



**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Friday February 25, 2022
1:30 – 3:00 pm
Remote WebEx meeting
Approved Minutes**

Present

David Bart, Rob Beattie, Gary Brown, Kathy Cramer, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Cole Koffron, Karen Oberhauser, Anna Pidgeon, Evie Sellers, Ryan Zavodnik

Also Present

J Blue (SmithGroup), Ann Burgess (Friends), Glenda Denniston (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Sara Hotchkiss (UW Botany), Gisela Kutzbach (Friends), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Seth McGee (Friends and Biocore), Marcia Schmidt (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Will Vuyk (Friends), Laura Wyatt (Preserve)

Minutes

Approval not needed on notes from December 17, 2021, meeting since there was no quorum.

Staff Updates

- 1) Director (Gary Brown)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 25, 2022
- 2) Program Manager
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 25, 2022
- 3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 25, 2022
- 4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 25, 2022
- 5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)
See Preserve Staff Reports – March 25, 2022

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Vuyk)

- It's in Our Nature Virtual Open Mic on Feb. 26 at 3pm. Register in advance.
- Annual Meeting April 6 at 7pm with guest speaker Janice Rice. In person at the UW Arboretum and live streamed on Zoom.
- Friends giving match of \$4,000 for the Day of the Badger April 5-6
- Spring Issue of the Friends Preserve! Newsletter coming soon.

Presentation and vote on FY-23 Budget and FY-23 Work Plan (Preserve Staff)

- The Preserve work plan and budget now align with the UW fiscal year from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Staff discussed changes to the workplan during the December 17 meeting.

- There have been changes to how budget items are categorized in order to conform to UW budget standard.
- *101-UW funds* support Preserve full-time staff, 20% of the Director's salary, some vehicles, computers, and training.
- *233-Gift funds* support most of the work done in the Preserve including volunteer tools, and refreshments, student and temporary seasonal staff, prescribed fire, our Kubota work vehicle, equipment and supplies, and cleaning the pit toilets.
- The Preserve asked for funds to hire an additional full-time field staff position. If we get the funds the position would be filled after July 1.
- The Preserve received an additional \$25,000 from the UW for the removal of hazard ash trees.
- A motion was made by Cramer to approve the 2022 workplan and budget. Pidgeon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Preserve Master Plan Update (J Blue)

Wyatt and James will present the recommendations to the Friends at their March 2022 Friends Board Meeting. There will a meeting in April to share recommendations to the general public and collect feedback.

Blue shared Smith Groups draft recommendations:

- 1) Identified location of Preserve Welcome Center
- 2) Develop community space near Eagle Heights Gardens
- 3) Boardwalk/overlook to solve Raymer's Cove fence jumping
- 4) Relocate fire circles #4-5
- 5) Revegetate Lot 34
- 6) Recommend vegetative habitat blocks
 - a. What was historically present
 - b. Slope/aspect of land and what will it support
 - c. What nature is doing already
 - d. Where restoration work has already taken place
 - e. Where can extend some of the work that's already been done
 - i. Native prairie/wetland 0-10% tree cover
 - ii. Open Oak Woodland 10-50% tree cover
 - iii. Mixed oak woods 50-80% tree cover
 - iv. Mesic woods 80-100% tree cover

Consultants recommended 6 priority areas where most resources (funds and/or people hours) would go. This does not mean that other areas would not be managed. Not all areas need the same level of management.

- 1) Picnic Point as flagship destination place
- 2) In and around the planned Welcome Center at the entrance to Picnic Point and Class of 1918 Marsh
- 3) Willow Creek (when and once developed according to Willow Creek plan)
- 4) Savanna areas around Biocore Prairie
- 5) Muir Woods
- 6) Eagle Heights Woods

Blue walked through the key capital improvement areas:

- 1) Re-route University Bay Drive and locate Preserve Welcome Center
 - a. This project will have a separate, distinct and robust planning process.
 - b. Passive orientation service to visitors

- c. Public gathering space
 - d. Outdoor classroom
 - e. Preserve staff offices
 - f. Equipment storage
 - g. Service workshop
 - h. Vehicles
 - i. Opportunity to make changes to the Class of 1918 Marsh which is in poor ecological shape now
 - j. Recommend trail all the way around the marsh
 - k. “Starting over” on marsh in terms of restoration
 - l. Opportunity to alleviate some flooding issues
- 2) Gardens pavilion
- a. After removal of Grounds Storage Area
 - b. Flexible open structure
- 3) Removal of Beach House/Bath House
- a. Could repurpose stone but would be very costly due to required acid bath, disposal costs of acid, additional cleaning of stone
- 4) Boardwalk at Raymer’s Cove
- a. Safe overlook

Questions/Discussion:

Question: Can University Bay Drive be rerouted to south side of Class of 1918 Marsh?

Discussion: Blue – Doesn’t think there’s room.

Questions and Discussion regarding restoration of Class of 1918 Marsh:

- Hydrological control
- Dry downs
- Depth of standing water
- Scraping to eliminate seedbank
- Establish native aggressive species
- Function of marsh for stormwater purposes

Concern: Amount of tree canopy cover insufficient for wildlife and migrating birds.

Discussion. Staff –met with Madison Audubon representative who said restoration and management would help birds. All work would happen in a phased approach. There will always be a variety of vegetative structure. Oaks have tremendous benefits for wildlife. Anna Pidgeon agrees that habitat management will improve quality for migrants over the long-term.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Bart and seconded by Pidgeon.

Adjournment (3:02 pm)

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator