



Lakeshore Nature Preserve
FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Wednesday November 9, 2022
8:00am to 9:30am
Remote Zoom meeting
Minutes APPROVED

Present

Rob Beattie, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Cole Koffron, Missy Nergard, Anna Pidgeon, Elmo Rawling, Bella Ruchti, Evie Sellers

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Paul Williams, Laura Wyatt (Preserve), Tom Zinnen (Friends)

Minutes

The minutes from October 19, 2022 were approved by unanimous consent.

Public Comments

- Well-run Preserve outreach building public meeting
- Kudos for Blessing ceremony and hopefully starting new trend with new building projects.
- Thanks to Chloris Lowe of Lowe Consulting for help in making event possible.
- Ho-Chunk were involved very early in the process before anything planned. Good model for future projects.

Staff Reports

1) Director, Office of Sustainability (Missy Nergard)

No report

2) Assistant Director (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Nov 9, 2022

Appreciate Missy's help and active involvement in the Blessing ceremony planning; She was the conduit to the Chancellor. Blessing ceremony - 114 people in attendance. Fill the Hill - 57 gifts (up from 41 in 2021); 34 gifts were from new donors.

3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Nov 9, 2022

Limnology bridge project design work has started. Project will improve safety for Lakeshore Path bike users by rerouting on the lake side of the building so they don't have to go through the Limnology parking lot anymore.

4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Nov 9, 2022

5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Nov 9, 2022

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Tom Zinnen)

See Friends Report – Nov 9, 2022

At the last Friends Board meeting members discussed the 4 proposed sites for the Preserve Outreach Center Building which were introduced by the consultant team at the public meeting on Nov 1. The elections committee is looking for new Friends Board members. They are considering a proposal for \$4,000 to help fund a project on the spiders of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve. The Friends Annual Meeting date is set for Wed April 12 with Tamara Thompson as the tentative speaker who will talk about the ancient wood canoes found in Lake Mendota

Student Engagement Grants – (Evie Sellers)

Education subcommittee members reviewed the grant proposal and did not have any suggested changes to the proposals itself. We urge the committee members to help advertise this opportunity. We will share the list of contacts/programs/organizations (over 2000 people) that the proposal announcement will be sent to.

Project Proposals (Laura Wyatt)

November 1 is the annual deadline for Preserve project proposals. This is an opportunity for the general public, students, staff, etc. to submit an idea to the Preserve for a project in time for Preserve staff to review them and see if they can fit into our upcoming workplan. We received 2 proposals from the Friends of the Preserve. These are repeat projects, 1) Prairie Partners Intern Program and 2) Friends Wildflower Planting Festival 2023. Staff believes these projects are beneficial and recommend they be included in next year's workplan. In the past we had a project subcommittee who approved these but since these are longstanding projects, we didn't think it was necessary.

Master Plan Update (Rhonda James)

This is a preview of next week's (Nov 17, 7pm in-person at the Memorial Union 7pm) public meeting where the consultant will go over all the details.

Purpose of updating the Master Plan is to document existing conditions within the Preserve and set out goals as to where we are headed. We are also gathering an updated list of needs and concerns from the public and staff and wrapping them into recommendations. There have been many discussions and meetings with as wide a group of folks.

Planning priorities:

1. Vegetative community definitions and goals
 - a. The consultant and staff team made revisions to the vegetation community recommendations balancing and blending the Preserve's core values with restoration goals, cultural respect, the user experience, habitat diversity and educational use.
 - b. The resulting map is the general direction we're heading, not how and when we are going to get there. That will come with future management plans.
2. Access and trail improvements
 - a. Some of the trails are recommended for elimination or repair.
 - b. Consultant recommended switching current limestone gravel (with a basic PH that can affect shoreline habitat) to chemically inert granite gravel paths.
3. Identify additional studies
 - a. Vegetation management plans
 - i. Including Class of 1918 Marsh
 - b. Geotechnical evaluation of shoreline
 - c. Gathering space design study
 - d. Raymer's Cove design study

There was a discussion on how projects by faculty, staff, and student can contribute to future additional studies. Preserve staff is thinking about how to ramp up educational offerings in the future and how our connection with the Office of Sustainability can help with that.

4. Other user experience improvements
 - a. Removal of Grounds storage area
 - b. Development of a gathering space near Biocore and the gardens
 - c. Raymer's Cove improvement to protect bluff
 - d. Fire pit improvements (#4-5) and relocation (#1 away from mounds)
 - e. Additional bench locations
 - f. Design consistency for benches and other amenities

Outreach Center Update (Rhonda James)

The consultants ran a great public meeting on the Preserve Outreach Center on Nov 1. Meeting was recorded and will be posted to Project webpage.

Goals for the Advanced Plan:

- Highly sustainable, carbon-neutral facility
- Support ongoing and new teaching/field research activities
- 50-person multi-purpose community space
- Strong indoor/outdoor connections
- On-site offices for Preserve staff
- Field management tool and equipment storage/hands-on workspace
- Interactive display of preserve activities and cultural and natural history

Consultants narrowing down building location – 4 sites being considered. Cannot be on an archeological site and need to consider 100- and 500-year flood plains.

“Pattern writing” a pattern describes the relationship of human activity and the built and or natural environment best suited to enhance that activity. At the public meeting the consultants talked about 3 initial patterns: Why build here, kinship with the land, healing the threshold.

A comment was made to keep in mind the emotional response of people to the Preserve and to go slow on the building concept.

Future public meetings will cover the building and its sustainability features.

Adjourn

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator