

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee**

**Tuesday Sept. 20, 2011**

**11 AM -12:30 PM**

**Birge Hall, rm. 447**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present**

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, John Magnuson, Anne Readell, Sissel Schroeder, Suzy Will-Wolf

**Also present**

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Mike Kinderman (UW Housing), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Waller (Friends and Eagle Heights Gardens),

**Minutes**

The minutes from the April 26, 2011 meeting were approved as amended with the following changes: “handing” to “handling,” capitalize the second W in “Will-Wolf,” and spell out “volunteer”.

**Public comment**

Barker reported that the Friends 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic on Picnic Point on Sat. Sept. 18 was a success. Magnuson added that the Friends Annual Meeting planned for spring 2012 will be another anniversary celebration with a talk given by Tom and Kathy Brock.

**Volunteer Report**

Scriver gave the following update on the Preserve Volunteer Program:

The focus for summer volunteer work was:

- to continue work on the Friends of the Preserve Heritage Oak Project Area
- to clear buckthorn to get to populations of porcelain berry vine
- to plant wet swales with donated plants to help infiltrate stormwater

Volunteer hours donated by activity since April 26, 2011:

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
Trail clean up/ fire pit clean up/debris and fence removal	37.25
Buckthorn and honeysuckle removal	345.75
Garlic mustard, dames rocket, porcelain berry and other weed removal	274.5
Planting	239.5
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>Total number of volunteers</b>	<b>316</b>

(These hours do not include Glenda Denniston and Roma Lenehan’s hours, and only June hours for Kennedy Gilchrist.)

Volunteer groups included: American Family Insurance, Bethesda Christian Fellowship, BlackHawk Church LOVE Madison, Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program, First Unitarian Society, Friends of the Preserve, Placon Corp., Slichter Hall, Student Transfer Association and Mentor Program, United Cerebral Palsy Youth Resources Program, UW Biochemistry graduate students, UW Furlough Service Day, UW Homecoming Committee, UW MBAs with a Heart.

We also had a fun day with 36 teenage 4H State Conference attendees under the tutelage of a DNR invasive species specialist learning about the impacts of invasive earthworms on our native forests and completing earthworm surveys in Caretakers Woods.

Also for the first time the Preserve teamed up with Arboretum staff to provide extra training to some extra motivated Friends volunteers. The training covered: first aid and safety, how to run a volunteer workparty, invasive plant identification and control techniques, tool safety and maintenance, proper pruning techniques, herbicide application, and conflict resolution. Our goal was to have more trained volunteer stewards to help us run more effective drop-in volunteers workparties and to have a few more people who were trained and authorized to apply herbicide at workparties.

### **Fire circle reservation system**

Bruner reported that she has been working to migrate the antiquated system for taking fire circle reservations from the Physical Plant where operators take reservations by phone to an on-line reservations system through Central Reservations through the Union. We will need to educate users of the changes.

### **Project Updates**

1. Overview of recent activities & progress on the 2011 Workplan (Brown)
  - a. See “2011-12 Work Plan 6-month status report\_final.pdf”
  - b. Amato asked if there were concerns, safeguards or rules about donors wanting to build large structures and putting their names on them. Brown said the Master Plan guides all management and that donors are matched to opportunities put forward in the Master Plan.
  - c. Referring to “Manage vegetation in Muir Woods, along the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, and along the Picnic Point main path,” Will-Wolf asked if there were any plans for new openings of views to the lake. The answer from Bruner was, “no,” that interns spent 1 day this summer maintaining the already established views. Brown added that Liz Waters residence hall will be renovated in the near future and that we will need to think about opening views in the woods behind it but maybe not on the same timeline as the hall renovations.
2. Update on Picnic Point Improvement project (James)
  - a. Erosion control and protection of the mounds was completed. The lower overlook area is almost complete. The sea wall is complete and the contractor has started the steps. The fire ring footings are in place. The contractors hope to have the fire ring stone installed and the erosion gullies fixed this fall as well. Replanting will take place in the spring after the other work is complete.
  - b. James told Lenehan that the planting list was complete and if she wanted to see it she could stop by her office.

- c. Barker commended James for keeping a close eye on the contractors.
  - d. Readel asked what the public perception of the project has been; she herself has only heard some complaints about truck traffic. James said there are signs at Picnic Point that explain the project with her contact info and she has not received one email. James and Bruner have received some comments through the grapevine and all have been positive. James said she heard from the contractors that one disgruntled man visits the work site often to air his discontent. Barker thought the open and transparent planning process helped.
  - e. Brown noted that there has been no significant runoff into the lake from rains.
3. Parking changes at Picnic Point (Brown)
- a. Lot 129 and 130 will be managed by a Transportation Services pay in advance meter system. A person will pay to park for the amount of time they specify; they must display their receipt on their dashboard. The meters will be enforced Monday through Friday from 7AM-4:30PM.
  - b. The change was sought because currently people park for 3 hours for free then hop the bus to campus which leaves few spaces for Preserve users to park.
  - c. The first hour will cost \$1 and subsequent hours will add up to \$12/day (the cost of a full day parking permit.) Brown said this initial rate will be revisited after 30 days. He would like to get the price over the cost of a full day permit. The meters will take credit/debit cards and cash.
  - d. The meter program will be implemented in mid October; an announcement will be sent prior to the exact start date.
  - e. He is also working on a free parking permit system for volunteers so that volunteers coming to workparties won't have to pay to park.
  - f. The Preserve has 5 special parking permits that academic and research permit holders will be able to request for short-term use, for example Will-Wolf takes a class to Picnic Point 4 days this semester in a UW vehicle for 3 hours at a time.
  - g. Magnuson pointed out that the Friends hold once monthly Monday volunteer workparties and some volunteers don't live close enough not to drive. He thought that 5 parking permits may not be enough for the number of volunteers we have. He also pointed out that it would be difficult for Scriver to be available every time a volunteer needed a parking permit. Brown responded that the 5 parking permits are for special use and that he's looking at ½ day or full day permits for volunteers to use as needed.
  - h. Suzy thought that advance warning of the parking changes should be put on the website. Gary said that is has been on the website [since July 28, 2011].
  - i. Brown said parking at the Frautschi Point and Raymer's Cove lots will remain free; those lots will now be monitored to see if there's a shift in how people are using them.
4. Update on signage program (James)
- a. James showed an example of a trailhead sign. She said she will order 10 of them for installation this fall.
  - b. She is also working to finish the design for 1 kiosk to be installed at the base of Muir Woods on the east end of the Lakeshore Path. The kiosk will have 3 sides: 1 side with a map, 1 side with a lockable case for Friends and other announcements, and 1 side for an interpretive panel which has yet to be designed.

- c. Magnuson asked if the signs were designed to be vandal-proof. James said they are somewhat vandal resistant with a special non-scratch coating that can be cleaned with special solution.
- 5. Budget planning for 2012 (Brown)
  - a. The budget process will go through this semester into the first couple months of next year. In January Brown will present a budget to the Committee for a February vote. The Preserve is on a March to March calendar year.
- 6. Reminder – the 1<sup>st</sup> Preserve stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Tues. Sept. 27 in room 132 WARF from 5-7PM. All committee members are encouraged to attend.

### **Planning and Implementation Subcommittee Report**

Will-Wolf reported that the subcommittee has had two meetings since April. For the first meeting the subcommittee toured the Eagle Heights mounds as a group. They are 2/3rds done with a list of native and other plants that they saw on the mounds. Denniston will complete the list upon her return to Wisconsin. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting some members of the subcommittee met with Rebecca Dymzarov, the graduate student working with Prof Howell to collect Eagle Heights Woods data, at Eagle Heights Woods to share their collective wisdom on the site and tout its academic value.

The subcommittee also looked at the stormwater management plan and they strongly advise that the Marsh Mafia be consulted.

Will-Wolf also asked again for the Committee to give the subcommittee permission to create a procedure to propose changes to Preserve place names. Barker said he'll put it in next month's agenda.

### **Tree Island planting plan, Eagle Heights Garden (Waller)**

- 1. See "EHG Tree Island Planting Plan-Waller 9-20-11.pdf" which shows a.) the location of the tree island within the Eagle Heights Gardens, b.) a schematic of the site with existing and proposed trees, and c.) information on the proposed trees.
- 2. Amato asked what the tree island space was to be used for. Waller explained that it is to remain a naturalized area; a place for children to play in the shade while their parents garden.
- 3. A motion to approve the plan and proposed tree species was made by Amato and seconded by Will-Wolf.
- 4. Will-Wolf asked and was told that the plan was for trees only, not herbaceous plants.
- 5. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Potential Policy Issues for the Year Ahead (Barker)**

- 1. Dogs
  - a. We may want to have a policy discussion about dogs since some users continue to bring dogs in off-leash.
- 2. Deer Management
  - a. A small number of deer have moved into the Preserve and are causing problems for the gardeners. We may want to think about what a deer policy would look like—from doing nothing to hiring sharpshooters like the City, County and the Arboretum do.

Will-Wolf moved to adjourn and Readel seconded it.

**Adjournment**

**Inspection of Gard Storyteller Circle**

Submitted by Bryn Scriver