

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday Sept. 19, 2013

1:00-2:30PM

1420 WARF

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Gary Brown, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Gisela Kutzbach, Donna Paulnock, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia,

Also Present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenahan (Friends), Ron Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Waller (Friends)

Minutes:

Amato moved to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2013 meeting. Urrutia seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without changes.

Public Comment Period for Items not on the Agenda:

Amato, Bruner and Andrea Coffin met over the summer to discuss ways to increase education and research happening in the Preserve. Amato put together a survey to send to instructors who already use the Preserve. He will submit a short report on the results of the survey at the next meeting.

There was a very nice short article on the Friends of the Preserve sponsored field trips in the Capital Times.

Six-month status report on the 2013 work plan (Gary Brown):

Brown went over major highlights from the handout "2013 Work Plan (Six-month Status Report – August 2013)". The document provides a summary of the work accomplished in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve during the first 6 months of FY 2013 (March through August). He pointed out that the budget process for FY14 will start next week.

Volunteer Report (Bryn Scriver):

For the first 6 months of 2013, 383 volunteers, including 24 student and community groups, donated 1053 hours to the care of the Preserve. From Jan. to June, volunteers removed buckthorn and honeysuckle, pulled garlic mustard, hauled brush for chipping, spread chips on trails, and planted plugs of native species on Picnic Point. In addition, two Friends of the Preserve

memorial events engaged volunteers who prepared for and planted over 1000 native plants in Frautschi Point and who removed trash and weeds around the Class of 1918 Marsh for the official opening of the Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh.

Project updates (Rhonda James):

1) West campus stormwater project

The intent of the project is to remove sediment from the stormwater that falls on university lands before it reaches the lake. The overflow parking in lot 60 will be removed to construct a stormwater pond. The pond and its margins will be replanted with emergent vegetation, shrubs and trees. The ditches between University Bay Drive and the Lakeshore Path west of the entrance to Picnic Point will be excavated to create bio-retention swales designed to hold and slowly release stormwater. The bio-retention swales will also be planted with native vegetation.

2) Eagle Heights Woods planning

Staff has been working with me on a site specific plan for the mounds zone at the top of Eagle Heights Woods. The draft will go to the Planning and Implementation subcommittee.

3) Picnic Point tip and fire site #2

The contractor has continued to water and weed, but the project at the tip of Picnic Point at fire circle #6 is complete. Staff will evaluate if we need to bring in new species and probably do some overseeding.

Schroeder thanked James for her “amazing job” on the oversight of the tip project. The sight was stunning this summer with all the yellow flowers.

The work at fire circle #2 is complete except for some additional seeding under the oak tree this fall or winter. The benches at fire circle #2 are made from white oak and Preserve harvested and black locust.

4) Frautschi Point entry

The Frautschi Point entry planting is complete. Staff and volunteers continue to weed and water it. According to Ignatoski she has received lots of positive comments on the planting from Eagle Heights residents.

Subcommittees (Sissel Schroeder):

New members are needed for the various subcommittees.

1) Information Dissemination/Education subcommittee

Amato and Andrea Coffin (who left the UW) put together a survey for faculty and staff who use the Preserve for teaching and research to find out what was or was not working for them and how the Preserve Committee can encourage more academic use of the Preserve.

Amato and Coffin also conferred with DoIT to find out what it would cost to develop an app that made the Preserve interactive map useable on mobile devices with capabilities to upload photos and other data with GPS coordinates. The price tag was around \$20,000. The development subcommittee would need to be involved to fund such a project. However it could be a powerful idea to raise excitement, funds and attention for the Preserve.

Gisela Kutzbach agreed to join Amato on the subcommittee.

2) Communications/archiving subcommittee:

We want to find ways to archive all the records of the activities of the Preserve, past use, class inventories, etc... Rachael Bower and Andrea Coffin worked with School of Library and Information Studies professor Kristin Eschenfelder who taught an undergraduate course on cataloging using Preserve materials.

Townsend asked who would do the work and where would it reside? Need to have someone who guides this so not affected by turnover.

Schroeder said the first step would be to develop a mission statement to decide what is valuable and what might not be. The subcommittee would need to talk to staff about what's available.

Paulnock said the UW Arboretum may be able to help by sharing their best practices.

Townsend and Paulnock agreed to be part of an initial meeting.

Townsend will contact Suzy Will-Wolf who has 20 years of class data to archive to see if she wants to be part of an initial meeting.

They will wait to hear from Schroeder about next steps.

3) Planning and implementation subcommittee:

This has been an important subcommittee for the last several years. Recent members included Ann Burgess and Glenda Denniston from the Friends of the Preserve, Suzy Will-Wolf from the Preserve Committee, Rhonda James an ex-officio member of the Committee and staff member Cathie Bruner.

The job of the Planning and Implementation subcommittee has been to develop priorities for projects and to review the Preserve work plan before it goes to the Preserve Committee.

Ann Burgess would like to continue to sit on the subcommittee.

Brown said that the subcommittee cannot be made up solely of Preserve staff and volunteers; we need a voting Preserve Committee member.

Urrutia and Turnquist agreed to meet with Bruner to learn more about the subcommittee.

4) Development

The development subcommittee has existed but has not met. Schroeder will be part of the subcommittee which needs to develop strategic priorities. She believes that a lot of people would like to donate but they want to see a specific goal. Ideas for fundraising include developing a Preserve app and improvements to existing picnic/fire sites.

Kutzbach said she, Dick McCoy, and Bill Barker worked on developing a script a number of years ago that would be appealing to specific donor groups. Is that list still relevant? Has staff reviewed it?

Brown said that the Preserve is an “orphan” at the UW Foundation, but that he can usually find someone there to help him.

Paulnock suggested that like-minded groups on campus like the Preserve, the Arboretum, the Nelson Institute, and Outdoor UW could collaborate to make bigger things happen.

Kutzbach suggested Blair Matthews and Dick McCoy be part of the Development subcommittee. She said McCoy’s specialty is class gifts.

Hahn volunteered to be on the development subcommittee since he is currently working on fundraising for Outdoor UW.

Overview of Budget Process (Gary Brown):

The Preserve fiscal year is March to March, not July to July. It was changed so that it would better coincide with what was going on in the field.

Staff is working to develop a draft work plan, operating and capital budget which will be presented at the November Preserve committee meeting. The committee should review the documents over the winter break.

On the last Tuesday in January we will review the documents in a public setting and incorporate comments into the final form. The final draft of the documents will be presented for approval at the February Preserve committee meeting.

Brown encouraged committee members to attend the public stakeholder meetings to hear their concerns and to get ideas of where they might be able to help as active members of the committee.

Next Stakeholder meeting: Tues. Sept. 24, 5pm Room 132 WARF

Academic Fund for the Lakeshore Nature Preserve (Sissel Schroeder):

The purpose of the Academic fund is to offer flexible funding to implement aspects of the Preserve master plan with particular emphasis on support of academic programs that contribute to restoration and management of the Preserve. In the past the fund has helped support graduate project assistants. The money is transferred to the academic unit and the graduate student is supervised through that academic unit.

The money in this fund has not been spent for a couple years. We spend the accrued interest only. The expendable fund now totals \$27,000. Usually \$3000 is spendable in any given year. There has never been a formal request for proposals. Mostly the money has been spent by linking a specific class or student research project to a goal of the master plan.

Schroeder asked if we should we do a formal request for proposals to increases transparency. Other ideas for use of the fund: development of a mobile app, partially support a teaching assistant for a spring 2014 course taught by Adrian Treves which develops and conducts Preserve visitor surveys, support a project assistant to archive Preserve materials.

Schroeder suggested the discussion be continued in a more concrete way with the Information Dissemination/Education subcommittee.

Friends of the Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach):

The Friends have been working on a new mission statement and goals. The focus of the mission statement is to connect people to the Preserve and of caring for the Preserve. Three goals that they have discussed include land stewardship, advocacy and financial support, and education. The mission and goals will be complete this fall and published in the Friends newsletter.

The Friends will be analyzing their strengths and weaknesses. Field trips have been the traditional form of outreach from the Friends, but it reaches a limited number of people. Other forms of outreach they have conducted this year have been to the UW community and students through events in the Eagle Heights community, participation in UW Science Expeditions, and collaboration with the UW “green scene” for Party on the Path coordinated by student board member Olivia Sanderfoot. Ideas for future outreach include tours for students and parents on Parent Weekend. Working more closely with the UW Hospital and Clinics, and finding more ways for people to volunteer.

The Friends have funded summer interns for the Preserve through the Prairie Partners for almost eight years. They are currently re-evaluating the program for the appropriate level of educational component and what an evaluation process should look like.

Kutzbach said it’s difficult to get project proposals to the Preserve Director by November 1. She would like the Director or staff to come to Friends Board meetings to let them know what our general plans are and to help them find a project that works for us.

John Magnuson has connected with a UW archivist who is willing to take Friends materials.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was moved by Turnquist and seconded by Amato.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver