



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday November 22, 2019
12:00pm-1:30pm
Union South, Agriculture Room
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Andrew Busker, Morgan Grunow, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Stephen Sentoff

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Tanner Merchura (student), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from November 1, 2019 was made by Beattie and seconded by Grunow. The motion passed unanimously.

Project Proposals - Prairie Partners Intern Program, Friends Wildflower Planting Festival 2020, Funding for Northern Zone of Eagle Heights Woods - (Andrew Busker)

Busker presented three project proposals that are continuations of previous projects—Prairie Partners Intern Program, Friends Wildflower Planting Festival 2020, Funding for Northern Zone of Eagle Heights Woods. All were submitted by the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The Planning and Implementation subcommittee recommended the approval of all three projects. No second was needed since the motion was made by a subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

Busker said there was discussion within the Planning and Implementation subcommittee about its role.

Wyatt confirmed that the Planning and Implementation subcommittee role has changed over time. In the beginning the subcommittee was deeply involved in management specifics, before professional staff was brought on-board. Now staff takes an initial look at the proposals and provides input on the feasibility of the project. Then the proposals go to the Planning and Implementation subcommittee which looks at the proposals from the perspective of, does it meet the mission of the program and the land? Wyatt stated that one of the strategic priorities is to look at efficiencies and processes and that the Preserve would review the role of the Planning and Implementation subcommittee.

Continuation of Mission and Vision Discussion (Gary Brown)

Brown presented a vision and mission statement drafted by Preserve staff based on previous Preserve Committee discussions:

Vision: To safeguard biodiversity on campus and cultivate lifelong environmental engagement.

Mission: The preserve shelters natural resources and cultural landscapes through active learning, and research and outreach in a place of respite and well-being.

After a short discussion and minor wording changes the vision and mission statements were revised to the following:

Vision: To foster biodiversity on campus and cultivate lifelong environmental engagement.

Mission: The Lakeshore Nature Preserve shelters natural environments and cultural resources through active learning, research, and outreach in a place of respite and well-being.

Batzli moved to accept the vision and mission statements as written. Beattie seconded the motion. Busker said he did not like the word “foster” in the vision statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuation of Strategic Plan Discussion (Gary Brown)

Brown said the Preserve held 2 public comment meetings, November 12 from 7-9 p.m. and November 20 from 3-4:30 p. m.

At the first meeting he received some questions and comments about Preserve signage being too negative and not welcoming. He said the Preserve is not a park and it’s not open to all sorts of recreation. The Preserve has to put up signs in order to enforce the regulations.

At the second meeting he received a few comments about flooding and salt use.

Sentoff made the comment that almost everyone who came to the public comment meetings wanted a park-setting for the Preserve. Brown stated that the priority users the Preserve needs to focus on are faculty, staff and students. Community use is fine, but it is not a priority for the university. He said the UW is getting more interested in wellness and respite. This is now part of the university’s overall mission to be cognizant of the wellness and wellbeing of our faculty, staff, students and visitors. However, teaching and education is the university’s first priority. Wyatt said the Preserve can work to develop this message and work with partners to communicate it broadly. We need to say how the Preserve is different than for example the Madison City Parks. Suggestions for partners included: University Health Services, McBurney Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students, UW Housing, Director of Admissions Andre Phillips (UW-Madison is seen as a destination campus and the Preserve is partly responsible for this and directly connected to tuition dollars).

Wyatt clarified that the Preserve doesn’t have the capacity to offer programming to these partners but that the Preserve is a resource and opportunity for others to utilize.

There are some concerns about the limited demographics of the strategic plan online survey respondents. Brown agreed that we are missing significant input from minority populations. The suggestion was made to pass the draft strategic plan by some of the campus leaders in diversity. Suggested people to get feedback from are: Tom Browne (CALs Asst Dean, MANRRS advisor), Aaron Bird Bear (Director of Tribal Relations), Omar Poler (American Indian Curriculum Services coordinator), Devon Wilson (L&S Asst Dean, Center for Academic Excellence), and Jose Madera (Asst Dean, L&S Asst Dean, Center for Academic Excellence). Brown said he will put the draft strategic plan on the Preserve website then seek feedback from a broader basis, including those listed above.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Steve Sentoff)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – November 22, 2019

Staff Reports

1) Director Report (Gary Brown)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 22, 2019

2) Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 22, 2019

Wyatt said the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is interested in hosting the “Our Shared Future Heritage Marker” at the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. She mentioned that UW-Madison schools, colleges, and departments may apply for grant funding of up to \$8,000 to support programming to accompany the traveling marker, however the Preserve would not be applying for the funding. The Preserve staff will work with the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve to approach the university about hosting the marker. The Friends would have to cover the costs of having the marker semi-permanently installed in the Preserve because currently it is only displayed indoors on a temporary post and base. Sentoff said the Friends will talk about this at their next board meeting.

3) Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 22, 2019

The Lot 130 parking lot lights are not yet installed.

4) Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 22, 2019

5) Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – November 22, 2019

Public Comment

Sara Hotchkiss noted the presence of Black ash north of Parking Lot 34. Wyatt said she would ask Grounds to treat some of the black ash as well as a large white ash in Lot 130 against Emerald ash borer.

Adjournment

The committee stood adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator