed that many other nurseries do not. We also collect and sow seed from Biocore Prairie and other areas of the Preserve.

Schroeder moved and Amato seconded a motion to approve the budget and workplan; the committee passed the motion unanimously.

Eagle Heights Woods draft plan (Rhonda James)

James gave a short presentation on the Draft Management Plan for Eagle Heights Woods. It can be found on the Preserve website and James is still accepting comments.

Existing site—Eagle Heights Woods is located in a mostly wooded residential landscape on the far west end of the Preserve adjacent to Shorewood Hills. There are 3 Indian burial mounds at the top of the hill. The site has steep aspects in all four directions which makes it ideal for study. The site historically had lake views when it was a Madison Park and Pleasure Drive and when the mounds were created.

Approach /proposal—Trails are too steep and eroding in 2-3 places and also we need to push the trail out away from the mounds in 1-2 places. The plan includes realigning the north entrance point so that classes do not have to congregate on the road. The entrance will move to the east closer to the bus stop keep. Invasive trees and shrubs will be removed so that from the mounds at the top of the hill you can get a view through the trunks of the mature trees. The priority is to protect the mounds.

Gundlach said the first round of hazardous tree removals was completed the previous day. Hazard trees are defined as being a hazard to people or the mounds. Mound zone---25 ft buffer oak woodland

James divided the woods into different zones for descriptive and implementation reasons.

The vision for the central, south and mounds zones is oak woodland with 30-70% canopy cover. The west and east zones are designated oak woodland with 50-90% canopy cover, and the north zone is red-oak mixed forest with 70-100% canopy cover.

The site is 28 acres, too big to work on all at once. The mounds zone will be the priority while work on controlling and monitoring for the worst of the invasive species (e.g. garlic mustard and porcelain berry) will happen throughout the woods.

Barker asked if we can avoid putting up post and chain around the mounds. Einstein thinks trail logs to mark the trail will be sufficient. James thinks we may be able to remove some of the existing post and chain if the trail re-alignment works well to direct traffic around the mounds. She added that post and chain is necessary on picnic point because of the high visitor and vehicle traffic.

The mounds zone may take 2-3 years for the removal of invasive plants and the establishment of desirable groundlayer vegetation and then continued management after that.

The priority for trail projects: close off the very steep NE trail and re route to the south and east then up to the top of the hill; move the north entrance off the road; SW trail to Shady Lane erosion problem.

McCoy asked for budget numbers. James is working on it.

Raffa asked for the definition of invasive—non-native?

Lenahan pointed out the history of oak wilt on the Shorewood side of the woods. The Preserve has an on-going relationship with the Shorewood Hills forester. Brown said to make sure the Shorewood forester had a copy of the draft plan. Raffa said sugar maple in an oak canopy makes the lattice of root grafting less extensive and helps prevent the spread.

There will be no benches added to the woods. They invite trash which becomes a maintenance issue.

Next steps: There will be a public meeting on Feb. 26,2013. James will bring an update back to the Committee at the March meeting.

Amato said the plan seems like an opportunity to show off all the work that's been done on the UW-Madison homepage or newspaper.

Stanley Dodson Audio Trail Naming

Brown said the UW has a strict memorial naming process. The authority is delegated to the Chancellor through Campus Planning. However since we are naming an audio trail and not the trail itself the Director in charge has the naming authority. Brown as the Director will delegate that authority to the Preserve Committee.

There are two places where name might be apparent. It will be featured on four signs around the trail. It will also be used in the audio introduction to the trail—will acknowledge Stan Dodson and the Friends of the Preserve for donating money to it.

The audio trail is being developed by a committee which includes Stan's wife Ginny Dodson.

The proposed name is: the "Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh".

Amato moved to accept the gift of the audio trail named in memory of Stan Dodson. Schroeder seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion: dogs on leash policy review

The current policy allows dogs on leash and under control of the owner. The owner must pick up and properly dispose of any waste. A lot of people follow the rules while others do not. This is an established problem where people feel entitled to take dogs off leash. We are unique in that we allow dogs access in natural areas. The Madison park system does not allow dogs in conservation parks or in regular parks except in off leash areas. Dogs are not allowed in the Arboretum.

Barker would like the Committee not to jump to no dogs right away. Is there a robust way to educate people? Does there have to be enforcement? If we go to no dogs in the Preserve the UW police would have to enforce it but we've been told that they do not have the resources to enforce it.

Problems with dogs in the Preserve: Barker witnessed a man let his pit bull terrier chase ducks. Lenehan said dogs carry weed seeds and disturb plantings. Lenehan said in her experience many foreign student users of the Preserve are afraid of dogs. Bruner said there have been reports over the years of people being bitten, wildlife being disturbed, and research being disturbed.

Ideas to encourage following current policy: Work with the village of Shorewood Hills to put notice in their newsletter—dogs must be on leash. Brown said it might be possible to work with

UW Police to have an officer in the Preserve a few weekends a year to remind users of the policy.

Some people keep leash on dog but don't hold the other end. Do we need to be more clear with signage that the person has to be on one side of the leash?

When the bike issue was first dealt with it was decided to do a "be respectful campaign" rather than jumping to banning bikes.

We should publicize this analogy to the bike issue and direct our effort at our biggest enforcers-- those who abide by law who will fear losing the ability to walk dogs in the Preserve.

We could have a public process –educational meeting–to discuss the issue. We can recruit them into seeing the enemy as the person who lets their dog run loose!

We need to agree on signage and make sure it's at every entrance.

Encourage people to take photos for a wall of shame?

Magnuson suggested a button campaign. "I leash my dog."

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was moved by Amato and seconded by Schroeder.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver