

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday Oct. 4, 2012

10:30 AM -12:00 PM

1490 WARF

APPROVED MINUTES

Present

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Rachel Bower, Dave Gardner, Rhonda James, Donna Paulnock, Ken Raffa, Sissell Schroeder, Phil Townsend,

Also present

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Brianna Laube (Water walk), John Magnuson (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve)

Minutes

The minutes from the May 8, 2012 meeting were approved.

Public comment

None

Lakeshore Walk educational outreach videos (Brianna Laube)

Link to the videos provided before the meeting:

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_jQRNq0naT6QRBzb0DQuOCdUYtE4Aq_F

Chris Kucharik is the principle investigator for a 5 year National Science Foundation sponsored grant to study water sustainability and climate in the Yahara River Watershed. Brianna Laube is a Masters student in charge of developing videos for an interpretive “water walk” along the Lakeshore Path accessible by a smart phone or tablet. The initial proposal was for about 10 stations where science issues related to the watershed are explained through videos that are also presented on-line as a virtual “water walk”. Laube set up a 1 weekend trial run of the walk over Parents Weekend (Sept. 21- 23). She installed temporary signs on 8 1/2 x 11” paper that prompted users to watch the videos with a quick response (QR) code that you scan with your smart phone or tablet that takes you right to the video. The trial weekend was rainy so user turnout was low, but they did get good feedback from those who did use it.

The question was asked if we needed signage on the Path for the walk. Laube said they are looking at getting an application (app) that people can download ahead of time that uses GPS to push information at you as you walk along. You’d probably still need a sign at the beginning with a QR code that lets you know there’s a walk and shows you where to download the app. The videos are each about 3-5 minutes long, combined all 7 videos take 30 minutes to watch. She did get some feedback that the biofuels video, which is the longest, is too technical. Townsend suggested that videos be less than a minute long with a “for more info” then see longer version. Bower suggested that the front end of the videos could be loaded with the critical info so if someone didn’t want to watch the

whole thing they could still get most of the info. Magnuson suggested inserting a stopping point in the video for those who didn't want to go on. The walk runs from the Memorial Union Terrace to the Willow Creek Bridge. Questions were asked about whether there could be multiple tour options or a walk for Picnic Point. Barker would have liked more collaboration on the water walk instead of just hearing from them that it was done.

Update on summer work and research progress (Cathie Bruner and Rhonda James)

The Picnic Point project is complete. The dedication with the Ebling family will take place Fri. Oct. 5, 2012 at 3pm at the tip of Picnic Point.

The Lakeshore dorm (Dejope) shoreline project is complete.

Still working on a draft Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan; hope to have a complete draft by November.

The Preserve is working with the UW Grounds Department to update the campus Emerald Ash Borer management plan. Our policy is basically a "let it die" policy as long as it doesn't create hazard trees. We can use some money for Frautschi Point, where there is a lot of ash, to come up with an ash management policy.

The Preserve has 15 new trail signs only 2 are currently up—at Shady Lane and Raymer's Cove—the rest will be installed as time allows. The kiosk for the bottom of Muir Knoll has been ordered.

The open hours and no bikes signs at the entrance to Picnic Point have been stolen and will be replaced.

Work plan and budgeting process

Project proposals for new projects are due to Gary Brown by November 1, 2012. The form can be found on the Preserve website.

By Nov. 29 the draft budget and workplan will be sent to the Preserve Committee for them to review before our Dec. 6 meeting.

The second stakeholder meeting will be held Jan. 29 to get feedback.

Discussion on handling requests to use the Preserve for teaching, research and outreach. (Ken Raffa and Cathie Bruner)

According to Ken Raffa the most effective way to integrate education is through small projects that are part of large geographic scale research projects. Undergrads are then part of a larger study. An example of this is the gypsy moth phenology study that his graduate student, Johnny Uelmen, is doing. There is a window of opportunity because of the

opening of the new dormitory. He can feel the center of gravity of the campus has shifted. There are lots of people there now. Phenology, the study of arthropods, and soil organisms are all good educational approaches. Aquatics is the best approach for the way the school year is outside of the peak growing season.

John Magnuson described the Lake Mendota data collected as part of the Limnology Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program. The head of the LTER at UW-Madison is Emily Stanley and the data information manager is Corinna Gries. The Wisconsin Ecology Group, which is distributed across 40 departments on campus, would be a good place for the Preserve to have some representation. The spring symposium will feature a presentation by aquatic ecologist, Margaret Palmer.

Regarding the challenge of the researchers in the Preserve connecting to each other, Sissel Schroeder and Phil Townsend talked about the issues of database meta-management and that it requires an academic staff research and teaching position.

Discussion of subcommittee assignments

Planning and Implementation—No report

Development—An important subcommittee; so far no interest by Committee members to serve on it. The Committee needs to raise funds with help from community members.

Archiving—A Library and Information Studies class populated a framework for a digital archive with a diverse set of materials from the Preserve. Andrea Coffin who works for the Scout Project with Rachel Bower, will clean up the database. There's lots of scanning to be done that the library is willing to help with, but we need someone to coordinate. What are data management priorities? Bower will be moving and leaving the Committee. Andrea Coffin may be able to replace her. Phil Townsend volunteered for the archive (and data management) subcommittee.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver