

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Tuesday May 8, 2012

11 AM -12:30 PM

Picnic Point

APPROVED MINUTES

Present

Peter Allen, Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Donna Paulnock, Phil Townsend, Suzy Will-Wolf

Also present

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Ellen Agnew (FPM), Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Sriver (Preserve)

Minutes

The minutes from the March 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

Public comment

Barker thanked Katrina Forest, Suzy Will-Wolf, and Anne Readel for their time and commitment to the Committee. Forest finished one term and could not commit to a second; Readel will graduate this year; and Will-Wolf has finished 2 terms.

Gilchrist said Chancellor Ward may be interested in doing a "PR stunt" at Picnic Point. Brown said that plans for kiosks and signage (that were laid out in the Master plan) will be presented in the fall or emailed to the Committee over the summer.

Picnic Point project update (James)

Bruce Co. is planting the tip of the Point today; they will do maintenance on the plants for 3 years. The lake safety pole will come down sometime this summer after some issues are worked out on the new one.

Brown said he is meeting the donors to discuss boulders and plaque. Plaques will be placed on a boulder at the edge of the project, on the circle, on the wall at the bottom of the steps and on a boulder at the narrows.

Lakeshore dorm shoreline restoration project update (James)

The project is out for bid. They will take out invasive shrubs and a few trees and plant the slope with natives to repair old erosion from previous boat storage. Stone steps will lead down to a small 10x10foot pad. Housing will pay for the project.

Eagle Heights Woods planning update (James)

James is working with staff and input from instructors. The draft plan will be presented in the Fall for public review.

Volunteer Report (Scriver)

The volunteer program aims to engage volunteers in a variety of natural areas management and restoration activities in a meaningful way for the volunteer while accomplishing work set out in the workplan.

Volunteer activities include: planting native plants, watering and caring for plantings, removing invasive and undesirable plants, collecting seeds, caring for Indian burial mounds, prepping firebreaks, controlling erosion, cleaning firepits, picking up trash, maintaining and rebuilding trails, caring for the Limnology garden and the Gard storytellers circle, and leading other volunteers in these activities.

In 2010, 453 unique volunteers donated 2557 hours—equivalent to 1.2 full time positions—and 30 community groups volunteered in the Preserve.

In 2011, 614 unique volunteers donated 3294 hours—equivalent to 1.6 full time positions—and 45 community groups volunteered in the Preserve.

For more info see the handout.

Tick Research (Bruner)

The Preserve had not identified a use for the Cronon fund this year. When the early spring was accompanied by unprecedented reports of ticks from volunteers early this spring, following increased sightings of deer last year, we took advantage of the Cronon fund and an ongoing research project. We were able to add an undergraduate member to the field team under Dr. Susan Paskewitz, who is researching the spread of deer tick and tick borne diseases in Dane County. Sites in the Preserve will be sampled. There are complex relationships in the spread of tick borne diseases related to oak tree mast cycles and as yet unknown amounts of transmission through small mammals and rodents. The researchers want us to provide ticks we find to them for testing.

Discuss development priorities for the Stewardship Fund (Will-Wolf)

Will-Wolf thinks that recent changes to the website are moving in the right direction in terms of fundraising and address some of her concerns. She would like to find ways to foster appreciation of the Preserve to go to the Preserve stewardship fund which supports all activities of the Preserve rather than to independent projects. She thinks we should tout the Preserve as a provider of species and aesthetics and ecosystem services.

For more info see the handout.

Barker and Brown would like help from the Committee with a development plan.

Paulnock said that the Arboretum and the Preserve shouldn't combine forces totally but says there has to be a way to work together to raise money without parasitizing each other's donor base. She says the Foundation is not as supportive except for big projects.

Janine Veto is still the contact person at the Foundation for major donations.

Brown said the Stewardship fund is our priority. We are getting donations and there's lots of activity going on but we haven't publicized this information very much.

Will-Wolf suggested we publicize the results of the stewardship fund donations.

Will-Wolf made a motion to support the creation of a development plan to encourage the development of the stewardship fund.

No discussion.

The motion passed.

Discuss potential name designation for currently unnamed savanna area (Will-Wolf)

Barker reminded those in attendance that this is the second time this issue has come up at committee.

Will-Wolf and Denniston believe that if this area had a name (and thus an identity) maybe people would support it. They suggest "Ridge Savanna." The area under discussion is brown on the future vegetation map in the Master Plan. See handout.

Barker said this issue is too complicated to take up at the last minute. Townsend concurred that we need further discussion.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning and Implementation Subcommittee (Will-Wolf)

No report

Archive Subcommittee (Bower)

Bower not present. Bruner said Kristin Eschenfelder's Library and Information Sciences Special Topics Class will present its digital library Thursday at H.C. White library at 1:30pm. The Internet Scout Team (which Bower works with) will clean up the site and "make it pretty". Each time this class is held it can build on the digital library it has started. This library will be linked directly to the Preserve website.

Development Subcommittee (Barker)

No report

Motion to adjourn; seconded and passed.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver