

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Tuesday April 8, 2014

2:00-3:30PM

350 Bascom Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Gary Brown, Jacob Hahn, Gisela Kutzbach, Donna Paulnock, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia, Chloe Wardropper

Also Present:

Kris Ackerbauer (Physical Plant), Janet Batzli (Biocore), Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), John Magnuson (Friends), Ron Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve)

Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting by Hahn, was seconded by Townsend and approved with the addition of an introduction sentence to the Biocore discussion suggested by Burgess.

Public Comment Period for Items not on the Agenda:

Denniston noted plow damage to the garden at the Frautschi Point parking lot. Brown said FP&M was working on a solution for preventing such damage again.

Project Updates

1) Rec Sports Master Plan (Gary Brown)

There has been no change since the referendum passed. We are moving through the capital budget process. The SERF and west playing fields will be included in the 2015-2017 budget. The Nat and the east playing fields will be part of the 2017-2019 budget. A consultant has not yet been hired to do the Environmental Impact Assessment.

2) Drake fox-coyote research (Cathie Bruner)

Holly Hovanec, David Drake's student, will present her research on fox and coyote use of the UW-Madison campus on Thursday April 10 at Union South as part of the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Drake expects the Wildlife Ecology Club to take

on the project in the future. One of the two coyotes was killed on Hwy M on the North side of Lake Mendota recently.

3) Eagle Heights Woods implementation (Adam Gundlach)

Brush removal is complete at the Mounds Zone. We will sow a cover crop on bare soil and slightly mulch the mounds with straw to prevent erosion. There is still some wood mulch to spread on trails.

Lenehan recommended waiting for the shooting star to emerge before spreading straw mulch. Denniston thought a cover crop would be unnecessary and might be detrimental if heavy on grass. Preserve staff will seed with a light cover of wild rye. The structural integrity of the mounds is most important. Townsend said it's important to monitor effects of actions to make changes to management in future. Denniston has been keeping records of vegetation on mounds.

Spring burns have been completed with Quercus Land Stewardship Services. Burned units include Biocore Prairie, a small portion of woodland on the base of Picnic Point, Willow Creek Woods, the storm water ponds around the west playing fields. There was an escape (1-1.5 acres) from the Biocore burn into the oak leaf litter in Second Point Woods. We will monitor this area to see what the effects may be.

The Madison Fire Department recently granted a variance to the Madison fire code to the Arboretum for one season allowing them to burn brush piles. If the Arboretum can demonstrate their ability to observe appropriate safety practices and to avoid nuisance responses or uncontrolled fire issues the variance could be extended to both the Arboretum and Lakeshore Nature Preserve in the future. Paulnock said the Arboretum will burn brush piles with snow on the ground.

4) Volunteer Program (Bryn Scriver)

We have volunteer events scheduled for April 12, 13, 25, 26, 27, and May 3 and 4. Volunteer work will focus on garlic mustard pulling, trash pick-up and planting. We're also working closely with the Friends of the Preserve who will be doing outreach for the Preserve this spring at several Earth Day events.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach)

Kutzbach reported on outreach efforts by the Friends in collaboration with Preserve staff. John Magnuson led a walk around the Class of 1918 Marsh for the UW Hospital and Clinics Sustainability and Health and Healing Committees. The Friends of the Preserve Annual meeting is tonight at the UW Arboretum Visitor Center at 7pm. All are welcome. The Friends will be launching a new website shortly.

Class of 1918 Marsh winter fish habitat and chloride levels (John Magnuson)

The idea for this project started when Magnuson was collecting information for writing the Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh. Fish sampling was done in late fall 2012. He

captured 13 fish in 29 minnow traps. Over the winter of 2012-2013 he looked at dissolved oxygen, marsh depth, ice thickness, and fish habitat under ice. The marsh is marginal habitat for fish.

He also looked at sodium chloride levels and compared them to US Environmental Protection Agency criteria for drinking water taste, continuous exposure, chronic exposure, and acute toxicity. The sampling site with the lowest maximum chloride reading was the bridge at the south inlet to the marsh. All other sites had maximum levels above acute toxicity. Magnuson asked what the objective of the marsh is—to clean up the water before it gets to the lake or a wildlife refuge? Chloride is soluble; it is not taken up by vegetation or mud; it is not taken up into food webs and doesn't biodegrade; the lake can dilute. He said the present levels of road salt use are not sustainable by the city, the UW and other governmental, commercial, and private users, and asks, what should we do? He recommends:

- 1) The UW use of road salt should be included in a city study.
- 2) The UW measure road salt and other contaminants in runoff from parking lot and roads and walkways during winter and summer.
- 3) The UW develops a road salt reduction plan and measureable goals for that plan.
- 4) UW outreach provides info to drivers and pedestrians about negative aspects of using road salt to begin a development of a balance between human safety and environmental damage.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

- 1) Information Dissemination/Education
- 2) Communications /Archives
- 3) Planning & Implementation
Denniston asked for someone to call a meeting of the Planning and Implementation subcommittee. Turnquist said that he had questions about the purpose and the potential of the subcommittee.
- 4) Development

Other Topics

Bruner announced that she is retiring at the end of the month after 17+ years with the Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

A motion was made to go into closed session by Townsend and seconded by Turnquist.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver