

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Monday February 22, 2016
3:30-5:00pm
Union South - Landmark Room
Approved MINUTES

Present:

Gary Brown, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Ekaterina Mullendore, Anne Pearce, Phil Townsend, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Ann Burgess (Friends), Peter Fisher (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion was made by Hotchkiss and seconded by Pearce to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2015 meeting.

Comments

Student committee member Paul Metscher submitted his resignation from the committee because he is studying abroad in Cuba this semester. He plans to apply for a student position on the Committee again next fall.

Staff Reports

See Preserve Staff Report handout –Feb. 22, 2016

2016 Budget and Workplan (Gary Brown)

Staff clarified the Picnic Point fire circles line in the Capital Budget. The number of fire circles will remain the same. All of the picnic sites will be evaluated by Rhonda James in 2016 for what is needed to improve them in terms of controlling erosion, fixing seating, etc. Cost estimates for the repairs will also be provided.

A motion to approve the 2016 Workplan, the 2016 Operating Budget and the 2016 Capital Budget was moved by Urrutia and seconded by Hotchkiss. The motion carried unanimously.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Peter Fisher)

Phil Townsend gave a presentation to the Friends Board at their February 2nd meeting on hyperspectral imaging. Friends member Mike Parsen has been working with the Capstone Environmental/Civil Engineering students who are presenting to Preserve Stakeholders on March 3rd, at Engineering Hall, 8 AM. Reminder: Spencer Black is presenting his take on challenges to Wisconsin's conservation heritage at the Friends Annual Meeting on April 5th at the Arboretum Visitor Center.

Students for the Preserve update (Anne Pearce)

Jacob Hahn at Outdoor UW offered free snowshoes rentals to the Students for the Preserve however the weather hasn't cooperated—too cold and windy one week and no snow the next. The Students continue to promote Preserve volunteer events and field trips to their members.

They are also working with Preserve staff to plan events on Earth Day and Arbor Day this spring. They are working on creating a better organizational structure to get events and activities rolling right away next fall. Both Anne Pearce and Katya Mullendore, the student Preserve Committee representatives who are organizing the Students for the Preserve, will finish their programs this spring.

Campus Master Plan Presentation (Gary Brown and Phil Townsend)

Brown encouraged everyone to attend the Draft Preliminary Master Plan presentation to be presented at an open house on February 24th at Gordon Commons from 7-9 PM. The slides from that meeting will be posted on the 2015 Campus Mater Plan website: <http://masterplan.wisc.edu>.

Brown provided an overview of the current Draft Preliminary Master Plan with a focus on specific area recommendations near the Preserve.

The draft Landscape Master Plan recognizes 4 types of landscapes on campus—social, active, working and natural. The plan is working toward bringing more natural types of landscapes into the campus for pollinators, wildlife, etc.

The Campus Master Plan envisions space for a Preserve Outreach Center that would include: classroom space (for students to gather prior to going into the field or someplace to meet and work in case of inclement weather), outreach display space, restrooms, staff offices, and storage space for Preserve equipment and vehicles (now spread between 5 places on campus). University Bay Drive would be relocated to the south closer to the Class of 1918 Marsh so that parking and the outreach center would be on the Picnic Point side of the road in about the location of the existing road. An outreach center is a long range goal, but it is important to show this in the Campus Master Plan Update in the event a donor materializes with an interest in funding the project.

A suggestion was made to turn the old Beach/Bath House into an outreach center but staff said its current location is too far from the entrance and it would not be cost effective to move the old building. There are also significant issues with utilities and the building is not large enough for the type of outreach center envisioned.

Brown mentioned that he would like to find a new location for the snow pile and the Grounds storage areas so that they are out of the Preserve.

The west campus area will need more outdoor social spaces in the future as the health sciences campus grows. Plans incorporate green spaces and a pedestrian corridor from the hospital complex to the lake. “Green streets” will manage stormwater along the street instead of dumping it into a pipe and then into to the lake. Trees and other vegetation will help filter sand and salt before it goes to the lake.

The near west campus around Willow Creek is envisioned as a green district to visually connect the east and west campus more effectively. Green infrastructure approaches such as adding bioswales can help control sediment in stormwater runoff. The creek can be activated with social spaces. The Willow Creek delta will be dealt with after Willow Creek is improved as a social and working space. Cost and space needs will be high for dewatering/disposing of lake sediment from the delta.

In the Observatory Hill area, the mowed lawn north of Observatory Drive would be replaced in part by an oak savanna and meadow ecosystem with a much smaller space dedicated to mowed lawn for passive recreation near Liz Waters Hall. At the bottom of the hill, Lot 34 would be eliminated (parking would be relocated to central campus in a parking ramp at the corner of Linden and Charter Streets) and replaced with stormwater fed wetlands with boardwalks and observation decks. This area will be used for academic purposes in teaching biology, botany, stormwater management and ecosystem services.

Brown reminded the Committee that it will take decades for the complete Campus Master Plan to unfold and many of the recommendations may change over time or may never happen. He also reminded the committee that the Preserve will have its own updated Master Plan which they will play a big role in developing in the coming years.

The committee decided to provide a short document (bulleted list) to the Master Plan Group to provide input into the overall process. Members were asked to send Townsend a list of recommendations that they support and ones that they have concerns about in the draft plan. Townsend will bring the list to the March Preserve Committee meeting so that it can be finalized before the next Master Plan open house on April 13th.

Committee members not present at today's meeting will be contacted to remind them to attend the Wednesday Master Plan Open House meeting and present comments to Townsend.

Brown wants to know about significant red flags so the master planning group can create alternatives. For example, since the group heard from the Friends of the Preserve about concerns related to changing the shoreline on the west end of campus near Lot 60, the master plan team eliminated that alternative.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 14 from Noon to 1:30pm at Union South.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist