

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Minutes Mar 23, 2010**

(As approved May 25, 2010)

Present:

Kris Ackerbauer, Elsa Althen, Bill Barker, Katrina Forest, Kennedy Gilchrist, Rhonda James, Anne Readel, Sissel Schroeder, Jan Sternbach, Don Waller, Susan Will-Wolf.

Also present:

Janet Batzli (Biocore), Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Daniel Einstein (Preserve), Kimberly Koch (F. H. King, Students for Sustainable Agriculture), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Steve Thomforde (Preserve), and John Welton (F. H. King, Students for Sustainable Agriculture).

Minutes:

The minutes from the Feb. 23, 2010 committee meeting were approved.

Public comment:

The Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve will have their annual meeting on April 6, 7PM at the Arboretum, with keynote speaker Mike McDowell.

The ecological restoration contractor is nearing completion of their invasive shrub removal project at Bill's Woods. The work was funded by the Friends group.

Action/Discussion:

Sub-committees. The following new sub-committees were established:

Planning and Implementation: Susan Will-Wolf (chair), Kennedy Gilchrist, Ann Burgess, Glenda Denniston, Cathie Bruner, and Rhonda James.

Education and Research: Don Waller (chair), Susan Will-Wolf, Dave Mickelson, Janet Batzli, Cathie Bruner. Tasks: Develop protocol for approving research projects; identify places for possible research; link teaching and research; link research and management; and link arts/humanities with Preserve.

Communications and Archives: Elsa Althen (chair), Kennedy Gilchrist, Anne Readel, Daniel Einstein.

Lot 34 planting plan. Bruner presented a revised site plan and a plant list for the shoreline and upland area near Lot 34. Will-Wolf expressed concern that red cedar and hawthorn are not suitable plants for this wooded site. Other members provided alternative views on the appropriateness of these plants. The plan was approved as presented, with consideration for input provided by the committee.

F.H. King land permit expansion request. Representatives from the F.H. King Students for Sustainable Agriculture provided an overview of their current program. They expressed their desire to expand the size of their current garden plots by approximately one acre. Currently they lease a one acre parcel from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' (CALS) allocation. They are open to a location anywhere in the Preserve.

Batzli posed the question: “Is it an appropriate mission for the Preserve to expand agricultural uses within its boundaries?” She explained that a two-acre parcel at the southern end of the current Biocore allocation was treated with Transline herbicide last year to deal with the weed seed bank (e.g. crown vetch). This herbicide application makes this parcel unsuitable for the F.H. King group’s organic agriculture standards, for at least three years.

Will-Wolf commented that the Preserve is intended as a natural area.

Ann Burgess, who could not attend the meeting, sent a letter stating a similar perspective.

Several members commented that it might be more appropriate for the students to explore urban agriculture activities that could be sited elsewhere on campus.

Bruner explained that this proposal began with an initial suggestion from FPM for a land swap between Biocore and CALS. The swap would provide Biocore with a wet-mesic prairie area, currently allocated to CALS. The swap also had the potential of minimizing soil erosion related to current agricultural uses. The land swap idea was not supported by Biocore or CALS.

The request to allocate a two-acre parcel to F.H. King was rejected by the committee. Several members indicated a willingness to work with CALS and F.H. King to pursue alternative options that meet the student group’s worthy program goals.

Updates/announcements

Willow Creek Woods planting plan. The plan, approved at the February 23 meeting, included both herbaceous plants and trees/shrubs. The size and depth of the planting holes specified for the tree/shrub plantings may affect the archaeological resources at this site. Therefore, each tree/shrub planting hole will require a Phase III archaeological investigation to determine, if indeed, cultural resources are present. At this time, the tree/shrub component of the planting plan has been put on hold.

Fire plan. The draft fire plan was sent to committee members with the draft agenda. The controlled burn will occur as weather conditions permit.

Audio tour. The Preserve audio tour will launch in the coming month. This cell phone based tour will provide interpretive narratives of the Preserve’s natural and cultural history. The initial tour will include ten stops. Additional narratives, including temporary stops that highlight short term field activities (e.g., invasive plant removals, erosion control projects, and tree removals, etc.) will be added as needed.

Trail directional signs. New trail directional signs have been installed throughout the Preserve. The signs are mounted on rot-resistant black locust posts milled from Preserve trees.

Adjournment

Submitted by Daniel Einstein