

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Minutes January 28, 2007

(As approved on March 3, 2008)

Present:

Bill Barker, Ann Burgess, Alan Fish, Ray Guries, Lars Higdon, Laura Shere, Travis Tennesen, Don Waller, Susan Will-Wolf

Also present:

Kris Ackerbauer (FPM), Cathie Bruner (Preserve staff), Glenda Denniston (Friends of Preserve), Daniel Einstein (Preserve staff), Rhonda James (FPM), Roma Lenehan (Friends of Preserve), Stephen Thomforde (Preserve staff).

Introductions:

Ray welcomed attendees, followed by brief introductions of all present.

Minutes:

The minutes from the October 16, 2007 Committee meeting was unanimously approved. Approved agenda and minutes are archived at the Preserve library webpage.

Public Comment Period:

There were no public comments.

Updates:

1. Ray provided a brief overview of the annual stakeholder meetings held on Dec 3, 2007 and Jan. 15, 2008. Written summaries of the comments offered at these sessions were provided to the Committee.
2. Cathie provided updates on current and Spring 2008 projects and activities, including:
 - In late May the Department of Natural Resources will be spraying an insecticide, Bt flakes, to control gypsy moths on areas of the campus where egg masses have been located. Preserve areas to be sprayed include the lakeshore path and Picnic Point. The DNR will provide general community notification and Daniel will be working with University Communications on a campus news release. Information will be posted on the "News and Events" section of the Preserve website.
 - An expanded fire permit is being developed for spring burns at Biocore Prairie.
 - As time and grounds staff availability allow, undesirable vegetation growing adjacent to the lakeshore path between Oxford Rd. and Picnic Point entry will be removed. This vegetation removal is needed to improve pedestrian and biker safety as well as address invasive species that are competing with native plants. Concerns were expressed that following removal of this vegetation, there might be an increase in garlic mustard growth.

- Work will begin this spring on vegetation maintenance along the stretch of lakeshore path between Willow Creek bridge and the Picnic Point parking area. This work, funded by generous gifts from the Class of 1953, will improve habitat, reduce erosion and enhance views. Shrubs, flowering plants and grasses will be installed.

Discussion:

Willow Creek Woods Plan. In early January, undesirable tree and shrub removal began at this site, as part of a gift-funded project. Daniel provided an overview of the unique archeological attributes of the site. The Wisconsin Historical Society has identified this area within the Preserve on their “Archeological Site Inventory” as both an ancient habitation site and as “Catalogued Burial Site.” These designations invoke statutory requirements on how the site can be managed. The site has also been evaluated and deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Daniel has been consulting with faculty within the Department of Anthropology as well as staff at the Wisconsin Historical Society as planning moves forward on changing this area to resemble what may have existed here prior to Euro-American settlement.

Cathie outlined the project goals for showcasing the archaeological values and residual oaks, establishing groundcover that can be mowed, improving soil conditions, and simulating aesthetics of a savanna grove. She described how she has been developing a work plan with Stephen Thomforde, a graduate student with many years of ecological restoration field experience. Stephen has been employed to assist Physical Plant with both Lot 34 and Willow Creek project planning and management. A number of interested donors and academics have submitted their recommendations to Stephen. The Willow Creek Woods site management plan will be completed during the 2008 growing season with cost details for funding the continued site work and maintenance.

Site Planning Process. Ray led a discussion on a document prepared by the East Preserve Advisory Group (“Project Planning for the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve: draft 11/27/07). The intent of this document is to provide guidance on management of the Preserve’s most intact natural communities. The document includes suggestions for setting site policies, goals and objectives; site inventories and mapping; as well as site monitoring and management activities.

The document was discussed and Kris agreed to draft a summary statement for how the guidelines would be used for Preserve management.

Submitted by Daniel Einstein