



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Thursday March 15, 2018
9:30-11:00am
Union South, Wisconsin Idea
APPROVED Minutes**

Present

Janet Batzli, Jacqueline Beaulieu, Sara Hotchkiss, Abby Kotecki, Alan Turnquist, Mattie Urrutia

Also Present

Kris Ackerbauer (FP&M), Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Steve Sentoff (Friends), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2018 was made by Urrutia and seconded by Batzli. The motion was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Laura Wyatt for Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 15, 2018
2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 15, 2018
3. Capital Projects Report (Laura Wyatt for Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 15, 2018

Janet Batzli wants to keep on the agenda a discussion around a Bicycle station at the entrance to Picnic Point, perhaps in the new consolidated Lot 129. When is it an appropriate time to bring up in the planning process? She understands that it might be costly to add a new station. Suggestions were made to possibly share costs with Housing or the Village of Shorewood Hills. Rhonda James will come to the next meeting with a summary of the process.

4. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 15, 2018
5. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 15, 2018

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Steve Sentoff for Gisela Kutzbach)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – March 15, 2018

Permit Holder Presentation—Adrian Treves PhD, Associate Professor, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

Adrian Treves has taught a First-year Interest Group (FIG) course called Wolves, Dogs, and People from 2015-2017. The proxy for wolves in the Preserve is coyotes. The course has been a collaboration between the Preserve, the FIG, and the Carnivore Coexistence Laboratory.

The students undertake 2 projects. The first is a trail camera survey. The grant enabled Treves to supplement his stock of trail research cameras for use in the course. Twenty students break into 10 teams of 2 students who are responsible for a trail camera for 2.5 weeks. Cameras are deployed throughout the center of the Preserve. The second project is a survey of Preserve users. Treves interfaces with Preserve staff each year to find out what questions are important to Preserve staff, UWPD, and Eagle Heights residents.

Preserve staff has been interested in dogs off-leash. Students can then compare what they see on the trail cameras and compare it to survey results and face to face interviews with users. There was not a high rate of dogs off leash this year. Students have some latitude each year to come up with their own survey questions so there is some variation between years that doesn't always lend itself to easy year to year comparisons.

Sentoff asked if cameras were an issue with people in the Preserve. Treves said students are instructed to deploy the cameras out of site and facing down to capture wildlife and not humans. If humans are visible on camera it's usually just legs. Photos are not published and are only stored on Treves' laptop.

At the end of the semester the students present the information from the camera and survey studies to the Preserve staff. This year the students combined the perceptions of Preserve users with camera data on dogs to present a fuller picture of dogs off-leash. Treves is looking for ways to intercept with the UW Urban Canid Project.

Batzli asked what students were most surprised about by doing the field work. Treves said the students loved the opportunity to bond with their peers in team work. One of his favorite student quotes is, "We started out as clean strangers and ended up as muddy friends." After the course some students add Environmental Studies as a second major. Student didn't know they could do research on wildlife and people together.

Students identify themselves for the survey with a clipboard and a badge. They solicit interviews from Preserve users on the main paths. They get a lot of declines especially from runners and bikers. Students read a set of standardized questions from a sheet and then ask the interviewee if they have anything they want to add. Students have found that users have a huge amount of satisfaction with the Preserve and over time more people know the Preserve is a managed space.

Laura Wyatt said she believes the surveys are effective outreach for the Preserve. Treves thought users had the most unfamiliarity on prescribed fire and invasive species. Wyatt said that identifies a need for targeted messaging.

Treves thanked the Preserve Committee for the Student Engagement Grant funding.

Student Engagement Grant Review and Award (Education subcommittee-Alan Turnquist)

A motion was made by Turnquist and seconded by Beaulieu to move the meeting to a closed session to discuss student engagement grant proposals. Motion approved unanimously.

Having completed review and after providing recommendations on the Student Engagement Grants, the committee came out of closed session.

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Outreach Specialist