



Lakeshore Nature Preserve

FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee

Thursday April 11, 2024

12:30 to 2:00pm

Remote Zoom meeting

Minutes

Present

Rob Beattie, David Drake, Brayden Fry, Claudia Guzman, Ingrid Jordon-Thaden, Missy Nergard, Anna Pidgeon, Will Vuyk, Kyle Webert

Also Present

Trenton Bauer, Adam Gundlach, Bryn Sriver, Catherine Stumpf, Laura Wyatt

Review Agenda

Staff will not present the staff updates; members can read the report. We will move the Preserve 2023 overview presentation to the May meeting. We will hear from ASUM student members about their 2023 Student Engagement Grant project.

Minutes

The minutes from March 14, 2024, were approved by unanimous consent.

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve report (Will Vuyk)

See Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve Report – April 11, 2024

Will Vuyk, outgoing President of the Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve, introduced the new President, Ingrid Jordon-Thaden. He also commented regarding the study of surfacing and lighting on the H. Temin Lakeshore Path, that according to Dr Hua's talk at the recent Friends Annual Meeting, that light pollution is pollution. He would like to see an environmental impact statement on both the paving and lighting.

Introduction to Multicultural Student Center (Claudia Guzman)

The Multicultural Student Center (MSC) general spaces are housed in the Red Gym (lounge, commons, classrooms, mezzanine, conference room) and includes 4 identity centers—Black Cultural Center, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Center, Latinx Cultural Center, Indigenous Student Center (215 N. Brooks St).

MSC signature programs:

- MCOR (student performance showcase)
- The Meet Up/Comeback Carnival
- New Student Welcome
- History and Heritage Months
- Study Jam
- MSC Graduation and leadership awards

MSC Services:

- MSC Student Org Affiliation Program
 - Leadership development

- Multicultural Council Grant (over \$30,000 per year)
- Academic support services (advising, GUTS tutoring, the Writing Center...)
- Health and Wellbeing Support (food insecurity resources, mental health counseling)
- Room reservations

MSC Mission

The MSC Student Center provides co-curricular experiences that center, affirm and celebrate the diverse and intersectional identities of students of color. Our spaces, programs and services are designed to cultivate a sense of belonging and community while strengthening all students' capacity to learn, lead and thrive.

MSC Guiding Philosophies

- Home away from home
- Affirming space
- Make campus feel smaller

Trends:

- Middle Eastern North African student articulating needs for support
- Increase in intersectional programming
- Need more cross-cultural dialogue
- Increased need for Mental health services and food insecurity resources
- Increased student engagement post-pandemic

How you can help:

- Tell students about MSC
- Sponsor or collaborate on a program
- Provide a Service to students in our spaces
- Donate to MSC fund
- Buy a mini-Union chair

Student Engagement Grant (Audubon Society UW-Madison (ASUM) (Trenton Bauer and Catherine Stumpf)

Birdwatching Educational Series: Expanding Bird Observation and Accessibility through Scope Spotting

Timeline:

- March 27, 2023, ASUM awarded funds to purchase a spotting scope
- Summer 2023 spotting scope purchased for use during guided bird hikes
- September 2023-April 2024 Guided scope events weekly for winter and spring waterfowl observation at sites across Madison, including University Bay in the Preserve, Nine Springs Preserve, and the Lower Yahara.

Spotting Scope use:

- Beginner friendly optic intro and guide
- Scope set up and lookout over strategic area
- Move to additional locations
- Encouraged sharing of group photography and video
- Bird reporting and sharing with members

Equipment maintenance: Scope materials are frequently examined, and use is monitored and checked by officers
 High turnout rates: 10-15 individuals per hike, many new birders

Scope allows for more focused observation on bird behavior and characteristics

Prior grant updates:

- Binoculars 2021 SEG
 - integral part of Bird Hike Educational Serie
 - still in working order
- Tree Swallow Nest Boxes 2022 SEG
 - performed annual maintenance in March,
 - add numbers to front of boxes to aid in identification,
 - increased spacing between nest box 1 and westmost prothonotary warbler box
 - Cleaned and disinfected tree swallow and prothonotary boxes

Working to standardize and organize club activities to help with continuity of organization. Thanks for all the support the club wouldn't be as successful without the grant support.

Work Plan and Gift Funded Budget Review (Preserve staff)

Budget—Made up of two components – 1. gift funds (233 funds), 2. funds contributed by university (101 funds)

Gift funds provide for a large part of what happens in the Preserve, including for:

- Volunteer supplies
- Equipment including chain saws, brush saws, prescribed fire equipment and clothing (multiple sets for student trainees), 50 + each of assorted hand tools (forks, shovels, gloves, hand saws, long handle pruners) for student groups.
- Ecological restoration and invasive control (state restricted and prohibited species)
- Bioswale maintenance to keep them functioning
- Prescribed fires and other contractor fees
- Four student interns
- Cleaning pit toilets (\$4,000 per year)
- Fuel, maintenance, and repair of some vehicles
- Audio trail service, visitor counter equipment service
- General facility maintenance and repair (fire circles, gate damage deductibles, use of large truck to relocate abandoned watercraft, etc.)

We are very thankful for the 101 funds provided by the university that support our three fulltime staff members, plus:

- A tool cat utility vehicle
- Lease of a low-speed vehicle
- Vehicle fuel and maintenance
- Cellular service
- Office space and computers

The Preserve has about \$2.5 million. Of that, \$1 million is endowed; we cannot spend the principal, but the interest off that generates funds. Of the \$1.5 million that is not endowed, half is designated for a specific purpose. This leaves us with about \$700,000 of undesignated funds generally directed to Preserve restoration, which at our current rate of spending will last about 5 years. With the completed Master Plan, we now have a road map for the Preserve, and those funds will be needed to start implementation of the plan. We are currently raising \$5 million for the Frautschi Center Fund for the Future. Laura Wyatt is concerned that while we are raising money for the outreach center that will impact our incoming funds for ecological restoration and the land.

Work Plan—The work plan sent with the meeting materials was last year's. Staff shared the current proposed work plan at the meeting. Staff shared the highlighted text from the work plan, which Laura Wyatt will send out to the committee.

Rob Beattie asked committee members to think about they would like to see as a commitment from the university administration moving forward. There seems to be a disconnect between what the university considers to be a baseline for running and managing the Preserve and the amount of money that is provided through 101 funds. It seems that what we or staff consider general routine facility maintenance and normal natural area management responsibilities are disproportionately taken up by gift funding. This is the issue that prompted the letter to administration last year.

To take a counterfactual approach, if the Preserve were not a natural area but just part of the landscaped campus with landscape plants and lawn there would be costs associated with managing it. The maintenance/management costs are not being covered by the UW. . . is that because its natural area? It feels like this should be part of the university's general responsibility to preserve and acknowledge not only the cultural heritage but also the natural heritage of campus.

Rob recently saw an article in the Washington Post about the value of being in nature for people's well-being. We also need to articulate that the reason for managing the Preserve as a natural area is at least in part educational.

Do we need to look to other natural areas to set a baseline the cost of managing a natural area—UW Arboretum, UW-Stevens Point Schmeckle Reserve, Dane County or City of Madison?

Adjournment

Submitted by Bryn Scriver, Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator