

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday Dec. 6, 2012

10:30AM-12:00PM

1420 WARF

NOTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, John Magnuson, Sissel Schroeder (no quorum)

Also Present:

Janet Batzli (Biocore), Patricia Becker (Friends), Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Sue Denholm (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Daniel Einstein (Campus Planning), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Ilana Greenberg (Journalism student), Elisabeth Grisa (Journalism student), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve)

Minutes:

The minutes from the Nov. 1, 2012 meeting could not be approved without quorum

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve President's Report (John Magnuson)

1. Handout: Page 4, Volume 8, Number 1 Winter 2008 newsletter details the history of the Friends http://friendslakeshorepreserve.uwalumni.com/newsletter/10_08/newsletter4.html
2. Handout: Diagram of a partnership with the Preserve Committee and staff and Mission
 - a. Diagram of the relationships of—Preserve staff, Preserve Committee, and Friends of the Preserve—each with different agendas and responsibilities with common overlaps related to projects, volunteering and field trips.
 - b. Statement of mission, not very different from the Preserve mission
 - c. Now in process of at looking at founding statements

Project status reports (Rhonda James)

1. Kiosks
 - a. One will be installed at Muir Knoll at the base of the stairs
 - b. One will be installed at the Frautschi Point parking lot
 - c. Concrete pads have already been installed
 - d. We are three weeks out from the actual metal frames being completed

2. Frautschi Point entrance
 - a. Spring meadow/prairie planting will be installed around the kiosk next spring with stones and edging

3. Campus stormwater
 - a. Phase 1 stormwater bio-retention basins nearly complete
 - i. Grading and seeding completed
 - ii. Spring planting shrubs and plugs
 - iii. These are giant rain gardens (not ponds) designed not to hold water for more than 24 hours and not more than 6 inches at any one time
 - iv. Fences will come down after construction
 - b. Phase 2 stormwater ponds/gardens are in the permitting phase
 - i. Ponds will be located in: Triangle marsh and the overflow portion of lot 60
 - ii. A rain garden will be located in the ditch along University Bay Drive west of Lake Mendota Drive

Improve view to Picnic Point from Observatory Hill overlook—removal of two green ash trees (Daniel Einstein)

Einstein is working on a funded grant project to produce a series of interpretive panels on the archeology of campus. He will bring draft signs for mound sites to the Committee for their input at some point. One sign would discuss campus effigy mound groups and their relationship to other mound groups around Lake Mendota which can be viewed from the Observatory Drive viewing pull out. This view has been designated as a priority viewpoint in the Preserve; it also attracts a lot of people. In order to facilitate interpretation he proposes the selective removal of two 19 inch diameter at breast height ash trees—one near the footpath at the base of Observatory Hill and one in narrow strip of woods between the footpath and lot 34. He believes the removal of these two trees would give a better filtered view of Picnic Point, where one of the mound sites that the interpretive panel will discuss is located. It is expected that the oaks and cottonwood at the base of the hill will continue to grow up and would eventually obscure the filtered view again. However the ashes are susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer and will likely have to be removed anyway. Barker determined that there was not strong objection to the removal of the 2 ash trees.

Draft Work plan and Budget Overview (Gary Brown)

Handouts: 2013 Draft Operating Budget, 2013 Draft Capital Budget, 2013 Draft Work plan

The 2nd stakeholder meeting is set for Tues. Jan. 29 at 5:30pm in room 132 WARF. The Preserve Committee will be asked to approve the budget documents at the yet to be scheduled February Preserve Committee meeting.

Brown received 4 project proposals through the input process. All four have been included in the workplan. Only the wildflower plantings in celebration of Harriet Riley needs more discussion.

Operating Budget:

Brown pointed out that the Field Technician and Outreach Specialist positions will now be funded by Facilities Planning and Management is now funding. This will save about \$84000 each year for the Stewardship account. The savings from the switch in how positions are funded was not reallocated. Those costs were taken out of the budget (hence the difference in the bottom line) and can be used for future activities.

Brown was thanked for advocating for the use of 101 funds saying that it highlights the continuing investment from campus to make the Preserve a viable and visible entity. Brown added that it really was the goal to have those positions transferred over to 101 funds within 3 years.

A question was raised as to why under “Research/academic program” was \$4300 spent when only \$2300 was budgeted, and why is there no student hourly position proposed for 2013? In 2012 we budgeted \$2300 out of the academic fund and spent an additional \$2000 out of the Cronon fund, which was available, for tick research by a student in Dr. Paskewitz’s lab. We budgeted \$2000 for using the Cronon Fellowship funds for 2013 if a project is found.

Supporting Academic Needs in the Preserve (Barker)

In the last few meetings folks got interested in how best the Committee and staff could enable more teaching to continue in the Preserve. There have been more requests for assistance from staff including creating course content that they cannot give instructors due to time/resources.

Barker sent an invitation to all the UW instructors who’ve used the Preserve for teaching since July. He got responses back from Joy Zedler, who was complimentary of Cathie’s efforts to assist her with her course, and Evelyn Howell who said the Preserve could be used more if it included a science lab manger; she will teach 3 courses next year which all use the Preserve in some way.

Discussion:

1. (Batzli) Create a comprehensive list of courses that use the Preserve. Different instructors may have data, information, or methods that others could borrow. Biocore has whole lab manual chapters for use at Willow Creek and Biocore Prairie.
2. (Schroeder) Letters and Sciences hired a project assist from Library and Information Studies for 3-4 semesters to create a password protected site where teaching assistants collected materials used in the past to be accessible to other teaching assistants and faculty. The site is password protected to protect the intellectual property of faculty members. This has been a useful and inspiring place for teaching assistants and faculty to go, especially as some of us go out beyond our area of expertise.
3. (Bruner) The Preserve is working on updating its website so that there will be a landing page for research and education. We could use redesigned webpages to connect instructors—who’s doing coursework out there, how are they using the Preserve, what data do they have.
4. Bruner currently facilitates research and educational use of the Preserve—in some cases connecting people who may be interested in working together or sharing data.

5. (Batzli and others) Do we need a lending library of equipment (waders, stream monitoring equipment, diameter at breast height tapes, etc.)—a tool kit, and someone knowledgeable to direct students and help them use this equipment? Someone needs to be assigned to make sure equipment is returned and in good working order.
6. Schroeder got the most positive responses from her students this fall when they got to use equipment to do something! She thinks having equipment available would be useful to many people.
7. (Barker) How do we acquire equipment? Denholm said that people pay a fee at Aldo Leopold Nature Center to help them replace equipment.
8. (Schroeder) Curriculum and curriculum modules not as useful to faculty.
9. We do not see the Preserve approaching faculty to get them to use the Preserve. We just need to make campus aware that it is available and how others are using it to draw them in.
10. Schroeder thanked staff for their support and enthusiasm and faculty for helping her with her interdisciplinary course.
11. Batzli and Burgess both said that with help from Preserve staff the management side of things has gotten easier; Preserve staff did most of the prep to get the prairie burned this year so that Batzli and the Lab Manager could focus on research and curriculum.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver