

**Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee**  
**Wednesday September 23, 2015**  
**8:00-9:30AM**  
**Union South T.I.T.U.**  
**Approved MINUTES**

**Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Rowyn Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Drake and seconded by Hahn to approve the May 1, 2015 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period**

Anne Pearce has been working with Laura Wyatt from the Preserve and Gisela Gutzbach from the Friends of the Preserve to reinvigorate the Students for the Preserve group. Phil Townsend and David Drake suggested talking to the Forestry Club and the student chapter of the Wildlife Society; students from the *Forests, Sustainable Use, and the Environment* FIG; and the student birding group. Sara Hotchkiss suggested talking to the undergraduate Botany group. Jacob Hahn said he may have some students through the Memorial Union who might also be interested in joining the Students for the Preserve. It will be important that the group become a fully registered student organization to gain funding opportunities through the Associated Students of Madison (ASM).

**Staff Reports**

1. Director Report (Gary Brown)

*See Preserve Staff Reports—September 23, 2015*

**Additional Comments:**

Brown encouraged members to attend the Campus Master Plan Update presentation on October 27 (7-9pm in the Health Sciences Learning Center). Some of the alternatives that will be presented impact the Preserve. The 2005 master plan called for removing lot 34. Planners are now looking at how this hillside can be better used as part of the Preserve. Lot 60 is also impacted with plans showing it being replaced with structured parking and a new track and field facility. The area includes additional health science facilities. Willow Creek is also a key detailed study area. The city of Madison is going to implement their stormwater management facility in the first 200 feet of Willow Creek next summer, as previously presented, but there may be

alternatives to the current straight shot into Lake Mendota for the remainder of the creek. The desire is to make the creek an amenity for the campus users to enjoy. It could also be more of a teaching facility.

## 2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

*See Preserve Staff Reports—September 23, 2015*

Additional Comments:

Not everyone on campus knows that they need to obtain teaching and research permits prior to implementing activities in the Preserve. For example we found out that a Plant Pathology course was collecting specimens in the Preserve and in the Eagle Heights Community Gardens. Collection of any type is prohibited according to Board of Regents policy unless specifically granted through a permit. It is important for us to quantify and document what is happening in the Preserve especially in times of budget cuts. Members were asked to contact Laura Wyatt if they came across anyone who is/was doing research without a permit so that they can be asked to help support this policy requirement.

Rhonda James designed a new entrance to the main Picnic Point trail that prevents bikes from entering. The gates surrounding the paved service road entrance will be removed and stored until there are funds to refurbish and reinstall. During the interim, a post and chain system will be installed to control bicycle and vehicular access on this service road. Bikes continue to be an issue as they gain access from other entry points in the Preserve.

David Drake, who also serves on the Arboretum committee, asked if there is a coordinated effort by the Preserve and the Arboretum on fundraising activities so we don't "double ask" potential donors. Brown, Wyatt, and Donna Paulnock all agreed that they were coordinating efforts through the UW Foundation and will continue to do so in the future.

## 3. Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

The Lot 60 stormwater facility is complete and the initial maintenance period continues. There was some touch up work at the University Houses Gardens to add more capacity to the new stormwater facilities. A weed pile pad was also added at those gardens.

The UW Housing Haight Road reconstruction project will include resurfacing and adding a continuous sidewalk. The Housing storage shed and recycle lot above Big Woods will help manage stormwater issues and add a shed to help visually contain the materials stored currently outside in this area. The consultants are working on construction documents for both projects so that they can be implemented next summer.

The West Natatorium Recreational Fields are also in design development and the desire is to convert the existing fields to a porous artificial turf system. Staff will keep the committee posted on these developing plans.

The limestone fire ring around fire circle #6 needs to be repaired and will be replaced with granite between Oct. 5 and Oct 13.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

*See Preserve Staff Reports—September 23, 2015*

5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Sriver)

*See Preserve Staff Reports—September 23, 2015*

**Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Waller)**

The Friends of the Preserve spent between \$9,000-10,000 to fund the Prairie Partners Interns this summer. They also spent between \$4,000-5,000 (mainly plants) for some small scale restoration projects in the Preserve.

The Friends have currently raised \$142,000 for the Eagle Heights Woods project. The goal was \$135,000. The fundraising team: Gisela Kutzbach, Peter Fisher, and Sue Denholm will continue to pursue opportunities, but for the most part the significant fundraising efforts are complete.

Friends Board member Mike Parsen is on the state geological survey staff. He is a hydro-geologist specializing in sub-surface (water table) issues. He has proposed installing sonar instruments in several abandoned wells in the Picnic Point area. These instruments would measure and record well-water levels. The project ties into a state wide initiative to measure subsurface water levels. The Friends are considering financial support for these instruments.

The Friends are in the process of working with a UW Civil and Environmental Engineering Capstone class to study the ground water runoff from Biocore Prairie and the Gardens through and around the garden compost pile. The nutrient rich water flows through Bill's Wood, down the paved trail, and into the stormwater swale along University Bay Drive. Charlie Quagliana, a local architect and lecturer in CEE, made an on-site visit in late August. The Friends are considering financial support of this study. They will coordinate with Preserve Staff and, in particular, Landscape Architect, Rhonda James.

**2015 Work Plan 6-month Status Report (Preserve Staff)**

*See Report*

**Committee Calendar and Subcommittee Organization (Phil Townsend and Laura Wyatt)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder meeting for the 2016 Budget & Work Plan process is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 29 at WARF room 132 at 5pm.

The next Preserve Committee meeting is Wed. Oct. 21 at Union South (check T.I.T.U.) at 8AM.

Traditionally there have been three working subcommittees that provide support to the overall Preserve Committee.

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee reviews project proposals for recommendation to the Committee.

The Education subcommittee reviews the Student Engagement Grant proposals for recommendation to the Committee.

The Communication subcommittee is being asked to help review specific sections of the Preserve website as updates are made later this year.

Every subcommittee is open for new members. Please contact Laura Wyatt in the next two weeks to indicate which of these subcommittees you'd like to serve on. Staff will be supporting the work of these groups but the subcommittee members are needed for support and advisement.

**Adjournment**

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

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist