

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday May 9, 2013

9:00AM-10:30AM

350 Bascom Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Gisela Kutzbach, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), John Magnuson, Ron Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends)

Minutes:

Amato moved to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2013 meeting. Coffin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without changes.

Updates (Rhonda James):

1. Kiosks will be assembled and installed at the Frautsci Point parking lot and the east end of the Lakeshore Path near the Limnology Lab within the next month.
2. The Frautsci Point entry landscape plan is being implemented--Grounds Department will finish placement of decorative rocks and edging and Preserve staff will plant with natives.
3. During the month of June fire circle #2 will be redesigned. The fire circle will be pulled away from the lake edge and a seating bench will be located there instead. The bare area around the big oak will be reseeded. This is an actively eroding archeological site. The new fire circle will better prevent future erosion. An archeologist will be on site during construction to watch for any unearthed archeological materials.
4. We are working on site specific plans for the Eagle Heights Woods Mounds area and for re-routing the trail in the northeast corner of the woods that leads to the mounds.

Draft Fire Policy (Adam Gundlach):

Gundlach is working on the campus wide burn policy with staff from the Arboretum.

This spring we were able to burn half of the restoration at lot 34. Wind directions were different than forecast and the fire had to be shut down. We got a few calls about smoke and smells and we will continue to notify people about future fires.

Academic use of the Preserve (Mike Amato):

Amato believes there is room for the Committee to play an active role in promoting academic use of the Preserve. We need to continue to find ways to encourage faculty and staff to integrate the Preserve into courses. There are some very good examples of how this can be done—Schroeder's First-Year Interest Group, Adrian Treves' Conservation Biology course, and Biocore. What can we do to encourage more? A large data tracking project was discussed by Rachael Bower as something that instructors could structure their courses around. Amato is not sure what the goals would be and how to measure success but it would not be to maximize the number of students out there doing superfluous stuff. He has no proposals at this time but thanked the Chair for allowing him to keep the discussion on the agenda.

Will-Wolf put in a plug for the classes she's associated with. Students use the Preserve to learn to identify organisms and collect long-term data. Even if there's no direct benefit to the Preserve, it is still a great teaching lab, especially with tight budgets—students can easily get to the Preserve without the department spending money on transportation.

Barker thought we could model something for academic use on the already successful volunteer program—hire someone whose job it is to advocate for use of the Preserve who can create a dog and pony show to take to faculty meetings.

Kutzbach said the Friends are trying to connect directly with undergraduates using the 2 undergraduate students on their board. Undergraduate students need mentoring and continuity that can be found with existing organizations/programs such as in the Nelson Institute. Olivia Sanderfoot, one of the Friends student board members, wants to engage other students through a focus on Willow Creek

We need to fix in people's minds that the Preserve is a place for teaching, research and outreach so that they do not think of it as a place to put the next building.

Speaking on the large digital data collection idea for the Preserve, Coffin said there has to be a need for it. She said you can develop a digital collection but that doesn't mean anyone is going to use it. You need to build outreach materials to support it.

Barker thinks if you build it then people will use it. People will find a use for it.

Will-Wolf has a graduate student using data from her personal research collection. If data were archived on-line it would be easier to tell students go there and use it. Her class would use it as soon as it's there.

Coffin thinks the Preserve is perfect for a mobile phone application.

Urrutia said that the 3 soil pits in the Preserve have been used for the past 80 years. She takes students to the pits every year. They are very near each other but have three very different soils. However to study soils you need to dig and because of this they have moved much of their soils study to the Arboretum where there is more space to dig. A soils app would still give students a way to use the Preserve. Maybe a soils app would make a good soils capstone project?

Will-Wolf said some class activities are slightly destructive in the short term but they are valuable teaching tools. The Soils Department digging a soils pit shouldn't be considered contrary to the mission of the Preserve. This is a legitimate function of university.

Urrutia said that soil cores as opposed to soil pits are also useful for teaching.

Barker thinks that a student film series—2 minute you tube videos—on the Preserve would be a great way to involve non-science students. The films could be posted on our website. Maybe we give a \$100 prize for the best shot film. Rap or poetry slams are other ideas.

Barker thinks we need to get more done with social media.

Magnuson wanted to get the lake into the discussion. Lake Mendota has been a Long Term Ecological Research site since 1983. Chris Kucharik's NSF grant required an outreach component—the Lakeshore Walk educational outreach videos. Remember to look at funded researchers who are actively looking at the land and the lake.

Amato would like to continue this discussion over the summer. Let him know if you want to be on an ad hoc committee to bring back ideas to the Committee in the fall.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (John Magnuson and Gisela Kutzbach):

John Magnuson's term as the President of the Friends has ended. The new officers are: Gisela Kutzbach, President; Will Waller, Vice President; Dave Mickelson, Secretary; Marcia Schmidt, Treasurer.

John gave all Preserve Committee members an invitation to the Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1819 Marsh opening day celebration on Memorial day at 11am with a picnic at Noon. There are 4 signs around the marsh with numbers to enter for audio content. The messages are 1.5 minutes each. The content is also on the Preserve website.

Gisela Kutzbach said they are in the process of setting goals for next year. They want to connect community to the Preserve--to foster a connection to nature and to become good stewards to care for nature everywhere.

The Friends and Preserve staff have been collaborating on outreach with poster and table displays at Earth Day events and the Eagle Heights community center. The Friends also offered 2 tours to about 50 people as part of the Science Expeditions event in April. Next year we will have a display at the Nelson Institute Earth Day conference.

The Friends also want to connect students to the Preserve with the help of their 2 new student board members.

Farewell (Barker):

Bill Barker's term is complete. He said its been a joy and honor to lead this group as the Chair of the Committee. Sissel Schroeder will be the new chair.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was moved by Amato and seconded by Urrutia.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver