

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Tuesday Nov. 15, 2011

11 AM -12:30 PM

Birge Hall, rm. 447

APPROVED MINUTES

Present

Peter Allen, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Kevin McSweeney, Anne Readel, Sissel Schroeder, Suzy Will-Wolf

Also present

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Daniel Einstein (FPM), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Isaac Sinnott (F.H. King)

Minutes

The minutes from the Oct. 18, 2011 meeting were approved with the following changes: Anne Readel was not present and Kennedy Gilchrist was present. Will-Wolf thought the minutes were getting long; however others appreciated the level of detail.

Public comment

Blair Matthews, a Preserve Friend, has a new book of poetry, *Echo*. For more info go to: <http://parallepress.library.wisc.edu/additional/echo.html>.

Cob oven update and possible decision

Isaac Sinnott presented a new proposal for a F.H. King Student Farm cob oven designed in collaboration with Professor of Anthropology Mark Kenoyer. The oven will be built inside a 55 gallon drum. It will be portable to address some of the concerns expressed at the last committee meeting: potential for vandalism, unwanted use, and location. The interior of the drum will be built using clay and cob. It could theoretically heat up to 1500 degrees F and only be warm to the touch on the outside. The oven can be moved within 30 minutes of using it and stored in their locked shed. F.H. King students will work with Kenoyer's lab to build the oven.

Lenehan asked how heavy the oven would be. Sinnott said two people or 1 person with a dolly could move it; it does not require a truck to move it.

McSweeney asked if the unique design would work. Sinnott said the design would work, but he doesn't know how well.

Schroeder thanked Sinnott for the creative alternative that they came up with and appreciated F.H. King's efforts to work with the Committee.

Brown told Sinnott that the Committee would still need a written management plan that spells out details like where the oven will be stored, how it will be used, policies, fuel sources, and emergency protocols.

Motion to accept the proposal; seconded and passed—pending a written management plan that UW Risk Management would have to look over.

Update on Picnic Point Improvements (Rhonda James)

The lower and upper overlooks are complete. Erosion control is in place for the winter. The new 50 ft safety pole will go in later this month and once it is up and running the old pole will come down. The fence will come down at the end of November. Seeding and planting will take place this spring.

Update on Picnic Point parking lot enforcement (Gary Brown)

There were some issues with the parking meter system the first few days but they have been worked out. There has been a significant drop in the number of people using the lots—only 25-30% capacity. This is the result we wanted to ensure that there's parking available for Preserve users. So far users in violation have been receiving warnings but those will turn into tickets soon. Volunteers for scheduled workparties will be given a temporary parking permit for that day. The lots generate about \$100/day. Once expenses are paid for the Preserve will get over and above that. We'll know in about a year what the revenue will be. Brown would like to use the revenue generated to eventually get rid of lot 129 and create a better lot on the west side of the road.

Draft 2012 Work Plan (Gary Brown)

Brown presented the [draft 2012 work plan](#).

There was a question about where item j. "Lake Mendota Drive Pedestrian crossing path" was located. This path crosses Lake Mendota Drive between the Eagle Heights Apartments and the community gardens. According to Brown it is a safety issue that needs to be addressed with a marked crosswalk and vegetation clearing.

McSweeny asked if our logo has been approved by UW Communications since it's a variance from the usual crest. Barker said we might be flying under the radar. Brown said the logo was approved along with the Master Plan in 2006.

Will-Wolf asked if all projects listed have new money. Brown responded that anything in the list that says (new project) is being funded with new money. This includes, "f. Eagle Heights Apartments recycle lot design", "j. Lake Mendota Drive Pedestrian crossing path design and implementation," and "o. Wally Bauman Woods control of undesirable vegetation." John Magnuson stated that the Friends just submitted a proposal for a Class of 1918 Marsh interpretive audio trail in memory of Stanley Dodson which will be funded by a new gift.

A question was asked about who writes and submits written management plans. Brown will write a roles and responsibilities document that will define the processes related to management of the Preserve including roles and responsibilities of the following: Preserve committee, executive team, staff, Friends of the Preserve, volunteers. Barker said management plans should be drafted by staff and reviewed by the committee. Will-Wolf would like the Preserve Committee subcommittees (like the Planning and Implementation subcommittee) not to be a part

of the roles and responsibilities doc. She doesn't want a rigid framework for them and would like to leave it up to the Preserve Committee as to whether or not they are needed.

