

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee**  
**Minutes May 25, 2010**  
APPROVED

**Present**

Kris Ackerbauer, Elsa Althen, Bill Barker, Kennedy Gilchrist, Rhonda James, Kevin McSweeney, Anne Readel, Laura Shere, and Susan Will-Wolf.

**Also present**

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Daniel Einstein (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends).

**Minutes**

The minutes from the Mar. 23, 2010 committee meeting were approved, with minor corrections.

**Public comment**

Gilchrist announced that the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve board has five new members: Will Waller, Susan Denholm, Michelle Louis, Brent Haglund and Peter Ganzlin.

Equipment associated with the bat monitoring program, stationed at Raymer's Cove, was vandalized. The monitoring effort has been suspended.

**Summer work plan**

Bruner provided the following report:

1. Planting of the Lot 34 woodland starts today. The abnormally high temperatures are taking a toll on the nursery stock delivered at the end of last week in spite of daily watering,
2. Lakeshore Path: In some locations we have removed fruiting branches of buckthorn and honeysuckle for two years because we cover the distance repeatedly starting at Limnology and going farther west each year. The next incremental step for decrease of some of these plants will now be to take the complete plant. We will make a judgment call as we move along the shoreline to improve the vegetation while staying within the standard of: "the average person does not detect a marked change."
3. We will not be removing sumac on the farmhouse hillside. We will continue to remove buckthorn. Note: A plan for the site, including tree removals, will be prepared for the committee in 2010-2011.
4. Winter damage above the Picnic Point lawn has caused some trees to break and collapse into the lawn area and we will be doing some removals along the top of the Picnic Point lawn.
5. Central Lakeshore Path: We will continue to remove undesirable understory west of Willow Creek.

## **Sub-committee reports**

Communication and Archives: Althen reported that the group had met once to discuss projects. The group might meet over the summer.

Education and Research: The group has not met.

Planning and Implementation: Will-Wolf asked if the committee had any comments regarding the goals statement that the sub-committee had drafted and circulated. There were no comments.

The subcommittee has prepared a draft evaluation of progress in meeting biological management goals for the Preserve in a previous committee's 2005 5-year plan. Committee members were asked to comment on the draft evaluation, which will be revised.

Regarding the proposed summer 2010 work for the wooded area north of Liz Waters residence hall, Will-Wolf commented that the sub-committee felt that this area was an extension of the already approved management plan for John Muir Woods and therefore no additional review by the committee was necessary. Summer 2010 work should be documented.

Will-Wolf reported that she, Sissel Schroeder and Daniel Einstein had visited Eagle Heights Woods to review draft best practice guidelines for vegetation management on Indian mounds. She indicated that additional discussions would be needed and that a recommendation would be brought to the full committee in the fall. Additional discussion regarding mound management will occur at the next meeting of the sub-committee on June 14.

Lenehan raised a concern about not dealing with invasive weeds (especially motherwort) before the fall. She speculated that seeds of motherwort currently near the conical mound might spread to new areas on the north slope of the woods. Barker and Will-Wolf said they thought current guidelines support removal of such weeds before development of formal guidelines in the fall

Development: Barker commented that long-time Preserve supporter Dick McCoy, had announced that he would be withdrawing from active participation on Preserve committees, due to recent life changes (including the recent sale of his house adjacent to the Preserve). Barker lauded Dick's tremendous contributions over the years, including his very successful efforts at raising funds to support Preserve projects. Dick's efforts on behalf of the Preserve will be missed.

## **Updates**

Emergency siren. James reported that in the coming months the City of Madison will erect an emergency siren on a pole at the edge of the leased water utility property near Lake Mendota Drive. The new siren will replace the current out-dated siren located in the Eagle

Heights housing area.

Gard Memorial Storyteller's Circle. James commented that the seating walls at the Muir Knoll project were nearly complete and that landscaping details would be completed by June. (Following the meeting several committee members visited the site for an informal inspection of the work.)

Biocore prescribed burn. Bruner reported that the spring burn at Biocore had been successfully completed.

Audio tour. Einstein reported that the audio tour was launched on May 1. To date there have been 178 incoming calls with the most popular stations being Tent Colony (42) and Biocore Prairie (38). An unknown number of visitors may have accessed the audio files directly from the website. He invited suggestions for additional story narratives, including “work-in-progress” updates of field activities.

Trail directional signs. Einstein reported that 56 trail signs (on 38 sign posts) had been installed at trail junctions throughout the Preserve. One sign has already been vandalized and several signs will need to be modified as the way-finding system undergoes refinement.

Preserve benches. Einstein reported that two new benches were installed last week at the boat launch area and Willow's Beach. The Willows Beach site received the second custom cast-iron “front-country” bench.

Volunteer work party schedule. Bruner announced that volunteer work party dates are posted on the Preserve website. The volunteer web page will be updated soon.

### **Action/Discussion:**

Picnic Point bike conflicts. Barker reviewed the issue and concerns about bike and pedestrian safety in the Preserve. He recalled that in the spring 2005 the then “Campus Natural Areas Committee” had held public meetings to gather public viewpoints. The committee voted to allow bicycles continued access to Picnic Point, with the intent to increase public education regarding appropriate bicycle use behavior. The committee indicated that in the academic year 2006-07 the matter would receive additional review.

Burgess observed that the education efforts had not resulted in the desired changes in bicycle behavior. Will-Wolf recalled that at a previous meeting, an officer from the UW-Police department had commented that a ban on bicycles would unlikely receive enforcement support.

Lenahan observed that bikes often move so quietly that she has been startled by their unexpected approach. Shere commented that due to the gravel surface treatment of the main Picnic Point path, some visitors have the expectation that this portion of the lakeshore path is different from other trail segments—and therefore, not all user types (e.g., bikes, skateboarders, etc.) may be appropriate for the Picnic Point main path.

McSweeney inquired if a visitor survey had been considered to gather more information about the issue. Einstein responded by indicating that FPM staff have discussed the possibility of a seasonal visitor survey that would count the number of bikes and pedestrians using Picnic Point, as well as their perceptions regarding safety and management concerns (e.g., dogs, biker/pedestrian issues, fire circle use, etc.)

Einstein stressed that he felt that due to staff resource constraints this survey would attempt to gather a random sample of viewpoints, but that the survey would not necessarily be large enough to undergo statistical analysis. The committee affirmed that the preparation of the survey instrument could go forward without additional committee review.

Barker indicated that the bike/pedestrian issue would be taken up again in the fall, when additional data would be available.

Additional committee meetings during summer months. Barker announced that the committee would not meet again until next fall. He thanked everyone for their participation on the committee during the current academic year.

## **Adjournment**

Submitted by Daniel Einstein