

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Tuesday May 6, 2014
2:00-3:30PM
350 Bascom Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Gisela Kutzbach, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia, Chloe Wardropper

Also Present:

Kris Ackerbauer (Physical Plant), Galen Bergquist (FH King), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Paul Noeldner, Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Waller (Friends), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends)

Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2014 meeting by Urrutia, was seconded by Townsend and approved.

Public Comment Period for Items not on the Agenda:

Congratulations to Sissel Schroeder who received a 2014 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach)

Kutzbach reported that Will Waller will succeed her as Friends Board President. The Friends recent outreach activities have been successful. They have been working with Preserve staff to make in-roads with UW Hospital and Clinics employees and wellness programs. The Friends also raised \$1500 to support the Preserve through their Spring Garlic Mustard Challenge.

Bluebird Trail (Paul Noeldner)

Noeldner approached the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the Friends of the Preserve to partner on once monthly Bird and Nature Walks which he also launched successfully with Madison Parks. The first walk was at the end of March. They are offered every 4th Sunday from 1:30-3:00pm starting at the Eagle Heights Gardens shed. During the walks he noticed the dilapidated state of the bluebird boxes in the Preserve. He has since submitted a proposal to install, monitor, and maintain a Biocore Prairie Bluebird Trail following BRAW (Bluebird Restoration of Wisconsin) guidelines with primary support by himself, Will Waller and the Friends of the Preserve and a student volunteer. The trail will consist of 3 existing boxes and 9 new boxes. All the boxes will be located in areas adjacent to Biocore Prairie but not in the Prairie itself. The boxes have been designed to be most attractive to bluebirds. The boxes will be monitored. Empty House sparrow nests will be removed from boxes, but not nests with House sparrow eggs or House sparrows themselves. Volunteers will not handle birds. The Planning and Implementation

subcommittee looked at the proposal closely and supports its implementation. Raffa made a motion to approve the proposal; Amato seconded it. The motion passed. Schroeder asked Noeldner to come back in a year to report on the trails and his findings.

FH King storage shed (Galen Bergquist)

The proposal to build a storage shed began as an assessment of the nylon high tunnel (hoop house) immediately in view. The hoop house is not being used for its intended purpose. It currently houses bulk items and irrigation materials that do not fit in the storage shed they share with CALS. They would like to get rid of the unsightly hoop house but will need storage for the items currently housed in it. Ignatoski said the Garden Oversight Committee approves of tearing down the hoop house and replacing it with a shed. After discussion it was decided that a structure identical to the existing CALS shed would be best including the footprint, height, color and roof shape. Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture (Gary Brown, Director) will want to see the design and location before it is built. The location closer to the existing CALS shed is preferred. Turnquist recused himself from the vote since he is an advisor to the GreenHouse Residential Learning Community whose students garden next to FHKing and use the existing hoop house for storage and have added to the need for more space. Raffa moved to approve the proposed shed; Townsend seconded it. The motion passed.

Soils/Environmental Studies Senior Capstone project (Steve Ventura)

Students in the fall capstone project gathered information related to soils and geology of the Picnic Point area and used it to create educational signs. They did exploratory soil corings and picked four locations in the Preserve where they dug (and later refilled) soil pits to see and describe the soil profiles. Students took this information and developed signs that feature: a picture and drawing of the soil profile, a written description of the soil, a general description of landscape geology and land use history, a location diagram, a photo of the site, and a QR code for more information. The signs, designed to remain outside for 8-10 years, are printed on thin aluminum with a plastic core between them. They cost \$80 each. Ventura is leaving the signs with Preserve staff and left it up to the Preserve Committee as to what they want to do with the signs. Some ideas were discussed for using the signs: put them out in the Preserve on posts or in a frame, place them in the Preserve on easels for temporary display at special field days or events, use them at special indoor events around campus, locate them at UW Alumni Park. Schroeder said it could be Preserve Committee action item next fall on how and where to use the signs.

Project Updates

1) Rec Sports Master Plan (Rhonda James)

There has been no change since the referendum passed. The schedule for hiring a consultant to do an Environmental Impact Assessment is not yet known.

2) West Campus Stormwater Projects (Rhonda James)

The University Bay ditches will be completed by the end of May or mid-June. The contractors are seeding as they go.

3) Biocore Prairie (Janet Batzli)

Schroeder read an email update from Batzli and McGee.

- a) 4/6/14 prescribed burn was conducted. In 12 years of burning at the site, this was the most successful (complete) burn we've had. [The entire prairie was burned all except for two refugias of ~ 20 x 20 m. We were very happy with the job done by Quercus.]
- b) 2) 4/10/14 till-no/till experiment established in southern area. Lynn Hummel helped us with the tilling.
- c) 4/22/14 oats planted by the West Side Ag crew led by Tom Wright.
- d) 4/19/14 the Biocore Prairie Crew (a team of 5 Biocore student-hourlies) will begin work. The students are paid to work on the restoration (mostly pulling weeds) and assist with ongoing research projects.
- e) Some of the experiments at the site this summer: effects of tiling on oat/weed/native germination/biomass, various types of leafy spurge controls, climate change study focusing on effects of snow depth, nutrient studies associated with biomass removal, effects of simulated grazing, effects of fire on the community
- f) mid season (July) biomass removal: harvest, re-till and replant oats
- g) late season (Sept) harvest oats

4) Eagle Heights Woods implementation (Adam Gundlach)

The last remaining piles of wood chips will be spread on trails by ROTC volunteers later this week. A recent UW Botany graduate has volunteered to do vegetation monitoring in the recently cleared area to see what is present.

5) Volunteer Program (Bryn Scriver)

We had 7 volunteer events since the last meeting involving approximately 225 volunteers. Volunteer activity focused on trail work in Eagle Heights Woods and removing garlic mustard Preserve-wide. The Friends of the Preserve turned out to East Bill's Woods for a Garlic Mustard Challenge as well as helped promote the Preserve at Earth Day events at the Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference, the UW Hospital Cafeteria, and the Eagle Heights Community Center. We have 2 drop-in volunteer events scheduled for each month through the summer.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

1) Information Dissemination /Education

Four proposals were submitted for Student Engagement Grants. Three were recommended to and awarded by the committee. The winning grants were: 1) \$1000 for further study of coyote and red fox by Forest and Wildlife Ecology students under Prof.

David Drake, 2) \$1000 for undergraduate student, Emma Geiduschek, under the direction of Professors Ellen Damschen and Janet Batzli, to collect baseline vegetation data in Biocore Prairie as part of a longitudinal study on how climate change may be affecting plant communities, and 3) \$932 for Professors Jonathan Pauli and Scott Lutz to work with Forest and Wildlife Ecology students on a study of eastern gray squirrels in which students get to observe and participate in wildlife techniques.

2) Communications /Archives

No report

3) Planning & Implementation

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee met to review the bluebird trail proposal.

4) Development

We do not yet know if the Preserve will be included in the next capital campaign.

Other topics:

Schroeder thanked Dr. Mike Amato for his service on the committee for the last three years. His energy and insights into education in particular were invaluable.

Turnquist asked if the Preserve Committee should think about the campus master planning process and how the Preserve should or should not interface with it. He wondered if there was an advantage to tie master planning of the Preserve with rest of campus. Schroeder said the Master Plan is done every 10 years or so. Last time they were done separately.

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

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver