

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday March 13, 2015
10-11:30AM
Memorial Union T.I.T.U.
APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Kristina Bartowitz, Donna Paulnock, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Kris Ackerbauer (Physical Plant), Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Rowyn Noe (Preserve), Will Waller (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Charge to Committee

The charge of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee is “to ensure the integrity of these cherished campus resources through the provision of necessary and appropriate oversight, policies, guidelines, stewardship and management.”

Minutes

A motion was made by Turnquist and seconded by Urrutia to approve the February 6, 2015 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Kennedy Gilchrist reported that Sandhill cranes are back in the Preserve’s marshes and Biocore Prairie.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Laura Wyatt for Gary Brown)

Brown wanted to recognize staff for putting together the first Preserve Annual Report.

Bill Elvey continues to fully support the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and does not recommend any budget cuts at this time. The Division of Facilities Planning and Management has put a freeze on all vacant positions. There are no vacant positions in the Preserve, and Brown was able to hire a staff person to help with the Campus Master Planning process before the freeze went into effect.

The UW is working with the city and county on a proposed stormwater facility for Willow Creek that will capture sediment before it enters Lake Mendota. The city has hired an outside consultant to develop an Environmental Impact Assessment. Brown will report on details as they develop.

A consultant team was hired to develop an Environmental Impact Assessment for the West Natatorium Playing Fields. *Raffa requested the name of the consultant.*

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

Preserve staff, along with other Facilities Planning and Management staff, will be moving from the WARF building to 30 North Mills in August. Staff will be further from the Preserve, tools, equipment and vehicles. *Raffa requested to know who was taking over the WARF space.*

Staff is working on a dogs-on-leash educational initiative. A press-release will go out to local media and nearby neighborhood associations. Temporary signs will be placed at Preserve entrances to supplement permanent signage to remind visitors to leash their dogs. Staff will be present at the Preserve on two weekends in May to recognize/reward dog owners for following the leash law. Staff and interested volunteers will receive training from Officer Jean Van Den Bogart on how to best approach visitors who are not following rules.

Wyatt thanked the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for the first installment of funds (\$32,400) raised for Eagle Heights Woods management.

The Preserve herbicide use guidelines will be presented to the Preserve Committee at the April meeting.

3. Capital Projects Report

No report

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

Staff completed overseeding approximately 11 acres where buckthorn and honeysuckle were removed over the last year.

Most hazard trees marked for removal have been taken down except for a few trees on Picnic Point near mound 7 and a few trees on the north edge of Eagle Heights Woods along Lake Mendota Drive. Gundlach will contact Grounds to see when they think they can get to them.

Five Prairie Partners interns were hired to work 1 to 2 days a week in the Preserve from May 18 through August 7. Wyatt thanked the Friends for their support of the intern program.

Staff has identified 9 burn units for spring prescribed burns including areas in Eagle Heights Woods, Picnic Point, Biocore Prairie and Willow Creek Woods. *Both Alan Turnquist and Kristina Bartowitz would like to be added to the burn notification list.*

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

The February drop-in volunteer workparties were canceled due to minus 0 degree Fahrenheit temperatures. However staff supervised 19 volunteers on March 8 at Frautschi Point to remove invasive honeysuckle shrubs. The next drop-in workparty is scheduled for March 22 from 9AM-Noon.

Staff is planning for a large Earth Day volunteer event with Clean Lakes Alliance and Spectrum Brands on April 22.

The Friends of the Preserve announced their spring and summer field trips which are posted on the Friends and Preserve websites.

This week Gisela Kutzbach and Bryn Scriver promoted the health benefits of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve as part of Health and Healing Week at UW Hospital and Clinics.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)

March 21—Friends field trip, Nighttime Owl Prowl, limited to first 20 people.

March 22—Friends Spring Equinox field trip with UW Science Expeditions

April 11—Eagle Heights Gardens Seed Fair.

April 7—Friends Annual Meeting at the UW Arboretum, open to the public. The guest speaker will be John Kutzbach who will speak on climate change.

The Friends continue to advertise events on WORT.

Fundraising for the Eagle Heights Woods Management Project is going well with \$60-70,000 raised so far. The Friends homepage will soon feature a fund raising “thermometer” to show progress toward the goal of \$135,000. An invitation only event will take place for Shorewood Hills residents on March 19 to talk about the project and how people might contribute.

There is now an e-bird link on the Friends website for Picnic Point. E-bird is a real-time bird checklist program for birders to report bird sightings.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Information Dissemination /Education

Turnquist reported that 6 requests for funds were received for the Student Engagement Grants, and the Education Subcommittee will recommend that four of them be funded. The research topics were varied and submitted by both students and faculty.

2. Communications /Archives
3. Planning & Implementation
4. Development

Brown and Schroeder continue to send thank you letters as donations come in for the Preserve.

Staff got an informal request from the UW Foundation for wildlife preservation for which staff was able to pull together a list of possible projects. That list of projects is now available should other requests come into the Foundation.

The Preserve shares UW Foundation representatives with the UW Arboretum. Paulnock suggested that Preserve and Arboretum work together to highlight the natural areas on campus to prospective donors—perhaps with a permanent brochure.

A motion was made to go into closed session to discuss student engagement grant proposals by Raffa and seconded by Turnquist.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver