



**University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Wednesday February 12, 2020  
10:00am-11:30am  
Union South, Agriculture Room  
APPROVED Minutes**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

Tom Bryan (Friends/GreenHouse), Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Savannah Holt (Grant recipient), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from December 12, 2019 was made by Busker and seconded by Grunow. The motion passed unanimously.

**Student Engagement Grant Presentation—Forming Connections Using Sweet Potatoes (Savannah Holt)**

Holt developed a community engagement project to complement research by USDA Research Fellow Malachi Persche on sweet potato growing and rodent control methods. The research took place in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences research plots adjacent to the Eagle Heights Community Gardens in the Preserve. Holt grew sweet potato slips, distributed them to Eagle Heights Gardeners, and led gardeners in building bucket growing systems. At the end of the growing season Holt organized a harvest festival for UW students and Eagle Heights gardeners to count and measure yields. They harvested 400-500 pounds of sweet potatoes.

Holt worked with Eagle's Wing teachers and preschool students who grew their own sweet potatoes, helped lead a Friends of the Preserve tour, and connected with FH King student gardeners.

Holt who is studying International Business, Marketing, Spanish, and Sustainability, said through this project she learned more about how to grow sweet potatoes, developed a greater understanding of the diverse Eagle Heights community, and developed a greater respect for agriculture and the sciences.

**Review and Approval of 2020 Work Plan and Budget (Staff)**

Brown and Wyatt provided an overview of the final draft 2020 Work Plan and Budget documents with updates from Preserve staff. A bullet was added under Land Management objectives for Biocore Prairie.

The estimated \$80,000 cost for a Facilities Master Plan Update is for hiring a consultant. The funding could come from several different sources including potentially FP&M and/or gift/grant funds.

Batzli feels the Preserve has great educational value as a central outdoor classroom, and with overall university enrollment growth, it might be a good time to showcase this to make a case for more 101 funds. Wyatt and Brown both said one of the purposes of the Strategic Plan is to showcase the value of the Preserve. Brown said he fears Preserve land could be sold off as a way for the UW to generate revenue. He wants to be ready to protect the Preserve.

Hotchkiss said she plans to write 3, one-page white papers on the educational value of campus natural areas and the Preserve. She'd be happy to meet with other members of the Committee and retired staff to look over a map and discuss areas that currently serve a variety of educational purposes.

Webb would like to see something included on the recreational value of the Preserve, since those are the majority of users especially on the Temin Lakeshore Path. Appropriate recreational use can be expanded to connecting with nature, student wellbeing, and health benefits of natural areas in particularly stressful times.

Wyatt recognized and appreciates the \$60,000 of in-kind services from Physical Plant Grounds. Although she said some of this work, like removing hazard trees along trails, mowing, and cleaning pit toilets would have to happen whether the Preserve existed or not. Preserve staff will be working with Physical Plant to create a Memorandum of Understanding to address some of these issues.

Batzli wondered if the gate refurbishing project would make a good class gift. Wyatt said it could be an option. Brown noted that Preserve staff regularly communicate with WFAA staff on gift opportunities, including potential class gifts.

A motion to approve the final draft 2020 Work Plan, Operating Budget and Capital Budget was moved by Beattie and seconded by Grunow. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Status Report on the Strategic Plan (Gary Brown)**

Preserve staff are finalizing the strategic plan report. Brown wants to get sign-off from the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) of Facilities Planning & Management, Alan Fish, in the near future. The Preserve Committee actually provides recommendations to the AVC for FP&M who manages and oversees the Preserve for the university. Then he wants sign-off from the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Laurent Heller. Brown wants to show the university administration the importance of the Preserve in meeting our teaching, research and outreach mission. He plans to bring the report to the Preserve Committee at the March meeting for a recommendation. Hotchkiss wants the committee to have the report a couple weeks beforehand for review.

#### **Staff Reports**

1) Director Report (Gary Brown)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 12, 2020*

2) Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 12, 2020*

Wyatt included the permit report for UW-Madison Army ROTC program. She believes it shines a spotlight on the wide variety of uses of the Preserve and highlighted the following statement from the report, "Overall our program is extremely fortunate to have a place like Frautschi [Point] on campus where we can train. Not all schools have the capabilities and opportunities that we do. We are very grateful for the Preserve team for allowing us to utilize this area so we can complete our mission. Thank you."

Wyatt also recognized volunteer Ann Burgess for collecting and filing permit reports for the Preserve.

Beattie said this ROTC report shows that the reporting process is not onerous.

3) Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 12, 2020*

The Vet Med project will include bird friendly glass, and the Gym Nat project will have some bird friendly options where it will be most effective.

If a project happens at Willow Creek in the future, it would likely be after the Vet Med and Gym Nat projects are completed. The city and county have both said they would help support a project there with funding.

4) Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 12, 2020*

Gundlach is planning spring burns and Biocore Prairie is on that list.

Will-Wolf said it could be good public relations to interplant trees (like hackberry) in areas where we expect to lose a lot of ash.

Pidgeon said the Forestry Capstone is an option for students to give input on management plans.

5) Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)  
*See Preserve Staff Reports – February 12, 2020*

**Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report** (Steve Sentoff)  
*See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – February 12, 2020*

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Batzli and seconded by Beattie to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator