

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday February 6, 2015
10-11:30AM
Memorial Union T.I.T.U.
APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Kristina Bartowitz, Gary Brown, Rhonda James, Donna Paulnock, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Galen Hasler (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Rowyn Noe (Preserve), Alex Steiner (student volunteer), Will Waller (Friends), Suzy Will-Wolf (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 Raffa and seconded by Turnquist to approve the November 6, 2014 minutes. The motion passed. Notes were presented from the December 4 meeting where there was no quorum.

Public Comment Period

Schroeder reported that the governor’s proposed budget removes UW-Milwaukee Downer Woods from preservation status.

Project Updates

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)

Staff do not know yet what the impact of the proposed budget will be on the Preserve. Facilities Planning and Management was asked to model 2-4-6% budget cuts, but the current budget reduction proposal could be as high as 13-15%. Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Management, Bill Elvey is trying to protect the Preserve as much as possible from cuts. If cuts have to be made, we may have to go back to funding staff from the Stewardship Account. While this is not sustainable it may have to happen until we are able to secure more funding. For official announcements on the budget from the Chancellor’s Office go to “budget.wisc.edu”

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

The 2015 budget and work plan were presented at the January 27th Stakeholder meeting.

Staff is working on a pest plant control policy that also includes strategies and techniques for using herbicides. Staff plan to present the final draft document to the Preserve Committee at the April meeting.

Staff is also working on the Dogs on Leash initiative. Staff have provided a draft outline with a timetable. Staff are developing a press release to share with the campus and the larger community through University Communications. New signs and larger temporary signs will be placed at major Preserve entrances to remind users that *dogs on leash* are welcome in the Preserve. Staff are looking for partners to help us spread the message this spring and have contacted the UW Vet School and the UW West Campus Community Police Officer. UW Police Officer Jean Van Den Bogart will provide a training session for staff and interested volunteers on how to approach and educate visitors not following Preserve rules.

Wyatt has been working with the FP&M accountant to streamline the budget and accounting process.

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

James will meet with UW Health partners to discuss a Class of 1918 Marsh healing trail/connection between the marsh and UW Hospital and Waisman Center.

A consultant has been hired to work on the design of the Eagle Heights Apartments recycle lot. The lot will be re-graded on one level instead of the current two levels, and a storage building will be installed to contain the materials now stored in bins.

A consultant was hired for the reconstruction of Haight Road that leads to the University Houses complex. The project will include a new sidewalk and help mitigate storm water in the area.

The West Campus Storm Water project areas will be reseeded this spring. The fences north of lot 60 will come down when that work is completed. The areas will receive continued maintenance by the contractor this year.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

Boley tree service chipped the remaining brush on Picnic Point. Most of the wood chips were given to Eagle Heights Gardens.

Many of the identified hazard trees have been removed. There is still one group of red oaks by Mound 7 that still need to be removed.

Staff has been applying herbicide to resprouts and treating cut stumps on Picnic Point.

David Drake and the Urban Canid Project have received a lot of attention in the media this winter. So far they collared one fox, and one coyote got away. In January Gary Brown got a call from a visitor who said his on-leash dog got caught in a cable restraint near Biocore Prairie and nearly died. Drake checks the traps every morning and evening when they are open, and he did not find any restraints disturbed that day. Drake met the person who made the call, examined the dog (who was found to be in good health), and explained the research

and how the cable restraints work. Drake believes the story was fabricated out of misunderstanding of the research and methods.

Also in January, a person, who was identified by their vehicle license plate number, cut up and took a 40-foot red oak log that was on the ground near the Northwest corner of Eagle Heights Woods. The person was contacted by UW Police, given a warning, and told to return the wood to the free wood pile in lot 131.

5. Volunteer/Outreach Report (Bryn Sriver)

The spring drop-in volunteer dates have been set and posted on the Preserve website and elsewhere. The first volunteer workparty for 2015 is Saturday February 14, Valentine's Day. There will be chocolate!

A very large garlic mustard pulling event is being planned with Clean Lakes Alliance and Spectrum Brands employees for Earth Day.

In coordination with the Friends of the Preserve, a garlic mustard pull is being planned on May 2 and a wildflower planting day on May 17. Staff will also work with the Friends to do outreach to UW Health employees during Health and Healing Week (March 8-14) on ways natural areas (including the Preserve) benefit public health.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)

Friends Board member Doris Dubielzig will announce Friends events on WORT's Insurgent Radio Kiosk.

Fundraising has begun for the Eagle Heights Woods project. Documents have been created to support these efforts.

The Friends Board has approved two nominees for member positions: Corey George, the horticulturalist/forester for Village of Shorewood Hills, and Mike Parsen, a hydrogeologist with UW-Extension. John Magnuson and Dave Mickelson will be leaving the Board.

The Friends sponsored field trips should be finalized by Feb. 15.

Project Proposals

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee met to review the four project proposals submitted for consideration in the 2015 budget and workplan. The Friends of the Preserve submitted three proposals: Interns, Eagle Heights Woods Fundraising, and Planting Festival. Roma Lenehan submitted one proposal for field work near Tent Colony Woods. The subcommittee recommended that all four proposals be approved. A motion was made to approve the four proposals; no second was needed as this recommendation came from the Planning and Implementation subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

2015 Work Plan and Budget

No changes were made to the budget or work plan documents since the Preserve Committee last saw them at the December meeting. Due to uncertainties surrounding the proposed state budget, the Preserve's 2015 operating budget could change between March 1 and July 1, even though our fiscal year starts March 1. If changes are needed, the budget would be brought back to the Preserve Committee so that they can see where the reductions might occur. Turnquist moved and Urrutia seconded a motion to approve the budget and work plan as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Information Dissemination /Education
 - a. Student Engagement Grant update

The deadline to submit grant proposals is February 16. Preserve staff have received one grant proposal so far. The subcommittee will meet March 2 to review the proposals. Subcommittee recommendations will be brought to the March 13 Preserve Committee meeting.

2. Communications/Archives – no report.
3. Planning and Implementation – no report.
4. Development – no report.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Townsend and seconded by Turnquist.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver