



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Wednesday November 28, 2018
11:30am-1:00pm
Union South, Industry Meeting Room
APPROVED Minutes

Present

Janet Batzli, Jacqueline Beaulieu, Gary Brown, Andrew Busker, Doris Dubielzig, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Dru Larsen, Joe Webb

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Steve Sentoff (Friends), Kassia Shaw (Student Engagement Grant recipient), Laura Wyatt (Preserve), Suzy Will-Wolf (Friends)

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from September 26, 2018 was made by Webb and seconded by Batzli. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Staff Reports

1. Director Report (Laura Wyatt for Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 28, 2018

The strategic plan is moving forward. Brown and Wyatt will meet with staff from the UW-Madison Office of Strategic Consulting in December. The Preserve hopes to secure funding for the strategic planning process in January or February and present a draft plan to the community in Fall 2019. The strategic plan will set the stage for updating the master plan.

2. Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 28, 2018

Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 28, 2018

The installation of the new memorial bench in Muir Woods is about 50% complete. Installation will be completed in the spring when the weather warms up.

3. Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 28, 2018

The Preserve submitted a burn permit application to burn brush piles on the North slope of Eagle Heights Woods where there is no access for a brush chipper. The permit also includes plans for burning brush piles in Frautschi Point Woods.

Dubielzig asked if bringing kindling/tinder to start fires is allowed in the Preserve. Wyatt said wood material has to be ½ in size or less to prevent the transport of Emerald Ash Borer larvae.

Gundlach was asked if filling firewood racks could be a volunteer activity. Wyatt said vehicle authorization and safety training would be necessary. Webb said the Hooper Outing club is a frequent user of the racks and may be interested in volunteering to fill them.

4. Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – November 28, 2018

Project Proposals (Joe Webb)

The Planning and Implementation subcommittee reviewed and recommended for approval three project proposals all of which are continuing projects. The proposed projects are: Prairie Partners Intern Program, Friends Wildflower Planting Event, and Tent Colony Woods Edge. Wyatt provided background on the project proposals process which was implemented to gather all stakeholder proposed projects at one time each year (November 1) in time to review, approve, and incorporate them into our annual planning process.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Doris Dubielzig)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report – November 28, 2018

Review of 2019 Draft Work Plan and budget

The Committee will see the final draft work plan and budget at the February meeting. Please spend some time between now and then looking over the drafts. The final draft work plan and budget will also be presented at the 2nd Preserve Stakeholder meeting on January 29 at 5:30pm in room 132 WARF. (Note: This meeting was rescheduled for same place and time on February 5, 2019 due to cold temperatures on January 29 which closed the campus.)

Staff reviewed each highlighted item in the draft work plan and capital budget. Questions and discussion followed.

It has not been determined yet if staff will remove the entire aspen clone in Frautschi Point Woods. Gundlach would like to girdle the trees, but with several trails in the area, they would potentially become hazard trees. Staff is researching the methods to be used and resources that will be necessary.

The utility road on the north side to Biocore Prairie will remain where it is since it is needed as a fire break and for prescribed fire access. Both Gundlach and Batzli would like to see a more natural-looking woods edge/prairie transition and see some prairie extend across the utility road.

Facilitating a strategic planning process is a high priority for 2019.

The original Picnic Point iron gates have lead paint on them and need to be stripped and repainted. Batzli suggested that repair and reinstallation of the gates could be a class gift.

The repairs to the bridge on the south side of the Class of 1918 Marsh has not been funded yet by the State. Until then, it will not show up as a funded capital project.

Laura Wyatt reviewed the details of the draft operating budget with the committee which shows the current fiscal year 2018 operating budget, the fiscal year 2018 projected operating budget (since the budget year goes until March 1), and the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2019.

The site amenities line includes funding for new memorial benches, which are in recognition of a \$10,000 donation to the Preserve, with \$4,000 to \$5,000 of each going towards the bench and installation. The remaining funds go into our Stewardship account for long term maintenance and care. The proposed budget for that line includes stripping and repainting the Picnic Point gates.

The LTE (Temporary Employee) gardener line was low this year because the person in the position found a permanent job in mid-August.

Under “Outreach and Education,” the signs line included funds for the 3rd panel of the interpretative kiosks.

There is no budget figure yet for the strategic plan. Staff hope to get funding from FP&M leadership to fund this process. Gifts funds will be used as a back-up.

UW Grounds still provides a wide amount of services to the Preserve including maintaining the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path, mowing some areas, and taking care of hazard trees. Those are included in the “Contributed Services” line of the operating budget.

Student Engagement Grant presentation – Kassia Shaw

“Writing in the Preserve: Understanding how Nature Impacts Student Writing and Wellbeing”

Shaw teaches English 201: Introduction to Composition. The course is for non-English Department students.

The course is divided into 2 sections. During the 1st section the students were asked to find a spot in the Lakeshore Nature Preserve and to visit it twice a week for at least 20 minutes. They were asked to just observe for 5 minutes then spend the next 20 minutes responding to a reflection prompt. She used the book *The Forest Unseen* by David Haskell.

Part of the Student Engagement Grant was used to purchase journaling materials which she found to improve the quality of the student’s work significantly.

During the second section of the class the students learn how to analyze their writing experience and create digital storytelling videos narrating how their experience of nature and writing has changed.

Shaw wanted to discover how the nature writing experience benefits student physical and emotional wellbeing. She says she never used the word “healing” with the students but they honed in on this themselves over their nature journaling experience.

There were similarities between students’ experiences: healing, less anxiety, improved relationships, mindfulness and invokes imaginative possibilities.

College can be a cause of stress, disjointment, and disembodiment for students. When nature journaling, students find that:

- The sensory experience provides a grounding feeling (mindfulness)
- Images and emotional connections lead to family memories
- They gain a perspective on life and future goals
- Their experience provides overall positive health benefits

When asked if students were asked to put their phones away during the journaling, Shaw said they had a discussion about that after the first week of class. Most students said they hated sitting for so long. After the 2nd to 3rd week, students started putting their phones away by choice. It brought an awareness that they can choose to disconnect. However, because the Preserve is right on campus, students are not completely disconnected from the student experience. Towards the end of the journaling experience, students began to feel a sense of ownership over their spaces and started picking up litter, for example. Students were

also eager to share the experience with others, in some cases inviting their roommates out to their journaling spots.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Beaulieu and seconded by Larsen to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator