

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Monday March 14, 2016
12:00-1:30PM
Union South - Governance Room
Approved MINUTES

Present

Gary Brown, David Drake, Jacob Hahn, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Ekaterina Mullendore, Donna Paulnock, Phil Townsend, Mattie Urrutia, Will Waller

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Jonathan Pauli (FWE), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from February 22, 2016 and November 18, 2015 was made by David Drake and seconded by Jacob Hahn. The motion was approved unanimously.

Student Engagement Grant presentation – “*Survival and Habitat use of Eastern Gray Squirrels in an Urban Preserve*” (Jonathan Pauli)

Pauli engages about 40 juniors and seniors from Forest and Wildlife Ecology 561 each Fall semester in research in Bill’s Woods. The students trap, collar, and track squirrels in the field. The students are also tracking squirrels outside Russell Labs as a comparison. Students look at home ranges, habitats, and trees that squirrels use. Students can also look at stable isotopes to see what individual squirrel’s diets look like. According to Pauli he has decades worth of overstory vegetation data for Bill’s Woods that he can pass on to the Preserve. With all this information students can start to ask interesting ecological questions.

Working in the Preserve is the highlight of the students’ semester. They like the hands-on field experience.

Asked if they retrieve the radio collars, Pauli said it’s common for squirrels to die during the semester at which time they retrieve the collars and try to determine the cause of death.

Pauli thanked the committee for their support. He has used the student engagement grant funds to support a student crew leader and to buy radio collars.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports –March 14, 2016
2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports –March 14, 2016
3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports –March 14, 2016
4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports –March 14, 2016
5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports –March 14, 2016

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)

Upcoming Friends events include: April 2 Eagle Heights Seed Fair, April 3 UW Science Expedition at Picnic Point, April 5 Friends Annual meeting with speaker Spencer Black, April 16 Bird Banding Field Trip at Biocore Prairie, April 21 and 23 Beyond Backyard Birding field trips.

Waller and other Friends members attended a preliminary presentation by the Engineering Capstone class about the stormwater run-off issue at the Eagle Heights Gardens. The final report is due April 26.

Campus Master Plan comment discussion (Phil Townsend)

Townsend would like the Committee to go on record by providing comments on the portions of the Campus Master Plan that affect the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Members were asked to send comments to Townsend between now and the April meeting. He will compile them and send them to Gary Brown to include in the overall Master Plan process.

Drake, a member of the Campus Planning Committee and the Master Plan Steering Committee, shared his thoughts:

- Since this long range campus master plan focuses on natural areas/outdoor spaces/open spaces, he would like to see the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the UW Arboretum be more involved.
- He wants to prioritize linkages and connectivity, especially for wildlife.
- Are there opportunities to enlarge the Preserve?
- He would like to see as much interpretive signage as possible, without interfering visually, so that people know what they are looking at and why time and money is being spent on the Preserve.
- He thinks the Preserve is a great outdoor lab with tremendous opportunity for students across campus in multiple disciplines.
- He likes the idea of making the Willow Creek area more pedestrian friendly and says the creek is currently used by mink, raccoons, and turtles.

Gilchrist cited the UW Arboretum's Icke Boardwalk as a good example of human wildlife interaction; Sandhill cranes nest near the boardwalk each year.

Hotchkiss emphasized the Wisconsin Idea and how the Preserve should be a teaching landscape with university classes involved in the redesign of areas such as Willow Creek.

Townsend said the Committee should revisit the Campus Master Plan comments from the Preserve Committee at the start of next semester with new Committee chair to make sure any further comments are included before the master plan is finalized at the end of the calendar year.

Vote on the 2016 Student Engagement Grants (Education subcommittee)

The meeting went into closed session to discuss student engagement grant proposals

Meeting Time for Next Semester

April 15, 9:00-10:30am at Union South.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist