

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Thursday Dec. 4, 2014
1-2:30PM
Memorial Union T.I.T.U.
Meeting Notes

Present:

Kristina Bartowitz, Gary Brown, Jacob Hahn, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Sissel Schroeder, Chloe Wardropper,

Also Present:

Ann Burgess (Friends), Emma Geiduschek, Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Galen Hasler (Friends), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Bryn Scriver (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

The minutes from the Nov. 6, 2014 meeting could not be approved without quorum.

Public Comment Period:

Roma Lenehan announced that Picnic Point and the boat launch at lot 60 are good places to view the hundreds of waterfowl that have been visiting University Bay recently.

Kennedy Gilchrist donated 5 hours of his time this fall to clear woody brush encroaching on the Lakeshore Path west of Picnic Point including around 4 culverts. He said the reflective stakes marking these culverts are now visible but that there is nothing to prevent people from falling into the culverts.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)

The second stakeholder meeting will be January 27 at 5pm in room 132 WARF. We will share the draft workplan and budgets and take further public comment. The committee will get a chance to review the final documents at the February Committee meeting and take action on them then.

Bill Elvey, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Management, said he would try to protect the Preserve from the expected budget reductions which could be up to or surpass 6%. If we do need to make reductions we've targeted potential reductions. In the years to come we will have to do more private fundraising. We are still waiting to hear if the UW Foundation will include a Preserve endowment in the upcoming capital campaign.

The Campus Master Plan process should start in January with draft concepts ready in the fall. Brown will share the Master Plan with the Committee.

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

Preserve staff will draft a pesticide use policy and bring it to the Preserve Committee in March.

A press release went out before Thanksgiving to let the public know that we have gone through a process to identify hazardous trees and they will be removed.

We are sending out thank you cards to people who made donations to the Preserve in 2013 and 2014. We want them to know how important their investment is in the Preserve. Preserve Committee members are also receiving thank you cards because their time is an investment in the Preserve.

Wyatt has met several times with Sara Anderson from the UW Foundation with members of the Friends and with Gary Brown. She looks forward to seeing the relationship with the Foundation grow and develop.

Wyatt had the opportunity to work with student volunteers from Bradley Learning Community on Nov. 15. While she was on site she was stopped by separate groups of visiting Nebraska football fans who shared with her their favorable impression of the natural beauty of the UW campus and the number of people out recreating on the Lakeshore Path.

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

The West Campus Stormwater Projects are on hold until spring. The fence will remain up around the lot 60 pond until then to keep people and animals out.

The proposal for funding for a new bridge over the inlet to the Class of 1918 Marsh Bridge has been submitted and we are waiting for state funding. James said she received input on the bridge that will be incorporated into the design if possible. The bridge will not accommodate vehicle use. Lenehan noted that about 30 barn swallows nested underneath the bridge this year.

The UW is in the selection process for hiring an engineering firm to design the layout for the Housing recycle lot and storage building.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

Grounds started removing hazard trees in the Preserve this week.

Our pest plant control contractor chipped the last of the buckthorn brush piles at the west end of Tent Colony Woods, finished buckthorn removal along the beach path on Picnic Point, and completed basal and cut stump treatment of buckthorn at East Tent Colony Woods.

The UW tree trimming contractor started chipping the brush piles on Picnic Point. Lenehan asked if the brush pile at East Big Woods was chipped. Gundlach will check on this.

Burn unit preparations were put on hold once it was determined that fall burns would not be likely due to weather conditions.

The planting area along the lakeshore at Dejope Hall was overseeded with native plant seed. We submitted a seed order for overseeding areas this winter that were recently cleared.

5. Volunteer and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

We had five volunteer workparties since our last meeting. Volunteers picked up trash around parking lot 34 and cut buckthorn and honeysuckle in the west end of Muir Woods adjacent to lot 34. Volunteers also raked leaves off the Indian burial mounds to protect the turf growing over the mounds which prevents erosion. Volunteers also continued to chip trails and cut buckthorn on Picnic Point.

Drop-in volunteer dates are set for next semester. We are looking ahead to spring outreach activities especially around Earth Day and look forward to working with the Friends of the Preserve and Students for the Preserve on some of these activities.

2015 Draft Work Plan and Budget Review

Handouts: 2015 Draft Work Plan, 2015 Draft Capital Budget, 2015 Draft Operating Budget

Brown highlighted some changes between the work plan from 2014 and the one proposed for 2015. They are underlined in the draft document.

The work plan and the capital budget include the four project proposals that were submitted and recommended by the Planning and Implementation subcommittee. Most of the projects listed in the Capital projects budget are gift funded.

The draft operating budget shows what was spent in 2013, what is projected to be spent in 2014, and the proposed budget for 2015.

The projects to remove invasive species at Heritage Oak and Wally Bauman Woods are completed and will move into our day to day maintenance.

The final documents will be presented at the February meeting without track changes.

A request was made for more information about the audio trail including use and timing of use. A report will be presented at a future meeting.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)

Waller expressed a desire by the Friends to have a simple kiosk at Eagle Heights Community Gardens which he considers a major portal into the Preserve. They would like to post monthly Bird and Nature walk announcements.

Brown said the trailhead sign that was there but was knocked down by a plow will be reinstalled. He asked if field trip announcements could be posted on gardener boards.

Waller wanted to catch people as they walked through the garden gate.

The newest estimate for the internship Program is for over \$9000. The Friends need to investigate what the additional expense is... maybe more intern hours?

The fundraising effort for Eagle Heights Woods Project is going well. They have some fundraising brochures in draft form. The Friends Board is 100% in support of the fundraising effort.

Brown would like a schedule of the Friends fundraising efforts.

According to Waller the Friends Board will meet with Friends members to start the fundraising campaign starting early in 2015. The fundraising kick off will begin at the Friends Annual Meeting in April and the fundraising campaign will last one year.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

1. Information Dissemination/Education

The request for proposals for the student Engagement Grants has been sent out by email to about 400 UW department chairs, program managers, Preserve stakeholders, and student volunteers. Proposals are due Feb. 16, 2015. Please forward the information on to anyone you think would be interested.

The grants were made possible by a fund established by Professors and Robert M. Goodman and Henry Hart. Henry Hart, a longtime supporter of the Preserve, passed on Nov. 12.

2. Communications /Archives No report

3. Planning & Implementation (Laura Wyatt)

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee recommends that the Preserve Committee approve the 4 project proposals that were received by Preserve staff. Since there is no quorum the Preserve Committee will have to take action on the recommendation at the February meeting before taking action on the budget.

The four proposals are: [Tent Colony Woods](#), [Friends Interns](#), [Friends Planting Festival](#), [Eagle Heights Fundraising](#).

4. Development (Gary Brown) No report

Student Engagement Grant Research (Emma Geiduschek)

Geiduschek, a recipient of a 2014 Student Engagement Grant, shared her field experience and research project results with the Preserve Committee. She worked with Prof Ellen Damschen and Janet Batzli this summer and fall to examine how varying levels of winter precipitation and snow depth affect plant community composition in the Biocore prairie. Specifically Geiduschek focused on the differences in root frost tolerance between two *Solidago* species.

Dogs on leash public information plan

Preserve staff developed a draft message plan for informing the public that dogs on leash are welcome at the Preserve. Components of the plan include: clear consistent signage at major entrances to the Preserve including the use of temporary signage as needed; articles and press releases in neighborhood newsletters and local media outlets; messages for electronic formats -- websites and social media sites;

training for Preserve staff and volunteers on how to approach owners of dogs off leash; and possibly a special event organized by potential partners to encourage or reward desired behavior.

Preserve Committee members were encouraged to contact staff with ideas.

Lenehan suggested picking one weekday and one weekend day to be at Frautschi Point to get owners to leash their dogs since it seems to be the same people every day bringing their dogs.

Kutzbach wanted to know if owners were allowed to bring dogs to the beach at the beach house. Do we need signage at the beach or provide info on dog beaches?

All interested Preserve partners would be welcome to join any training we do on approaching owners with dogs off leash including Eagle Heights Gardens partners.

Brown said the Preserve is not a dog park and we shouldn't be treated as one. We should give people directions to area dog parks and let them know of ones where there is water access.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver