

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Minutes Jan 26, 2010

As approved Feb. 23, 2010

Present:

Kris Ackerbauer, Elsa Althen, Bill Barker, Katrina Forest, Kennedy Gilchrist, Anne Readel, Sissel Schroeder, Laura Shere, Susan Will-Wolf.

Also present:

Janet Batzli (Biocore), Cathie Bruner (Preserve staff), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), John Dowling (Legal Services), Daniel Einstein (Preserve staff), Rhonda James (FPM), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Dick McCoy (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve staff), and Jean Vandenbergart (UW Police).

Minutes:

The minutes from the Dec. 1, 2009 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Public comment:

Denniston expressed concern about tree removal plans at Frautschi Point. Barker indicated that the issue would be placed on the February agenda.

Updates/announcements

Maintenance tree removal, Muir Woods (near Observatory Drive). The majority of the hazardous trees at this site were removed during winter break. Several more trees are planned for removal.

Willow Creek Woods. Twenty trees will be removed in the coming weeks as part of the continuing restoration work at this site. A proposed planting plan will be presented at the February meeting.

Prescribed burn planning. A contractor will be hired to conduct an approximately 13-acre burn in the Biocore area. Shere expressed concern about possible impact on children and gardeners in adjacent community garden. Several people commented on possible impacts to invertebrates, small mammals and birds.

Discussion/Action

Alcohol policy in the Preserve

Discussion continued from the December 2009 committee meeting regarding the current university alcohol use policy. The policy allows for alcohol consumption at Picnic Point picnic areas, as an exception to the general rule that alcoholic beverages may not be consumed on campus grounds (except as special permits may allow).

Police officer Vandenbergart, speaking on behalf of UW Police, indicated that alcohol in the Preserve requires additional enforcement actions, and may lead to accidents when parties get out of hand.

Schroeder inquired if there was any background information on why university policy allowed for alcohol use at Picnic Point in the first place. No one present was aware of the history behind the current policy.

Will-Wolf proposed and Althen seconded a motion to recommend to the Facility Use Committee a revision to University Facility Use Policy P-7.1 striking the clause that permits alcohol use “In officially posted picnic area on Picnic Point between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.” The measure passed: four in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.

Bike and pedestrian conflicts on Picnic Point main path

The committee has received reports prepared by Jack Westman, representing the “Restore Picnic Point for Pedestrians Committee” regarding safety and accessibility concerns along the main path of Picnic Point. Specifically, it is Westman’s view that the campus is not in compliance with ADAAG (Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility guidelines) or AASHTO guidelines (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials).

Dowling commented that from his review of the concerns raised by Westman, the issue is not one of liability or legal compliance on the part of the campus. Einstein commented that the design specifications for the current main path at Picnic Point had been reviewed by Facilities Planning and Management’s Facility Access Specialist. It is the specialist’s view that the path is currently compliant with ADAAG requirements. Furthermore, the AASHTO standards do not apply to the Picnic Point path.

Comments from committee members and guests tended to agree that safety issues are a concern for bicyclists and pedestrians on the Picnic point main path. It was suggested that increased enforcement of bicycle activities might lessen conflicts. Officer Van Den Bogart doubted that the police department would allocate resources for increased bicycle enforcement.

Barker indicated that this issue would require a public discussion process. Planning that process will be taken up at a future committee meeting.

Preserve report archive/Cronon Fellow

Althen reported to the committee her discussions with representatives of campus archives and the library system regarding a project to organize and share Preserve based reports and field data.

A pilot project to digitize this material is possible, and will be discussed in more detail in the coming months. At this stage she does not see a role for the Cronon Fellow in this project. Einstein clarified that this would mean that for planning purposes, the \$1400 Cronon Fellow allocation in the FY 10 budget would be used for other purposes.

Submitted by Daniel Einstein