

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday April 11, 2013

9:00AM-10:30AM

19th Floor Conference Room, Van Hise Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Rachael Bower, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, John Magnuson, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Ron Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Suzy Will-Wolf (Preserve)

Minutes:

Amato moved to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2013 meeting. Schroeder seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without changes.

Concealed carry issues and concerns (Mattie Urrutia)

The order of the agenda was changed to discuss concealed carry issues and concerns first.

James Felder, legal counsel, from the Office of Administrative Legal Services joined the Committee for the discussion. Urrutia raised questions about people carrying guns in the Preserve. She knows that weapons are not allowed in classrooms but she takes her classroom into the Preserve. According to Felder, students, like employees, cannot carry weapons in campus buildings and at special events. However the UW cannot ban students from carrying weapons in open areas including the Preserve. Felder advised figuring out a cut-off point so that students can't carry a weapon into the Preserve during class time—meet in a UW building then go out to the Preserve or have students take a UW vehicle to the Preserve.

Felder said that efforts are on-going to get the law amended to prevent concealed carry in open areas. He said legal services will push the law as far as they can to push guns off campus even at the risk of a lawsuit. He advises anyone who sees a gun on campus to call 911. The Office of Administrative Legal Services is revamping their website and it will have FAQs on this subject.

Gilchrist asked about ROTC and live weapons. ROTC carries fake weapons and would need permission from UW Police Chief Riseling or the Chancellor to carry live ones.

Public comment:

Amato hopes we can continue to work on educational uses of the Preserve. Barker said we would put it on the next agenda.

Updates:

- 1) Burn plans for spring 2013 (Adam Gundlach)
 - a) Gundlach presented draft burn plans for the Preserve.
 - b) Amato asked if we are working with UW Communications. Gundlach replied yes; He is also part of the WI Prescribed Fire Council working on a general press release about the use of fire in land management and restoration.
 - c) Lenehan asked if Biocore was going to be burned this spring. Gundlach said the Biocore administrators didn't want to do a spring burn this year. Will-Wolf questioned the appropriateness of the use of fire in the Frautschi Point area. Gundlach said the shoreline units have mature oak overstory and fire is appropriate to help stimulate establishment of new oaks. Townsend said as a teaching tool he'd like to see more areas burned so that he can have students look at nutrient cycling between burned and unburned forests.
- 2) Status of UW burn policy (Adam Gundlach)
 - a) Gundlach is working with the Arboretum Ecologist and Field Manager on a draft burn policy that will apply to the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, the Arboretum, all the agricultural research stations and the Synchrotron Radiation Center. They will be meeting with representatives from Risk Management soon.
 - b) Barker would like a chance for the committee to weigh in on the final draft of the policy when it is ready.
- 3) Trachte shed removals in Willow Creek Woods
 - a) Driftless Organics farm bought the sheds. One was removed on March 27. The other one will be removed when the ground dries out.
 - b) The UW Grounds crew will remove the concrete floor that remains from the larger shed. Daniel Einstein will be present to verify that there is no disturbance to the site during the process.
 - c) Following removal Preserve staff will seed the site with a mix of savanna grasses and forbs.
- 4) Other updates:
 - a) James said the second lake safety light will be installed at the boat launch in lot 60 as soon as the weather cooperates.
 - b) Magnuson suggested that we look for ice damage on the Picnic Point project.

ACTION ITEM: Eagle Heights Woods Management Plan (Rhonda James)

James ran through some of the changes to the document since the committee last saw it.

- 1) The order of implementation would be from the central mounds zone to the south then west, east and north—keeping in mind that when implementation of the plan takes place that staff will still be working elsewhere in the Preserve. After a 2-3 year focused effort in the respective zones staff will keep coming back to each zone for follow-up.
- 2) We added a few invasive species that will be removed as part of the plan: lilac, winged euonymus, privet, and the black locust colony. Townsend said that he'd like pre-removal soil and foliage samples before the black locust comes out.
- 3) We added a line about communicating with neighbors and addressing encroachment on a regular basis. James will walk the edges of the property with Grounds, Housing and Shorewood Hills administrators soon to do more specific planning.
- 4) Some members of the Planning and Implementation subcommittee thought 30% canopy cover was too low for oak woodland (the zones was designated 30-70% canopy cover) so we struck a compromise of 50-70% canopy cover. This range is dynamic—there will be more closed and more open areas throughout the zone.

Barker received one email from a community member who had concerns about slope erosion that James feels we addressed.

Magnuson said it might be useful to have some acknowledgement of access points from Eagle Heights Apartments (unofficial trails do exist now). He thought this might be a good place to connect with residents. James will take it into consideration.

Barker lamented the lost screening at the Wingra Oak Savanna in the Arboretum that made it possible to see city buses on Monroe Street, and asked if there was a way to maintain a vegetative buffer. James said we have taken that into consideration with the east and west zones having more vegetation and higher tree canopy cover.

Barker thought this plan followed a good process and celebrated that thanks to James' work and prodding from Friends members for this area to become a priority we now have a plan 1 year later.

Schroeder moved and Amato seconded a motion to approve the Eagle Heights Management Plan; the committee passed the motion unanimously.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (John Magnuson)

Magnuson thanked those who attended the Friends Annual Meeting. Barker and Bruner gave short talks; the main speaker was mycologist Jesse Glaeser who spoke on the fungi on Picnic Point. A new slate of candidates was nominated to the Friends Board. All board members who could serve a second three year term elected to do so. The nominees also included 2 undergraduate students who are eager to expand the role of students in the Preserve. Magnuson will be voted out at the May meeting and is expected to be replaced by Gisela Kutzbach.

Barker thanked Magnuson for working with him to draw the Friends and the Preserve Committee closer together. Barker added that over the last couple years he's seen the Preserve staff, the Friends and Committee all pulling in the same direction. Bruner thanked Magnuson for his time and patience over last few years.

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

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver