



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday December 17, 2021
2:00 - 3:30 pm
Remote WebEx meeting
Notes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Tom Bryan, Kathy Cramer, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Karen Oberhauser, Anna Pidgeon

Also Present

J Blue (SmithGroup), Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Sara Hotchkiss (UW Botany), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Vuyk (Friends), Ryan Yanke (FP&M)

Minutes

No quorum to vote on November 12, 2021 minutes.

Staff Updates

- 1) Director (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 17, 2021
- 2) Program Manager
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 17, 2021
- 3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 17, 2021
- 4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 17, 2021
- 5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – December 17, 2021

Batzli announced that Seth McGee was leading Biocore students in seeding activity in Biocore today.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Vuyk)

Friends Board approved the wage increase proposed by the Prairie Partners for summer interns. On December 26 Friends will host a ‘favorite places in the Preserve’ field trip. Member Marjorie Rhine plans to host a nature writing workshop for Friends members in January that can be tied into a February Nature poetry event in February. The Friends also approved a number of new nominees for their Board.

Presentation FY-23 Draft Work Plan (Preserve staff)

The Preserve work plan now aligns with the UW fiscal year from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Staff highlighted any changes from the previous year’s workplan.

Brown announced that the Preserve has found a major donor with a lead gift for a Preserve Outreach/Visitor Center. Staff will be working with WFAA to garner other support. The current funding

will support advance planning and in the next 6 months we will be looking to hire an Architectural/Engineering firm.

Construct new UW Marching Band tower (Rhonda James)

The current 20-foot-tall marching band tower constructed in 2009-2010 will be replaced in its existing location with a predesigned 46-foot-tall metal tower with a roof and stairs to access the top. The new height will allow the director to see band formations better. A 6-foot-tall black chain link fence will be installed to prevent use of the field by anyone but the band.

Preserve Master Plan Update (J Blue)

There was 1 public input meeting on November 30 at the Memorial Union. Planners collected comments using comment boards at the meeting and an online survey and interactive map. There were 22 responses to the online survey. Plus, planners met with stakeholders including with Ho-Chunk and tribal representatives on campus.

Blue shared Smith Groups initial thoughts regarding needs and opportunities in the Preserve.

- 1) Improve trail alignments and reduction of redundant trails
- 2) Better neighboring with UW Grounds Storage Facility
- 3) Removal or demolition of beach/bath house
- 4) Shoreline erosion and bank failure
- 5) Site erosion
- 6) Repair or replace other existing amenities
- 7) Signage (wayfinding, interpretation, trail markers)
- 8) Welcome or Outreach Center
- 9) Implement branding developed in the Communication Plan – benches, signage – that is reflected in the physical components and materiality of the Preserve
- 10) Historical interpretation

Questions/Discussion:

Question. Can the beach/bath house be restored?

Discussion. Blue - No structural analysis was done. Used as a storage facility now. Difficult and costly to reuse the stone; requires an acid bath. James - The location is not ideal for 'outreach center' too far from entrance.

Question. Can there be more permanent restrooms in a more convenient, high traffic location?

Discussion. Brown - A new outreach center would include restrooms and the pit toilets would remain. Blue - The planners can take a look at where satellite restrooms would be needed. Batzli said Biocore uses the Eagle Heights Gardens porta potties. Oberhauser - The Arboretum added another porta potty during the pandemic. Keep in mind that a big truck is required to access a porta potty for weekly cleaning.

Question. In general to what degree are big interventions needed for wave action versus other choices in keeping with letting nature take its course or "letting change happen"?

Discussion. Blue – Safety is first. To prevent someone from getting hurt remove the trail or remove access. Shoreline is a reflection of urbanized habitat and climate change. What is the character of the Preserve? Do we let nature take its course? Or stop it? Preserve already removes invasive plants.

Whatever is done to deal with erosion (rerouting trails, regrading shoreline) will need an explanation to the public. Gundlach – rough-winged and bank swallows are using rosed slopes.

Beattie reminded committee members to get spring schedules to Laura Wyatt for planning spring semester meetings.

Adjournment (3:21 pm)

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator