

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday March 14, 2013

9:00AM-10:30AM

350 Bascom Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

Mike Amato, Bill Barker, Gary Brown, Rachael Bower, Rhonda James, Kelly Ignatoski, John Magnuson, Donna Paulnock, Ken Raffa, Sissel Schroeder, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present:

Cathie Bruner (Preserve), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Ron Noe (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve)

Minutes:

The minutes from the February 14, 2013 meeting were approved with the following change, provide the full name for the “Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh”.

Public comment:

None

Updates:

- 1) Eagle Height Woods Management Plan (Rhonda James)**
 - a. A public meeting on the plan was held on Feb. 26, 2013 where James received good comments.
 - b. She is putting the finishing touches on the text and graphics and is in the process of consulting with staff on the implementation strategy.
 - c. She will bring the plan to the April Preserve Committee meeting for a vote.
- 2) The Stanley Dodson Audio Field Trip at the Class of 1918 Marsh (Cathie Bruner)**
 - a. John Magnuson is finishing the scripts.
 - b. There will be a dedication and picnic on May 27 (Memorial Day).
 - c. John said it’s been a challenge to make the audio short and make it understandable for a wide audience.
- 3) Lakeshore signs (Gary Brown)**
 - a. Due to some recent incidents on campus Facilities Planning and Management wants signage on the entire lakefront that says something like, Swim at own risk.

No lifeguards. The purpose of the signs is to make people aware of risk if they decide to go swimming.

- b. A committee of 30 people from all over campus (Gary Brown and Cathie Bruner represented the Preserve) made the decision to put up the signs.
- c. Signs will be placed prior to Memorial Day at the following locations in the Preserve: Limnology Lab, Porter Boat House, Kronsage Hall, Dejope Hall.
- d. There are already 4 signs in the Preserve that say, “No lifeguard. Water quality is not monitored.” They are located at the beach at Raymer’s Cove, the beach by the bathhouse on Picnic Point, the beach at the Narrows on Picnic Point, and at Willows Beach.
- e. Another sign is going up at the Limnology pier that says, “No unauthorized use”.
- f. Raffa expressed concern that the piers are what connects the lake to the Preserve, like connective tissue.
- g. According to Brown and Magnuson, Athletics and Limnology don’t care if people are on the piers unless they those groups are actively using the pier.
- h. There are currently 3 piers in the Preserve—at Limnology, at Porter boat house, and at the lot 60 boat launch. Housing is considering adding one by Kronsage or Dejope hall.
- i. Raffa thought this should have been a decision made at the Preserve Committee.
- j. Brown countered that this is a safety concern not a public access concern and reiterated that Preserve staff was part of the group that made the decision.

4) Managing dogs in the Preserve (Bill Barker)

- a. It seems that people don’t understand the conservation reasons for keeping a dog on leash (e.g. spreading invasives or harassing wildlife) Amato thinks people might support the policy if they knew the reasons.
- b. There are cultural differences—some people are afraid of dogs, others need to go through ritual cleansing after coming into contact with dogs.
- c. How do we educate about the need for dogs to be on leash? E -pamphlet?
- d. Paulnock says at the Arboretum it’s a perennial struggle to keep dogs out. People obey the signage near the visitor center but not so much elsewhere. It’s hard to know about incursions at the Grady Tract with the new opening to Arbor Hills neighborhood.
- e. Magnuson suggested buttons that say “I leash my dog” as a not very expensive way to get the message out. Raffa said a button on the dog’s leash that says “I leash my owner” would be more fun.

Subcommittee reports

1. Planning and Implementation subcommittee (Cathie Bruner)

- a. The subcommittee put significant input into the Eagle Heights Woods planning process. In March they reviewed the action plan for the removal of the Trachte

sheds in Willow Creek Woods. Next they will review the 2013 workplan proposals including where plants ordered by Glenda Denniston will go in the Preserve.

Friends of the Preserve report (Magnuson)

1. The Friends annual meeting will be held April 2 with the meeting starting at 7pm. Jessie Glaeser will give a talk on mycology in the Preserve. He has also asked Bill Barker to speak on the values of the Preserve and conservation folk heroes and Cathie Bruner to speak since she was tasked by Bob Goodman to set up the first Friends meeting. The Friends will be nominating 3 new members to their board including two students.
2. There is a new projects committee who plans to interact with staff initially to find projects they are interested in working on in the future. The Heritage oak project was one past project.
3. The Friends income and expenses are about \$ 20,000 each. And they have about 2 years reserve in bank. About 70% of their income is from memberships. They have about 300 members. About 30% of their income comes from gifts and memorials. Seventy-five percent of their expenses are spent directly on the Preserve including the summer interns.
4. About half of the volunteer hours donated to the Preserve on land management activities are contributed by Friends members.
5. The Friends have been working on a new mission and vision statement. They invited Bill Cronon to their last board meeting to talk about what makes a good mission statement. The current Friends mission statement doesn't have people in it and they realize it probably should.

Fostering Educational Uses of the Preserve (Amato)

Amato put together a document, "Educational Opportunities in the Preserve," with 4 recommendations to focus discussion and move forward with some of the ideas generated in past committee discussions.

1. Track amount of instruction going on in the Preserve.
2. Purchase equipment (e.g. binoculars) that can be checked out for use by students/classes. Partner with a library on campus so we don't have to be in business of checking out equipment.
3. Once we have equipment advertise it. Amato could take the lead advertising to such groups as Wisconsin Ecology.
4. Provide grant for professor or graduate student salary support for non-avian inventory in Preserve. Undergraduate student involvement would be a criterion. Or make money available for a professor or graduate student interested in writing a larger grant.

Discussion:

Lenehan – We have a lot of inventories for the Preserve except for insects and that would be hard to do with undergrads.

Bower – National Science Foundation funding for informal science can be used to bring k-12 kids into the Preserve through the Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement program (CCLI)—now called the Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science program (TUES). She could pull together info on programs.

Raffa – The Entomology program formalized their k-12 program with the help of graduate student volunteers. They have ready-made kits for the Insect Ambassadors program.

Bruner – We should not be catering to k-12 since the Arboretum already does this.

Bower said that the Preserve could be used by people who are studying k-12. And informal science could be expanded to include adults and not just kids.

Barker – Cronon said we don't do a good job connecting to undergrads in the Preserve. We spent a lot of money to put a new fire ring at the Point. Now we need to get Housing to schedule regular events out there. We need to get students to know and fall in love with this place.

Lenehan – Limnology and Ornithology use the Preserve all the time. Do they mention to their students that this is the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and is owned by the University? They should have to give a 2 minute introduction on the Preserve to their students.

Barker – How to we connect to the Humanities? A film fest? The National Science Foundation will sponsor art and science collaborations.

Brown – We think a lot is going on that we don't know about. We need a better way to track use.

Schroeder was asked why she thought her First Year Interest Group course was so successful. They were given the opportunity to touch things and apply their knowledge in a real way which is novel to freshman. The course material was varied enough each week. They had the opportunity to work with other professors and graduate students to help collect data. They got to use paper maps including maps from their hometowns. Their projects required them to look at a 6 square mile area around their hometown and using the Public Land Survey System plot out the different tree species, trails, and bodies of water and compare them with a 1930s-40s tree survey and the landscape today. They had to answer how and why land transformations came about. Then they had to apply this to the Preserve.

Magnuson – There are many opportunities on campus to involve kids in the Preserve including College for Kids and Grandparents University. In the winter Limnology graduate students work with kids on the ice. There is the possibility for schoolyard Long Term Ecological Research programs.

Amato —Undergrads seem like a good place to focus our energies since we have so many of them here. F.H.King Student Farm is doing a good job of getting students into Preserve. Could we partner with them in the future? Poetry reading? Can we give them resources to support it?

Schroeder – Another student organization working with kids is the Muir Woods Mentors program which partners with certain south side schools to bring kids into campus to do things in the Preserve.

Ignatoski – Is the goal to get more people to come to the Preserve or to give staff more assistance to facilitate what's happening now?

Amato – I'm thinking about the connection between the volunteer program and other outreach. Should we have a flyer to describe the volunteer program for all new classes to learn about it?

Barker – At first the focus was on the restoration aspect of the Preserve. Then the focus turned to the volunteer program. All of this is going well. He likes to see the focus now turn to education.

Bower – What infrastructure do we have in place if more people are coming in to the Preserve? Self-guided tours? It's hardest to get money for infrastructure and easiest to get money for curriculum.

Reminder next month we will meet in the conference room on the 19th floor of Van Hise.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver