

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday November 21, 2013

1:00-2:30PM

1420 WARF

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Gary Brown, Rhonda James, Gisela Kutzbach, Donna Paulnock, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Phil Townsend, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia, Jacob Hahn, Chloe Wardropper

Also Present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), David Drake (Forest and Wildlife Ecology), Bill Elvey (FPM), Kennedy Gilchrist (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Galen Hasler (Friends), Ann Hayes (FPM), John Horn (Rec Sports), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Ron Noe (Preserve), Alex Peirce (Rec Sports), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Waller (Friends), Mike Warren (Rec Sports)

Minutes:

Amato moved to approve the minutes from the Sept. 19, 2013 meeting. Townsend seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a change requested by Kutzbach, strike “4 boxes of” on page 5.

Public Comment Period for Items not on the Agenda:

Gary Brown addressed the recent issue of waterfowl hunting north of Picnic Point. At least one hunter was standing in the water on the north shore of Picnic Point shooting to the North over a set of decoys. Another hunter was retrieving the shot birds in a boat. Preserve visitors and Friends of the Preserve were the first to report that hunting activity was taking place.

The UW has been diligent about following up on this issue over the last couple weeks to find out the facts and legal ramifications. Up until yesterday Brown was being told by UW legal staff and the UW Police Department that the hunting was legal. It is also legal to carry an unloaded weapon on UW property. However early today Brown received word from the Madison Mayor’s office that the area in question is under the jurisdiction of the city of Madison and discharge of firearms is not allowed in city boundaries. He has had no direct word yet from the city police and legal departments.

Brown thanked the Friends for advocating for the Preserve. The Preserve will issue more information when all the facts are on the table. Madison police will try to enforce the city ordinance, however the DNR may choose to try to void the ordinance—the state can override

firearm discharge ordinances if they feel it adversely affects hunting. The local DNR warden still believes it's legal to hunt in this area. The duck hunting season closes on Dec. 1.

Kennedy Gilchrist commended the Friends for pushing the issue and Gary Brown for finding the facts. Gisela Kutzbach also thanked the Friends for networking by telephone and email and using their connections to push the issue. She suggested posting no hunting signs before the next duck hunting season since there may be more pressure on the DNR to allow the hunt to continue.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Gisela Kutzbach)

Kutzbach highlighted the Friends of the Preserve report sent out with the meeting materials. The Friends approved a revised Mission and Goals Statement.

Use of Academic Fund for coyote/fox monitoring collar purchase request (David Drake)

David Drake and his students have been working with Preserve staff on coyote issues. Last spring one of Drake's students put out trail cameras to verify the presence of coyotes in Bill's Woods. This year there have been many fox sightings on the east end of campus. Drake and a student would like to study fox, coyote, and human interactions by capturing 2 fox and 2 coyote and outfitting them with radio collars. Drake asked the Preserve Committee for \$500 from the Preserve Academic Fund to purchase 2 of the radio collars, which have a 2-3 year life span. The Preserve Committee has spending authority over the Academic Fund. Amato made a motion to approve the proposal to purchase 2 radio collars for \$500 from the Academic Fund; Urrutia seconded the motion. The motion passed. Drake will report back to the Committee on the study's findings.

Rec Sports Master Plan presentation (John Horn)

John Horn, the Director of Rec Sports, presented the Rec Sports Facilities Master Plan. The plan is conceptual. It has not been designed or approved. He is gathering feedback to take back to the division for consideration. Rec Sports is working with the Milwaukee firm Kahler Slater.

Goals of the Rec Sports Master Plan are:

1. Increase indoor and outdoor space
2. Expand programming
3. Determines student tolerance and priorities for expansion
4. Develop master plan that serves the campus population and meets student demands

According to Horn Rec Sports is not currently meeting its mission; they have to turn away 80% of requests. Additionally Rec Sports facilities fall below every fitness and rec health standard.

The Plan calls for a rebuild of the SERF, remodeling and an addition to the Nat, an addition to the Nielsen Tennis Stadium, and changes to outdoor rec fields.

The outdoor rec fields consist of: Near West Fields west of the Nat near UW Marching Band Field, Near East Fields south of DeJope Hall, and the University Bay/Far West Fields. The field upgrades are needed because they currently lose 25-40% of scheduled games—148 games were lost this fall due to poor conditions of fields. To see conceptual images of the outdoor rec fields go to the Rec Sports blog: <http://uwmadisonrecsports.wordpress.com/2013/12/16/outdoor-fields-concept-images-revealed/>

The new fields will include the following features and amenities:

- 3 lighted outdoor activity spaces (Near West, Near East, and University Bay)
- Ecofill synthetic turf fields in some locations (infill made from recycled materials; environmental impact study will be completed at all locations prior to installation)
- 5 Flag Football fields at Near West
- 5 Soccer fields at Near East (including one championship field)
- 2 Softball Fields at University Bay
- Baseball Field at University Bay
- 2 each, Lacrosse and Rugby fields at University Bay
- Soccer/Ultimate Frisbee field at University Bay
- 2 picnic shelters with concession windows, storage, and restrooms at University Bay
- 1.5-mile parcourse fitness track at University Bay

The University Bay fields are envisioned as a sport complex with new parking. While there is synthetic turf in the plan, the 100 year flood plain will remain natural grass.

