



Lakeshore Nature Preserve

FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Friday March 10, 2023

7:30am to 9:00am

Remote Zoom meeting

Minutes APPROVED

Present

Rob Beattie, Kathy Cramer, Claudia Guzman, Kelly Ignatoski, Rhonda James, Cole Koffron, Missy Nergard, Karen Oberhauser, Elmo Rawling, Bella Ruchti, Evie Sellers, Will Vuyk

Also Present

Ann Burgess, Brenda Gonzales, Adam Gundlach, Sara Hotchkiss, Roma Lenehan, Noreen McAuliffe, Bryn Scriver, Paul Seitz, Aaron Williams, Laura Wyatt

Minutes

The minutes from February 10, 2023 were approved by unanimous consent.

Letter of Support

Rob Beattie said this seemed like the right time for the committee to assert itself to promote the stability of the Preserve and its funding, especially right now as it goes through 2 planning initiatives (Master Plan and Outreach Center), is placed under the Office of Sustainability, and with calls for changes in budgeting. He offered to draft a letter from the Preserve Committee to the Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning and Management and others on campus who are interested in the Preserve as a space for education and preserving nature. Kathy Cramer, Karen Oberhauser, Sara Hotchkiss, and Cole Koffron volunteered to look over the draft which Rob will share at the April meeting.

Announcements

March 16 "UW Arb Winter Enrichment lecture" 9-11:30am in UW Arb Visitor Center; Title: *Injecting Ash Trees and Other Journeys in Governing, Stewarding, and Caring for Nature* by Adena Rissman, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology; \$10 each (students can register for free); Advance registration is required at: <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/winter-enrichment-registration/>

April 5 "Wednesday night at the lab" series 7pm in Room 1111 Genetics Biotech Center; Title: *Cascading effects of open oak woodland restoration on forest arthropods and songbirds* by Maia Persche, PhD candidate. Description: Woodland restoration offers an important opportunity for ensuring the persistence of native Wisconsin biodiversity. However, understanding how open woodland management treatments, such as prescribed fire and tree thinning, effect forest species can be challenging. In this talk, I will describe a multi-trophic field study in the Baraboo Hills (Sauk Co., WI) aimed at understanding the effects of oak woodland management on understory microclimates, plant communities, forest arthropods, and insectivorous birds. Results from the first two field seasons indicate that a wide variety of songbirds may be benefitting from increases in forest arthropod biomass due to woodland management. I am looking forward to discussing this unique habitat type and the rich biodiversity it supports, as well as highlighting how woodland restoration can play a part in bird conservation in southern Wisconsin.

Staff Updates

1) Director, Office of Sustainability (Missy Nergard)

The Office of Sustainability has a bi-divisional reporting structure. They submitted their budget recommendations—half to the Nelson Institute and half to Facilities Planning & Management and should have a response by May or June.

The proposed budget for the Preserve includes:

- Researcher to study biodiversity in the Preserve
- Graduate student to do an integrated pest management proposal
- Graduate student to do a sustainable grounds management proposal
- Study of Temin Lakeshore Path (safety and environmental assessment)
- Full-time Preserve Field technician
- Elevate assistant director position to a director position
- Asking for additional funds so that Preserve doesn't need to rely so much on donor funds

2) Assistant Director (Laura Wyatt)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 10, 2023

Laura is happy to report a teaching and research permit was submitted for the first time for a course of 300 undergraduates that has used the Preserve for years for observation activities. Now we can add this data to the information we share with the university on use of the Preserve for education.

3) Capital Projects (Rhonda James)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 10, 2023

The consultant is still tweaking the text and graphics on the Master Plan. As soon as its ready we will put it up on the project website for a 2-week review period. It will also be sent to Preserve Committee members. Next all final changes will be made. Lastly it will run through an interior process in FP&M to make sure leadership understands it. The whole process should be completed by mid-late May.

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Outreach Center – Advanced Plan Public Information Meeting #2

March 28, 2023, 7:00 PM at Union South; Check the “Today in the Union” boards for the room; planning to do a hybrid meeting but Laura requested, if possible, that committee members attend in person.

4) Field Activities (Adam Gundlach)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 10, 2023

5) Volunteer and Outreach (Bryn Scriver)

See Preserve Staff Reports – March 10, 2023

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Vuyk)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report—March 10, 2023

Student Engagement Grant presentation: Environmental Writing and Place (Noreen McAuliffe)

Noreen is a Lecturer in the English Department and Academic Program Staff in Nelson Institute. She is the Faculty Advising Editor for Edge Effects, a digital magazine from the Center for Culture, History, and Environment.

In Fall 2022 she created an Environmental Studies 600 senior capstone course focused on place-based writing.

Course description excerpt, “The class will design a GPS self-guided audio walking tour focused on student-created narratives of campus environmental sites. Student will re-envision what constitutes a “significant” place

through their research and creative practice. The goal of the audio tour project will be to contribute to a more inclusive account of the history of environmentalism and environmental sciences at UW-Madison.”

- 1) Thirteen GPS-enabled audio-visual tour stops as part of a walking tour around the UW-Madison. Each stop was researched, written, and recorded by a student.
- 2) Created a published on the GuidiGO app
- 3) Focused on accessibility: transcript included noted bus lines/travel
- 4) Tour can be taken in-person or remotely through photos and audio
- 5) Audience was set as interested and incoming students in the Nelson Institute

Emerging Thematic Approaches:

- Overlooked indigenous histories
- Student activism and involvement
- Natural vs. built landscapes
- Non-visible histories

Tour stops in the Preserve included:

- Lake Mendota
- Observatory Hill
- Observatory Hill overlook
- Eagle Heights community garden

Outreach:

- Nelson Institute Capstone Showcase Presentation, Dec 2022
- Future plans to share with alumni and broader Nelson and UW community through collaborations with Nelson (website and newsletter)

West Campus District (Aaron Williams-Campus Planning and Landscape Architecture, Brenda Gonzales-Community Relations, Paul Seitz-Finance and Administration)

Looking for new sources of revenue to fund the public mission of UW-Madison, including:

- Bucky’s tuition Promise and Pell Pathway
- Grad student support
- Fac/staff compensation
- Academic support services
- Research enterprise
- Infrastructure and maintenance

Revenue Innovation Study Group Guiding principles:

- Recognize UW-Madison’s history of placing value on medium to long-term versus the short-term
- Support agenda to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion, healthy communities, as well as obligation to sovereign Native Nations
- Improve the accessibility, livability, sustainability, and quality of the campus environment, and city-region more generally

Real estate initiative goals:

- Generate resources for investments in our mission
 - And create money we can redirect for initiatives and advance directly the research and teaching mission (i.e., need for more lab and research space)

- Advance our strategic priorities with the physical development of campus parcels
- Promote the strategic use of university real estate assets

West Campus:

- 14% of total UW land
- Defined by large anchor facilities
- limited road network
- expanses-view, parking, open space

How create more defined sense of place?

How keep someone here beyond regular workday?

Design principles:

- Spark discovery
- Ignite a sense of place and belonging
- Embrace the natural environment
- Embrace cultural/community and historical significance
- Prioritize walkability
- Transportation and mobility considerations are essential

Timeline:

Approval for Phase 1 from Board of Regents this summer?

Right now, in design development stage; advancing and refining one concept

Case studies: Georgia Tech Tech Square, NC State University Centennial, Purdue University Discovery District

Key take aways from 3 recent public information meetings:

Excited about:

- Connection to the lake
- Increased amenities-housing? hotels?
- City work-force housing?

Need more detail:

- Undergrad student housing
- Hospitable-windy open
- Transportation mobility

Phases:

- 1) Biotron, greenhouses site (nothing will be lost without finding a home for it (e.g., greenhouses))
- 2) WARF site
- 3) McClimon Track to lot 60 site, then where do cars go?
- 4) 30+ years out

Emerging Framework:

- Our Shared Future-archeologically significant sites
- Landscape and ecological sites
- Future bicycle, ped, and vehicular network

How submit feedback?

- Interactive feedback tool/submit ideas online: <https://www.vc.wisc.edu/westcampus>

- Committee could submit written comments
- Next Public Meeting will take place in May

Closed Session - Student Engagement Grant proposal review and vote (Evie Sellers, Education Subcommittee)

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator