

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Minutes Feb. 24, 2009
(Approved Dec. 1, 2009)

Present:

Elsa Althen, Ann Burgess, Ray Guries, Kevin McSweeney, Mark Renz, Susan Will-Wolf

Also present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve staff), Daniel Einstein (Preserve staff), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Rhonda James (FPM), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends)

Announcements/Public comment:

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve will hold their annual meeting on April 7 at 7PM at the Arboretum Visitor Center. The evening's speaker is Dr. James Kitchell, who will present "Underwater Treasures of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve: Potential for Management Actions."

Minutes (handout):

The minutes from the Jan 27, 2009 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Progress report on capital project design process

Rhonda James, landscape architect, Facilities Planning and Management, provided the following updates (See attached PowerPoint presentation.):

Robert E. Gard Storyteller's Circle: Site designs have been refined, per input from the Preserve work group, the donor representatives and FPM staff. A public meeting will be held April 20, 2009, 5-6:30PM at Bascom Hall room 260 to share the plans with the campus and public communities. A news release/feature story will be developed that hopefully will generate some media coverage for the meeting.

Committee members offered suggestions on planting designs, which have yet to be finalized. Current plans include demolition of the concrete reservoir by puncturing the bottom and collapsing the walls into the structure and then filling it.

Pending project contract award, construction may occur by early fall 2009.

Picnic Point Gathering Area: The three design options, prepared by the consultants and reviewed by the work group, were presented. Site design will continue to evolve as additional input from the donor is received.

Committee members offered suggestions regarding the re-location of the lake safety pole so that its visual impact can be minimized. The need for skillful erosion control design was emphasized.

The possible presence of extant archeological features on the site will be determined as part of a Phase II survey that will be conducted this spring.

A public review meeting, as well as an environmental impact assessment meeting, will be held at dates still to be determined. The committee will have another opportunity to review the site design prior to construction.

Prairie Overlook: A donor has expressed interest in funding an overlook atop the knoll within the area currently maintained by the Biocore program. The overlook concept was identified in the Preserve's 2006 master plan. Early site concepts include glacial boulders or sandstone blocks arranged in a manner that will allow seating and overlook viewing opportunities. The preliminary concept includes gently raising the grade at the knoll to improve viewing over the top of tall prairie plants.

Committee members suggested the possibility of incorporating stones that show glacial striations on their surface. The placement of garbage containers or emergency phone kiosks are not planned for this site.

Once the donor has made a commitment to funding the project, additional design work will occur and the committee will have a chance to provide input.

Willow Creek Woods proposal (handout):

A revision to the Willow Creek Woods management plan was distributed to committee members prior to the meeting, however there was insufficient time for some members to fully review and comment. Cathie Bruner will continue to work with committee members on additional revisions. Field work will proceed with the initial phase of woody invasive shrub removals, per the decision at the previous committee meeting.

Submitted by Daniel Einstein