The SERF, Nat, Near East and Near West fields would be covered by student segregated fees. There will be a student referendum in Spring 2014. It would ask for \$144.78 per semester from students, only to be paid once the facilities are open. Private donations will be sought for the changes to the Nielsen Tennis Stadium and the University Bay fields; they will not be voted on.

To see the Master Plan Timeline go to the Rec Sports blog:

<http://uwmadisonrecsports.wordpress.com/2013/12/16/master-plan-phasing-timeline/>

Questions/comments:

Denniston pointed out three possible areas of impact on the Preserve: 1) loud noise/music from athletic events, 2) too much lighting from a naturalist's point of view, 3) artificial turf permeability and how it affects the Class of 1918 Marsh.

Horn wanted to distinguish Rec Sports from intercollegiate athletics which plays music at the Track and Softball fields. Rec Sports envisions the PA system being used to announce the next game being played or to announce line ups during tournaments.

He also said the new technology allows lights to be directed onto the fields and not onto surrounding areas. They would use Musco shaded lighting.

The synthetic turf field would be made using an ecofill recycled product that doesn't float like rubber or contain sand. It can be made to match the surrounding natural grass. They can produce data to show the synthetic turf drainage systems hold water better than existing fields. They do not require fertilization, pest control, watering, or mowing and last about 10-15 years. They can be used about 95% of the time compared to the 60-75% use rate of the natural fields now.

Denniston also believes the development will cut down on bird use on flooded fields. Schmidt echoed that saying birds, including sandhill cranes, spend lot of time in the playing fields on the natural grass. They are concerned that the artificial turf, extra people and light poles may interfere with this.

Brown said a complete Environmental Impact Statement will have to be conducted before construction to address impacts to the marsh. From that, decisions can be made to mitigate impacts or change the design.

You can read more about the Rec Sports Master Plan on their blog <http://uwmadisonrecsports.wordpress.com/>

UW-Madison Archeological Sites Land Management Guidelines (Daniel Einstein)

Daniel Einstein presented the Archeological Sites Land Management Guidelines for feedback and approval so that staff can move forward with land management projects in Preserve.

There are no universal standards for how archeological sites are to be managed. The Guidelines were shared with the Wisconsin Historical Society, the UW Archeology Department and the Ho-Chunk. All were comfortable with them.

Questions/comments:

Burgess was concerned with restrictions on planting in archeological sites.

Einstein said seeds are preferable to planting although he knows some plants don't germinate well from seed. Plants may be installed by insertion methods which has minimal soil disturbance. However planting, even the minimal insertion method, would not be allowed on the burial mound surface out of respect for native peoples. Planting of container grown forbs, shrubs and trees may be allowed but a plan would have to be presented to the Wisconsin Historical Society which may require that an archeological monitor be present while excavating holes. The permission process may also require a 60 day review by all the state tribes. The guidelines are intended to allow us to move forward with management of these sites while securing burial sites from soil disturbance.

Bruner said that staff doesn't feel that the guidelines are too restrictive.

Amato moved to approve the Archeological Sites Land Management Guidelines; Urrutia seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FY14 Budget & Work Plan draft documents (Gary Brown)

Brown presented 3 budget documents: 2014 draft Work Plan, 2014 draft Capital Budget, 2014 draft Operating Budget.

No significant changes were made to the Work Plan and no new Capital Budget projects are proposed. We want to stay in a holding pattern to take care of areas that we are currently working on before working in more areas.

There was a small increase in the Operating Budget from \$290,500 to \$303,900. Changes of note include increasing our plant and seed budget from \$9000 to \$15,500 as we continue to improve areas cleared of invasive brush. We will no longer separately track erosion control materials and have added the \$2000 previously budgeted for that to the plant and seed budget instead. The sign budget for 2013 was \$300 however the kiosks were built out this year so the costs were carried under the 2013 budget resulting in spending \$33,000. Upgrades in staff salaries increase the budget from \$138,000 to \$151,000.

The final draft of the budget documents will be sent to the Preserve Committee in mid-January prior to the January 28 stakeholder meeting. Changes may be made based on comments and feedback from the meeting. The Preserve Committee will review and vote to approve the budget documents at their February meeting.

Project Updates (Rhonda James)

1. West Campus Stormwater project
 - a. Contractors will work until the ground is frozen then continue work in the spring.
 - b. They may start excavating the Lake Mendota Drive ditches yet this month.
2. Eagle Heights Woods planning
 - a. James and staff have been working on a task list for the first five years of implementation for the mound zone.
 - b. The plan will go to the Planning and Implementation subcommittee and then the full Committee this spring.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Planning & Implementation
 - a. The subcommittee reviewed the Work Plan.
 - b. Turnquist said the Work Plan seems generic; the subcommittee was trying to get at the priorities for 2014.

- c. Turnquist and Urrutia are not clear of their role on the Planning and Implementation subcommittee and want a discussion of the subcommittee's charge moving forward.
- d. Sissel will set up a discussion with them.

The Spring Preserve Committee meeting schedule will be pinned down by email.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was moved by Raffa and seconded by Hahn.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver