

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Minutes March 31, 2008

(As revised/approved May 5, 2008)

Present:

Kris Ackerbauer, Ann Burgess, Bill Barker, Ray Guries, Lars Higdon, Zach Hirschtritt, Laura Shere, Travis Tennessen, Don Waller, Susan Will-Wolf

Also present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve staff), Glenda Denniston (Friends of Preserve), Daniel Einstein (Preserve staff), Rhonda James (FPM), Roma Lenahan (Friends of Preserve), Marcia Schmidt (Friends of Preserve), Janine Veto (UW Foundation)

Introductions:

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

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 3, 2008 Committee meeting was unanimously approved. Approved agenda and minutes are archived at the Preserve library webpage.

Public Comment Period:

Roma Lenahan declared open season on garlic mustard. She invited all present to attend the Friends work parties and to participate or sponsor someone during the May 17 Pull-a-Thon.

Action Item: FY 08b budget

The committee reviewed the proposed budget narrative and tabular budget organized according to funding splits by department and service area.

Suzy Will-Wolf expressed an interest in seeing written management plans for service areas such as Willow Creek and Frautschi Point. Bill Barker asked about the role the committee plays in reviewing these plans. Lars Higdon asked how fund allocations are made without a site plan. Ray Guries responded by saying that completing plans for Willow Creek and Frautschi Point were possible by the end of the year and that engagement of the committee is expected at some level. Initial site plans need not be extremely detailed and can be upgraded over time. Each site poses unique challenges which often require broad adaptive management approaches. A general discussion of the expectations of the committee and FP&M staff followed.

Don Waller made a motion to approve the budget, which passed unanimously.

Updates:

Signage in the Preserve. Rhonda James reported that an advisory work group had met to provide ZD Studios (design consultants) with some broad preferences for a Preserve sign program. The advisory group will meet again to review and discuss preliminary designs from ZD. The committee would then be asked to review the design options for an information kiosk, interpretive sign, wayfinding sign, and a gateway sign.

Laura Shere asked about how a new sign program would affect existing signs. Rhonda indicated that some signs would be incorporated into the new program while others might be dealt with in the future as replacement required.

A presentation to the committee is expected at the next meeting on May 5.

Archeological site management. Daniel Einstein shared a draft document that is intended to provide guidelines for managing archeological sites on campus, including the Preserve and Arboretum. Initial review by the Wisconsin Historical Society and Arboretum staff has occurred. With additional refinements the guidelines will be shared with staff from the Ho-Chunk Nation heritage preservation department.

A specific application of the guidelines was included to address the Willow Creek Woods site where vegetation management activities will continue this spring. Given the special archeological status of this site, fire and foliar applications of herbicide will not be used at this site.

Discussion:

Dogs in the Preserve. Daniel Einstein explained that UW System staff are revising Chapter 17 and 18 of the administrative code. The current code allows dogs on leashes within the Preserve, however, a number of dog owners disregard this restriction and allow their dogs off leash. An opportunity exists to request that the code be changed to address this problem.

Committee members indicated that this was a complicated problem, but that further public input would be needed before a change could be implemented. It was pointed out that the opportunity to suggest revisions may pass before sufficient public discussions could occur.

Therefore, it might be possible to request a change to the code (prohibiting dogs in natural areas) and then ask that the chief administrative officer grant an exception to the code for the Preserve. In effect, this strategy would change the code, but not the current practice. If in the future, following public input, the Preserve wanted to restrict dogs in the Preserve the code would have language that would make this possible.

Ray agreed to draft a letter that reflected the desire of the committee to have the code revised yet maintain the current dogs on leash practice.

Academic endowment at UW Foundation. A brief discussion occurred regarding the size

and intent of the “academic endowment” for the Preserve held at the UW Foundation. The guidelines for the use of this fund are not extremely explicit but seem to orient use of the fund to projects/uses that occur under the direction of a faculty member. We will seek further clarification of the preferred uses of this small fund.

Project planning guidelines. Based on discussions at earlier meetings, Kris Ackerbauer clarified that FP&M is very supportive of the need for guidelines for the management of different Preserve areas. Record keeping and site plans are valuable aids to understanding what practices should be used where, but information quality and quantity will always vary across different sites in the Preserve. FP&M is committed to working with stakeholders to maintain and improve the Lakeshore Preserve for the range of uses identified in the Master Plan.

Submitted by Daniel Einstein