



**University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee  
Wednesday May 13, 2020  
10:00-11:30am  
Remote WebEx meeting  
Minutes Approved**

**Present**

David Bart, Janet Batzli, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Sara Hotchkiss, Rhonda James, Karen Oberhauser, Stephen Sentoff, Joe Webb

**Also Present**

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2020 was made by Beattie and seconded by Batzli. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Staff Reports**

1) Director Report (Gary Brown)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020*

The Preserve continues to have problems with people using the fire circles on Picnic Point which have been closed due to the need for social distancing requirements. The Preserve has added signage, similar to what is being used across the campus, to assist with social distancing. UWPD said they would do stronger enforcement of the Preserve. There has been a lot heavier use of the Preserve overall including on the Temin Lakeshore Path and on Picnic Point in particular.

2) Program Manager Report (Laura Wyatt)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020*

3) Capital Projects Report (Rhonda James)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020*

A new memorial bench will be added to the Picnic Point area near the beach house. Stonework on the ring around fire circle #6 and on the slope to the water's edge is planned for this summer.

4) Field Activities Report (Adam Gundlach)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020*

5) Volunteers and Outreach Report (Bryn Scriver)

*See Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020*

**Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Stephen Sentoff)**

*See Friends Preserve Staff Reports – May 13, 2020*

**Status of Preserve Committee (Gary Brown & Sara Hotchkiss)**

Hotchkiss wanted to have a conversation to discuss changes that were made to the committee 2 years ago that are not widely understood.

The Preserve Committee initially reported to the Provost but as of Fall 2018 it became an advisory body that reports to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration. Likewise, the Arboretum Committee now reports to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education. The change occurred under Provost Mangelsdorf under a campus-wide process to streamline committee activities.

Brown said in practice, Preserve staff and leadership have not changed how the committee functions or changed its authority and ability to have discussions. The committee still functions like a shared governance committee including in the make-up of its membership.

Hotchkiss said an advantage of this change is that the committee can be nimbler than an official shared governance committee; the Preserve Committee does not have to officially report to the Faculty Senate annually. However, we may want to report to the Faculty Senate in the future, as well as to the Academic Staff Assembly and ASM to broaden our branding and knowledge of the Preserve as a resource for teaching and research. She said we are lucky that the committee works well, and she wants to build resilience on behalf of the Preserve so that it will have support into the future. Campus administration needs to know what the Preserve does and why it exists.

Brown said the Strategic Plan document will help set that stage for this discussion with the campus administration, as will a Facilities Master Plan document.

He also suggested having a structured administrative document that outlines the rules, responsibilities and operating procedures for the committee. Hotchkiss agreed. Batzli said in addition to having roles and responsibilities the document needs to think about what makes the Preserve Committee different than other stakeholder groups. She said this should be made intentionally specific in both the Strategic Plan and in communications to FP&M leadership. She also likes the idea of regularly reporting to the Faculty Senate, Academic Staff Assembly, and ASM to build visibility. Keeping within the FP&M reporting structure only limits its visibility and the intention of the Strategic Plan is to benefit the entire campus community and the larger user community.

Brown and Hotchkiss agreed that a subcommittee should meet over the summer and into the fall to brainstorm administrative rules and processes. Beattie volunteered to help.

Beattie said the formal charge to the committee from Chancellor Wiley in 2000 refers to the committee as a shared governance committee which is both helpful and limiting. He said the Preserve may at times need groups to be shameless advocates. He noted that the Strategic Plan talks about Preserve Committee history but not about what the Preserve Committee does today in support of the Preserve and its staff. He said the committee is the principle connection between land management and the educational mission of the Preserve. He suggested placing text on what the Preserve Committee does and how it functions in support of the Preserve before the text on committee history to make the connection to research, education and the overall mission of the Preserve.

Batzli wants to make the chain of decision-making clearer and up front on page 13 in the Strategic Plan to differentiate what the Preserve Committee does as a stakeholder group and as an advisory body to the university administration.

Batzli asked if there was a reason to complete the Strategic Plan before the committee writes its roles and responsibilities. Brown noted that he doesn't want to hold up the process of completing the Strategic Plan as it was initially due in January 2020. He said the Committee could help hone the relevant text in the executive summary and on page 13 of the draft Strategic Plan document. He said the roles and

responsibilities could be fleshed out as part of Strategic Priority #5 “Process Improvements” by the subcommittee over the summer.

Hotchkiss asked Oberhauser how the Preserve Committee position and reporting compared to the Arboretum Committee under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education. Oberhauser said they are similar, but the Arboretum Committee provides advice on research projects. She said the Preserve Committee meets more frequently so its members are more in the loop and more invested in operations of the Preserve. The Arboretum Committee only meets once or twice during the academic year whereas the Preserve Committee meets monthly.

Batzli proposed working with the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning Office which runs the Undergraduate Symposium to promote undergraduate research in the Preserve.

### **Review of Strategic Plan (Gary Brown & Sara Hotchkiss)**

Batzli suggested adding Kline-Bader plan information in the document and talking about lessons learned since the 2006 Master Plan. Brown said the new Preserve Master Plan will get into specifics of land management that originated in the Kline-Bader Plan. He said page 9 in the Strategic Plan mentions Kline-Bader and the 2006 Master Plan. Batzli said it might be good to highlight some of the projects that were the result of previous planning processes. Brown said he might be able to make some more references in the section on the Master Plan.

Batzli asked Brown to keep the language of learning and research at the forefront of the document.

Committee members are generally supportive of the draft plan. They would like to see how their comments get integrated and have another opportunity to look at the document one more time.

Wyatt and Hotchkiss were tasked with finding a June date to meet again.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Batzli to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator