



Lakeshore Nature Preserve
FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
Wednesday October 19, 2022
8:00am to 9:30am
Remote Zoom meeting
Minutes APPROVED

Present

Rob Beattie, Kathy Cramer, Rhonda James, Cole Koffron, Missy Nergard, Karen Oberhauser, Anna Pidgeon, Bella Ruchti, Evie Sellers, Kyle Webert

Also Present

Ann Burgess (Friends), Adam Gundlach (Preserve), Sara Hotchkiss (Botany), Roma Lenehan (Friends), Anne Pearce (Friends), Bryn Scriver (Preserve), Laura Wyatt (Preserve), Tom Zinnen (Friends)

Minutes

The minutes from May 20, 2022 were approved by unanimous consent.

Staff Reports

1) Director, Office of Sustainability (Missy Nergard)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct 19, 2022

2) Assistant Director (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct 19, 2022

The visitor counter at the entrance to Picnic Point has recorded 116,000 passersby (in one direction) since the first of the year.

3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct 19, 2022

4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct 19, 2022

5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – Oct 19, 2022

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Anne Pearce for Will Vuyk)

See Friends Report – Oct 19, 2022

Review of Stakeholder Meeting and 3-month report (Laura Wyatt)

Ten people joined 4 UW staff members for the stakeholder meeting on Tuesday October 18. We received some good questions including one on accessibility and one on where donations are directed.

The Preserve has been assigned an additional full-time staff position, which will be funded when FP&M has the funds.

Master Plan Update (Rhonda James)

Over the summer Preserve staff met with 12 professionals who were invited to advise on the Master Plan proposed vegetation. The advisors included representatives from the Madison Conservation Parks, Dane County, the Department of Natural Resources, 3 land management practitioners, and UW faculty and staff ecologists.

In general, the advisors thought the plan was headed in the right direction, taking a long view, including a variety of habitats, and introducing areas of open structure. The educators in the group suggested an open shelter near the Biocore Prairie with electricity for teaching. They proposed the need for detailed inventories as part of developing management plans for specific areas.

The next Master Plan public meeting will be November 17 at 7pm at Memorial Union. The Preserve Committee will see a preview of a modified vegetation map and trail map at the November 9 Preserve Committee meeting.

Outreach Center Update (Rhonda James)

A design team was hired for a Preserve Outreach Center Advanced Plan that includes: The Kubala Washatko Architects, Lowe Consulting, GRAEF, Design Engineers, Middleton Consulting and Contracting, and Thunderbird Engineering. The overall goal of Advanced Planning is to determine the scope, budget, and schedule of a new building. Fundraising will be based on the findings.

Outcomes of the Advanced Planning process include: review site options and recommend a preferred site for this new outreach building; suggest how the building relates to the adjacent activities; review the potential for the building to be off-grid, carbon neutral, and possibly pursue certification through the Living Building Challenge; propose appropriate architecture.

The general building program includes: Preserve staff work areas; storage for land restoration and care equipment, facilities to support teaching, research, and outreach; a public facing, welcoming facility; fitting the required program uses into the context of the site while being as sustainable as possible.

The consultants were in Madison on September 27-28 for a tour of the Preserve and to conduct a series of focus groups. Highlights from the focus groups include: create functional space for operation of the Preserve; include the Ho-Chunk from the start and listen to what they say; there is a profound indigeneity in this place; the building doesn't interfere with the experience of the place and is part of the landscape; indoor multipurpose space as opposed to a "classroom."

A blessing ceremony with Traditional Ho-Chunk Chief Winneshiek has been scheduled for 3pm on November 1. The first public meeting with the consultants will be held that evening at 7pm at Union South. At the next Preserve Committee meeting we will discuss building location options –pros and cons.

The question of renting the facility, particularly for weddings was asked. Laura Wyatt said it was discussed with the consultants, but we are not planning for it. Weddings could bring in income, but they are very labor intensive. Currently, weddings like other gatherings, are allowed at fire circles as long as all Preserve regulations are followed. Karen Oberhauser said the Arboretum does facility rentals for weddings. Weddings bring people who may not otherwise come to the Arboretum. She said it is a successful income generator. They charge \$2,500 per wedding, outdoor facilities.

Adjourn

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator