

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Minutes May 5, 2008

As approved: October 30, 2008

Present:

Kris Ackerbauer, Ann Burgess, Bill Barker, Ray Guries, Lars Higdon, Laura Shere, Janet Silbernagel, Don Waller, Susan Will-Wolf

Also present:

Elsa Althen (new committee member, fall 2008), Gary Brown (FPM), Cathie Bruner (Preserve staff), Amy Jo Dusick (Students of Lakeshore Nature Preserve), Daniel Einstein (Preserve staff), Russ Hefty (Madison Parks), Rhonda James (FPM), and Janine Veto (UW Foundation)

Introductions:

Ray Guries welcomed attendees, followed by brief introductions of all present. Daniel Einstein indicated that this would be the last meeting for committee's student members: Lars Higdon, Travis Tennesen and Zach Hirschtritt. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work and many contributions made by the students over the past several years. Thank you!

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 31, 2008 Committee meeting was unanimously approved, with minor edits offered by Ann Burgess. Approved agenda and minutes are archived at the Preserve library webpage.

Public Comment Period:

Ann Burgess invited all present to attend the Friends work parties and to participate or sponsor someone during the May 17 Garlic Mustard Pull-a-Thon. Amy Jo Dusick displayed the new T-shirt produced by the Student's of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve group. Daniel announced that the most recent edition of the Preserve E-newsletter had been posted on the website and notice had been sent to those on the email subscription list.

Bill Barker related an unpleasant encounter with a Preserve visitor and his off-leash dog. Ray said he will include this story in his letter to the Dean of Students requesting a change in university dog policies. Bill also commented that the Engineering students who are using Lot 60 for a practice race track were not abiding by the noise rules for use of this facility. Daniel said he would follow-up on this complaint.

Discussion:

Preserve sign design: Rhonda James, FPM landscape architect, and a ZD Studios consultant, presented a progress report on the sign design project. Committee members offered their views regarding color schemes, material choices for the gateway sign and the need for highly visible wayfinding signs on Lake Mendota Drive. Laura Shere asked if the new sign program would result in the replacement of the current Eagle Heights Garden information kiosk. Gary Brown said replacement would not be mandated.

Daniel requested that the Preserve FY 08b budget be amended to include \$8000 for the development of sign prototypes. Bill Barker made a formal proposal to this effect, seconded by Don Waller. The motion passed unanimously.

Lake Mendota water level: Don Waller launched a discussion on Lake Mendota water levels which frequently exceed upper limits during the summer months. He suggested that the Preserve should develop plans for the university's littoral zones. Russ Hefty, Madison Parks Department, provided some ecological background on the issue, as well as an update on current efforts by the county and city government who are working with the Department of Natural Resources on a review of the current conditions.

Ray indicated that it would be appropriate for the Preserve committee to sponsor a public forum to share information on the issue this fall. FPM staff will convene a meeting of university stakeholders (Hooper's, Athletic Department/Crew, Union Outdoor Rentals, Plumbing shop, etc.) this summer to gather input on how a reduction in lake levels might affect university programs and operations.

Submitted by Daniel Einstein