Draft 2012 Operating Budget (Gary Brown)

Brown presented the [2012 draft operating budget](#).

Brown pointed out that we did not budget for a research/academic program student and we will not unless we get a proposal. Readel asked why people were not applying; do we need to advertise more? Bruner explained that this was used in the past by the Landscape Architecture Department to hire a program assistant to lead a team of students to do ecological restoration along the Lakeshore Path and Tent Colony woods. Bruner said that the money continues to accrue if it is not used. Bruner would like to see the money linked to the 'Preserve as lab' concept.

Barker thought it would be a natural thing for the students on the Preserve Committee to work on forming an official student organization. The previous Student of the Preserve fell apart after the last remaining student leaders graduated. He said he'd be willing to help.

Denniston asked where Friends of the Preserve gifts are accounted for--\$4000 for Bill's Woods and \$2760 for Heritage Oak Project. Brown said it is figured in the capital projects budget. Denniston asked if there would be \$500 for her to grow 2000 plants in the UW Greenhouses. Bruner said that it needs to be worked out with Brown and the Friends but that it makes sense to take it from the Friends gifts.

Brown reminded the committee that they will vote on a final draft of the budget at their February meeting. Before then, on Jan. 24, there will be a 2nd stakeholder meeting at 5pm in room 132 WARF.

Eagle Heights Woods Hazard Tree Removals (informational item)

Einstein, Barker and Lenehan walked the site on Sun. Nov. 13. Barker thinks the plan is a solid one and he has no issues with removing the identified trees.

Einstein said the proposal addresses trees that are a hazard to people and property—trees that could fall on walking trails or tip over or shed large branches that could disturb soil on the mounds. He said there will be a management plan for the site at a later date. Einstein noted that the area has an active oak wilt cell that will make it likely that more trees would have to come out eventually. Tree removals would take place on frozen ground. In order to drop the trees safely, a drop zone would be created by removing buckthorn. The cut buckthorn will be treated with herbicide. Any vegetation management that needs to happen will be part of the larger vegetation management that will be discussed later.

Will-Wolf said the Planning and Implementation subcommittee discussed the plan at their latest meeting. They were distressed that the tree decay was so advanced that it would not be possible for a tree climber to cut off the tops of the trees while leaving tall snags for wildlife. She stressed that she is not disputing the claim that the trees are too dead to climb but she would like to see FP&M take action sooner so that more trees can be left as snags and not left to die completely.

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee volunteered themselves to create a list of ground layer plants appropriate for reseeding in the ground layer.

Barker thought it would be possible to re-establish views (at least in winter) from the Eagle Heights mounds to Lake Mendota.

Subcommittee Reports

Development Subcommittee (Barker)

Barker asked for volunteers for a Development subcommittee. Please send him an email if interested. He explained that the current funds will be gone in 2 years and we need to figure out a way to keep money coming in to continue the good work that's happening and to restore Eagle Heights Woods and endow the Stewardship Fund to pay for staff.

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee and the Resource Collection Committee (formerly the Communications subcommittee) had nothing to report.

Other Business

Schroeder was pleased with the enhanced appearance of the cultural resources in the Preserve. The mounds are now easy for students to see and does not cause them the frustration it has in the past.

Burgess noted that friends have told her they're happy that bikes are no longer allowed on Picnic Point and they're not scared to go out there anymore.

Barker stated that he has had a request to discuss deer control in the community gardens. McSweeney suggested talking to David Drake from Wildlife Ecology who regularly does workshops in which he gives practical advice on how to protect veggies and flowers from deer. McSweeney reminded the committee that the Arboretum has a culling program although there's not been a good deer census so they don't know if they're making a dent. He thinks the city parks need to be involved in a census.

Barker also noted the continuing and growing problem of dogs off leash.

Barker proposes not meeting in Dec. and resuming meeting in Feb.

Motion to adjourn; seconded and passed.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver