

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee**  
**Minutes Dec. 1, 2009**  
(As approved Jan. 26, 2010)

**Present:**

Elsa Althen, Bill Barker, Josh Donaldson, Alan Fish, Katrina Forest, Kennedy Gilchrist, Kevin McSweeney, Anne Readell, Sissel Schroeder, Lara Shere, Don Waller, Susan Will-Wolf.

**Also present:**

Kris Ackerbauer (Physical Plant), Cathie Bruner (Preserve staff), Daniel Einstein (Preserve staff), Rhonda James (FPM), Mark Lefebvre (UW Foundation), Roma Lenehan (Friends), John Magnuson (Friends), Dick McCoy (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Steve Thomforde (Preserve staff), and Janine Veto (UW Foundation).

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the Feb. 24, 2009 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

**Public comment:**

No public comments were offered.

**Updates/announcements**

Robert E. Gard Storyteller's Circle: The water reservoir has been removed and the site covered with soil and a cover crop. The Class of 1960 overlook has been removed and the footings for the new seating wall have been poured. Installation of the new seating wall and final landscaping will occur in the spring.

Picnic Point Gathering Area: FPM staff have forwarded public comments on draft project designs to the Ebling family (donor). A meeting with the Eblings will be set for January to discuss design options that favor a reduced project scale.

Maintenance tree removal, Muir Woods (near Observatory Drive). During the winter break Grounds department staff will remove eleven trees that pose a safety hazard. Cathie Bruner distributed handouts describing the trees that would be removed.

**Discussion**

FY-10 proposed budget: The following documents were provided prior to the meeting:

- Budget narrative (draft)
- Fund expenses by project area and available expendable funds
- Budget summary by department (FY09-budget to actual and FY10 proposed)
- Capital budget summary

Cathie Bruner commented that she is discussing options for partnering with Arboretum staff for controlled burn activities in the Preserve. Hiring an outside contractor to conduct burning activities is also a possibility.

Susan Will-Wolf suggested that preparation of vision statements for Preserve management activities could be written pro-actively this winter.

Cathie Bruner identified current field staff: Bryn Scriver, half-time volunteer coordinator (academic staff), Adam Gundlach, half-time field technician (classified staff), Stephen Thomforde half-time, Nelson Institute project assistant, Tom Helgeson, half-time field technician (limited time employee/LTE). Additional hourly staff will be hired.

Alan Fish described the overall strategy for spending Preserve funds. High priority is given to completing projects where money has been donated for a specific activities or project areas (as is the case with class reunion gifts). The Stewardship Fund is generally used to sustain the improvements and provide services to areas not covered by funds designated for specific areas of the Preserve.

Laura Shere commented that outreach efforts could be extended to student groups, such as those working in the community gardens (e.g. FH King Students for Sustainable Agriculture.) Bill Barker indicated that this topic should be placed on a future committee agenda.

Susan Will-Wolf inquired about a receiving some details on what has been accomplished at Tent Colony Woods. In particular, she wondered about what happened with the research project?

*Gard Memorial funding update:*

Alan Fish informed the committee that the major donor for this project was compelled by the current economic downturn to too withdraw his gift. A \$150,000 loan to the Preserve will be provided from campus funds to cover the contractual costs of this project. The Preserve will repay this money from future fundraising activities. There is no specific timetable for repayment of the loan.

Mark Lefebvre commented that the UW Foundation will broaden and deepen its commitment to a Preserve development campaign.

*Preserve Development sub-committee*

Bill Barker announced the creation of a new group to spearhead fundraising activities. He identified the following members:

Elsa Althen, chair (Preserve committee)  
Anne Readel (Preserve committee)  
To be designated (Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve)  
Alan Fish or designee (Facilities Planning and Management)  
Janine Veto (UW Foundation)  
Blair Mathews (public representative)  
Dick McCoy (public representative)  
Daniel Einstein, staff to sub-committee

Preserve committee meeting schedule

Bill Barker indicated that he would like to establish a monthly meeting schedule for the committee. Meetings could be cancelled in the event there were insufficient agenda items. Members will be contacted soon to identify dates.

Cronon Fellowship opportunity

Cathie Bruner explained that funds from this endowment have been used in past years to support an undergraduate student worker performing general ecological restoration tasks. Currently there is \$1400 available for the next fiscal year. Cathie suggested that this year the committee might like to identify project activities for the Cronon fellow. She indicated that committee members have in the past expressed an interest in having research reports and other field data relevant to the Preserve organized and made available as digital documents on the Preserve website.

Committee members offered suggestions on who/how the archiving activity might be performed including: a senior thesis option, and an Undergraduate Research Scholar project. Elsa Althen offered to report back to the committee on digitizing options that might be possible through the UW digital collections program.

Alcohol policy in the Preserve

Kris Ackerbauer explained that current university policy provides a specific exemption to the general rule that alcoholic beverages may not be consumed on campus grounds (except as special permits may allow.) Specifically, the policy permits alcohol “In officially posted picnic area on Picnic Point between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.”(University Facility Use Policy P-7.1).

The Facility Use Committee (the group that sets such facility policies) has requested input from the Preserve committee regarding changes to this policy.

Bill Barker commented that alcohol is permitted in city of Madison parks on a case-by-case basis. The UW-Madison police officer that had planned on addressing the issue was unable to attend due to illness. The matter was deferred until the next committee meeting when the police officer will be invited again to speak.

**Submitted by Daniel Einstein**