

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Wednesday November 18, 2015
8:00-9:30AM
Union South - Landmark Room
Approved MINUTES

Present:

Gary Brown, David Drake, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Paul Metscher, Donna Paulnock, Anne Pearce, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Will Waller

Also Present:

Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Galen Hasler (Friends), Greta Helmueller (Student Engagement Grant recipient), Roma Lenehan (Friends), John Magnuson (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion was made by Drake and seconded by Metscher to approve the October 21, 2015 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Gilchrist found a dead ring-billed gull with a big lure in its mouth in the trash by the boat landing

Student Engagement Grant Recipient Presentation (Greta Helmueller)

Helmueller worked with mentor Emeritus Professor John Magnuson on a project to look at the distribution of chloride from road salt and the snow pile in the Class of 1918 Marsh. They sampled chloride levels at 14 sites along the flow system of the marsh and around the snow pile.

Helmueller's research questions were:

- Are there chloride concentrations in the marsh above the toxicity levels set by the DNR?
- Do chloride levels fully recover from wintertime highs?
- How did the meteorological differences between two years (of data) affect the salt concentrations?

Conclusions:

- Chloride levels were similar in Fall 2014 and Spring/Summer 2015
- Winter of 2012-2013 was more variable than 2014-2015
 - There was more snowfall and more snow melt events in 2012-2013
 - Temps were consistently colder in 2014-2015
- Chloride levels were above some/all of toxicity standards
 - Fall/Spring/Summer- around chronic levels (395 mg/L)
 - Winter- around chronic and acute levels (757 mg/L)
 - Acute toxicity can result in the death of an organism "before the day is out."

Future questions:

- How much of the elevated chloride levels in the winter was due to an influx of road salt, and how much was due to the chloride concentrating as the water froze?

- Are the chloride concentrations correlated with precipitation/snow melt events?
- What are the baseline chloride levels? -Hotchkiss offered to help analyze sediments for baseline data.

A suggestion was made to contact UW Grounds Department Supervisor Ellen Agnew for amounts of salt laid down and labor hours.

Helmuller saw some dead turtles when the ice came off marsh. Drake said it may be possible to collect the carcasses and do a necropsy to find out if they had acute salt poisoning.

When asked what happens to particulates from melting snow pile, James said the snow pile base is a couple feet deep and made of 2-3 inch gravel to trap particulates. It also has a series of vegetated settling swales between it and the marsh. It was constructed in 2008-2009 but has existed there for some time before that.

Magnuson said the location of the snow pile by the marsh is good in that it somewhat reduces heavy metals before go into the lake, but chloride is soluble.

Helmuller thanked the Committee for their support. She learned a lot from the research process.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)

See Preserve Staff Reports –November 18, 2015

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports –November 18, 2015

Additional comments:

The entrance at Picnic Point where the gates were removed has been secured with a chain. We will have a key check out system for researchers or others who need to go in that entrance after 4pm or on the weekends. We hope the chain keeps vehicles and bikes from using the service road.

3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports –November 18, 2015

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports –November 18, 2015

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports –November 18, 2015

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)

Friends were happy to supply pizza for the Students for the Preserve meeting. The Bird and Nature Walks lead by volunteer Paul Noeldner have been well attended. Save the date for the Friends Annual Meeting on April 5, 2016. Spencer Black will be the speaker. Waller urged the

committee to visit the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve website, in particular the *People and Events* page and the *Blog*, for thorough info on what is happening in the Preserve.

Update on Reorganization of Students for the Preserve (Anne Pearce and Paul Metscher)

About 20 students attended the kick-off meeting on Nov. 4. Attendees were asked to brainstorm ideas for the group. Responses included: volunteering in the Preserve, visiting the Preserve, campfires on Picnic Point, and doing research. Notice of the meeting went out through the Forestry and Wildlife Clubs, flyers at residence halls, and via email to Sustain-a-bash attendees and student volunteers. A planned volunteer event was cancelled due to rain. The group plans to have an informal social event during study week.

A discussion that followed recommended creating a list of undergraduate student research projects for Biology 152 or for other interested students including the Students for the Preserve. A list of potential faculty advisors could also be developed.

Planning and Implementation Subcommittee –Project Proposals (Alan Turnquist)

Four projects proposals were reviewed by the Planning and Implementation subcommittee.

- 1) Eagle Heights Community Gardens—Stormwater Erosion Mitigation Project
- 2) Ground Water Monitoring
- 3) Intern sponsorship
- 4) Wildflower Planting

The subcommittee recommend the two returning projects—Intern sponsorship and Wildflower planting be approved—while the remaining two proposals-- Stormwater Erosion Mitigation and Groundwater Monitoring Project—be resubmitted as research permits, since neither involves physical changes to the landscape at this time. Brown reminded all that if and when any of the research projects move into recommendations for implementation, at that point a project proposal would need to be submitted for review.

The subcommittee would like to get a short synopsis from the Friends of the Preserve of the changes that have taken place at Frautschi Point as a result of the 3 previous years of planting.

A motion to accept the recommendations by the subcommittee was made by Drake and seconded by Hotchkiss. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was moved by Drake and seconded by Metscher. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist