



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Thursday June 25, 2020
10:00-11:30am
Remote WebEx meeting
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

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

Also Present

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

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from May 13, 2020 was made by Batzli and seconded by Beattie. The motion was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

- 1) Director Report (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020

Campus Planning and Preserve staff continue to telecommute and will do so through December 31, 2020. Preserve staff does go into the Preserve to do land management work. All campus events have officially been cancelled through August 17. In-person meetings of essential personnel may continue but require approval by a dean or vice chancellor and should be limited to no more than 10 people and follow recommended health precautions.

Wyatt answered Batzli's question regarding permission to continue research and land management work in Biocore Prairie by stating Seth McGee has completed the necessary form and it is moving up the approvals process to the Associate Vice Chancellor of FP&M Alan Fish.

- 2) Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020

- 3) Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020

The arbor at Eagle Heights Gardens is still in place. The road into the University Houses Gardens has not yet been worked on. A contractor has been lined up for the stonework at the end of Picnic Point and fire circle #6. A new memorial bench has been installed near the bathhouse.

- 4) Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020 and 2020 Fieldwork Priorities

Staff completed Eagle Heights Woods Spring vegetation surveys and are completing vegetation assessments in management areas throughout the Preserve.

5) Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020 and Scriver Staff update 6-25-20

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Stephen Sentoff)

See Friends Preserve Staff Reports – June 25, 2020

Anna Pidgeon announced one Purple Martin gourd has four 4 eggs. Wyatt thanked Pidgeon for being the Principle Investigator on the Friends bird related citizen science projects which allows them to take place within the Preserve.

Review of Strategic Plan (Gary Brown & Sara Hotchkiss)

Brown scrolled through the document and asked for questions and comments.

Beattie, Burgess and Batzli all commented on how well they think the document has turned out. Brown thanked Beattie, Burgess, Batzli, and Hotchkiss specifically for their comments and editing which strengthened the document. Brown thinks it is one of better strategic plans he's seen on campus.

Brown explained the process moving forward as he saw it.

He would like to get approval from the Preserve Committee. First, he will take the document to the Associate Vice Chancellor for FP&M Alan Fish and the FP&M Executive Leadership Team. Then he will schedule a meeting with the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Laurent Heller. Heller may decide that he wants the Campus Planning Committee to take a look at it as well, although they usually don't look at strategic plans. Brown wants to move the document forward as quickly as possible so that we can keep working on the recommendations.

Brown and Hotchkiss want to share the document with the Faculty Senate and other governance groups as sort of an annual report to help brand the Preserve and serve as outreach. Brown asked the committee to share ideas for sharing out the strategic plan with him and/or Laura. Busker said he can reach out to ASM about sharing the strategic plan with them.

Each strategic priority will have its own timeline. He wants to move priority #6, the Facilities Master Plan, forward yet this year. James is working on a scope and schedule. If we need to bring in a consultant, then we need to figure out how to fund it. He will ask FP&M to fund the Master Plan but he may have to go out to look for a gift.

Hotchkiss wanted to know if it would be useful to be more specific about how the committee was delegated to the VCFA in order to add resilience to guard against any future FP&M changes. She wants to know if there is anything else that can be built into the document that a future committee and director can use to get a little more autonomy for the Preserve if needed.

Beattie said he thinks the authority of the Preserve Committee is well described but he wonders if who is responsible for the actual land management is secured with the language here. Is there anywhere in the document that says the administration has asked FP&M to have a Director and staff (i.e. an authorized administration structure)?

Burgess wants this connected to the teaching and research part of the mission so that its not just about managing the land as land but as a laboratory.

Batzli said she offered a comment in one of the drafts how the Preserve Committee's teaching and research expertise balances out the expertise in FP&M to move the Preserve's mission forward. She doesn't see this in the document.

Brown agrees there should be a piece on the administration/staffing structure today. Beattie said it should say current staffing has allowed the Preserve to better accomplish its mission as serving as a natural area with a teaching and research focus and recreation area. He said it should establish a baseline for staffing.

Brown asked the committee if they were ready to take action to approve the document. He added the document would not be shelved but would be updated as needed and as priorities are completed.

A motion was made by Beattie to approve the Strategic Plan with minor edits to be made by Brown and Hotchkiss over the next 2-3 weeks. Batzli seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Bryn Sriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator