



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Monday April 5, 2021
2:00-3:30pm
Remote WebEx meeting
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Ben Burke, Andrew Busker, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Karen Oberhauser, Lexi Paus, Anna Pidgeon, Joe Webb

Also Present

Doris Dubielzig (Friends), Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Aaron Williams (FP&M), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from March 9, 2021 was made by Beattie and seconded by Batzli. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

1) Director (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021

2) Program Manager (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021

Visitors entering at the Preserve's Picnic Point entrance during the month of March = 10,743

3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021

Garden Committee (Eagle Heights and University Houses Community Gardens) is beginning a long-term plan for the garden areas so they can keep track of needed improvements and projected budget needs. If anyone has comments or suggestions, please contact Rhonda James.

4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021

Prescribed burns were conducted Friday, April 2, on Picnic Point Raymer's Cove and on Sunday, April 4 at Eagle Heights Woods, Biocore Prairie, and the Second Oak area of Frautschi Woods.

5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Doris Dubielzig for Stephen Sentoff)
See Friends Preserve Staff Reports – April 5, 2021

Willow Creek Landscape Master Plan-Preliminary Design Review (Aaron Williams, Asst Planner and Zoning Coordinator)

The university is developing a master plan for the Willow Creek corridor because of the amount of change happening along it with Vet Med, Gym-Nat, and Biotron projects. The consultant, SmithGroup, presented the creek concept plans previously to the following stakeholder groups: UW Transportation Services, Grounds, Preserve, Outdoor UW, RecWell, and Vet Med. Willow Creek is the downstream flowage for a 1,900-acre watershed that reaches to the south and west in Madison to Tokay Boulevard and Westgate Mall. The Creek has been described as an estuarial stream; it goes up and down with the lake levels. In 2017 a new concrete weir was built with a forebay to catch sediment before it reaches the lake. The sediment is cleaned out every couple of years by the city of Madison who installed the facility.

The project includes about 1,500 feet of waterway to the lake and 75 feet to each side of shoreline of the creek. The project area includes the UW Physical Plant Grounds site, the Biotron facility and site, the prior Barley Malt Lab site (potential new Grounds area), and the King Hall Green Houses (for consolidation with other Grounds facilities). It also includes a pre-study for a new vehicular & pedestrian bridge across Linden Drive, a new pedestrian bridge at Observatory Drive, and a larger and expanded bridge over Willow Creek at the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path.

In the concept master plan, the mouth of Willow Creek is widened and a new, much larger bridge at the Temin Lakeshore Path is a destination in itself. The 19-20-foot wide bridge allows for pedestrian and bikes to pass as well as for people to stop or sit and take in the views. One section of it is elevated enough to let paddle craft to pass below it for access to a small landing area adjacent to the new Gym-Nat building to the east. An overlook area is located near the new Vet Med addition along the creek but is not accessible to paddle craft from the north due to headheight restrictions on the bridges at Observatory Drive. A 12-foot-wide multi-use path running north-south on the east side of the creek connects the Temin Lakeshore Path to the Campus Drive bike path. A narrower pedestrian path on the west side of the creek runs between the Lakeshore Path and a new Linden Drive bridge. Existing trees are not doing much to hold the banks of the creek and are mostly invasive species and will be replaced with a grass and forb-rich planting with a less dense tree canopy. Some native trees will be included in the replanting plans. Sandy shoals are created near the creek mouth to create habitat for turtles and other amphibians. At this point, it is our understanding that the creek will not be dredged as part of this project.

Pidegon said, "Love it!! My one concern was the turtle nesting area...would love to revisit its plans at some point."

Beattie asked, "Are there any plans for that 'Barley Malt' area that link directly to the creek's condition?" Williams said the area could be used to store salt and other bulk storage that is now housed within 50 feet of the creek, thus getting these materials away from the creek edge minimizes impacts to the creek itself.

Batzli asked if the bridge at the Lakeshore Path has any historic relevance? Brown said the current bridge is the 2nd or 3rd one in that location. Batzli has a ca. 1900 postcard image of the creek and bridge in the background from UW Libraries Archive. She asked, "Is there interest/ effort to consider the historic design? Just curious." Brown said a new bridge could harken back to one of the historic bridge designs in its detailing but that has yet to be decided.

Preserve Tagline review (Gary Brown)

Goals of the Preserve tagline are to support the Preserve's new mission and vision statements; realize, support, and reinforce the value of the Preserve; and be able to clarify/support the fact that we are part of the UW-Madison.

Preserve staff brainstormed taglines and paired them down to the following 3 suggestions. Brown asked the Committee for input and thoughts on the three taglines and help in prioritizing them.

- A. UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Nurturing Minds, Preserving Place
- B. UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve
Inspiring lifelong learning and engagement with nature
- C. UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve
The natural place for teaching, research, and wellbeing

Straw poll results: 1st choice A=6, B=1, C=4

Discussion:

Busker suggested, "Science and recreation from prairie to Point."

Oberhauser said, "I'm not a voting member of the committee, but I like 'A' because it conveys action and addresses key parts of the mission."

Pidgeon said, "I like 'A', and the alliteration with the Preserve, but 'preserve' has a strong non-changing connotation, whereas what the Preserve does is 'protect'...so I am torn."

Hotchkiss said, "I agree with Anna--I like the sound of 'A' but not the static sense of preservation. 'C' feels most welcoming."

Beattie said, "I like 'C' because even though it's not the core of the mission, the majority of users are recreating; well-being captures that. I agree with people's comment that "preserving place" sounds a bit static, but I still like 'A' better than 'B'."

Gundlach, suggested, "Nurturing Minds, Stewarding Place" as an alternative to 'A'.

Brown will submit the prioritized taglines to Rob Cramer, interim AVC, FP&M for final decision and recommendation.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator