

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022

Members Present: Breitzman, Carlson, Eggleston, Gertz, Jakel, Manion, Van Berkel and White

Not Present: Hietpas, Pautz

Also Present: Debra Nowak

Chair, Manion called the April Committee Meeting to order at 6:31 PM. A quorum is present.

Public Appearances

None

March 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

Van Berkel made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the March 17, 2022 Committee Meeting minutes. Seconded by Gertz. Motion carried.

February Financial Report

Gertz made a motion to approve the February Financial Report. Seconded by Pautz. Motion carried.

March Financial Report

Jakel had a question regarding the source of education revenue in the restricted account. Nowak informed the Committee that the revenue was from a memorial donation from the family of Diana Driessen which is restricted for educational displays. Carlson made a motion to approve the March Financial Report. Seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Correspondence

None

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Carlson gave an update on the Art Fair. The event will be held on May 15. Plans and preparations are coming together well. Carlson also mentioned that Friends Board Member, Bruce Werschem, brought up the suggestion of renaming 1000 Islands the "Rogers 1000 Islands Environmental Center" after Bill Rogers. Manion suggested that this item be added to the May Committee Meeting Agenda for further consideration. Eggleston inquired about the maple syrup season. Nowak informed the group that the season is all wrapped up and finished syrup is available for sale.

Naturalist's Report

Van Berkel inquired about the Motus Receiver and how the program works. Nowak gave a brief description of the equipment and company that supplies it.

Gertz made a motion to accept the March Naturalist Report and place it on file. Seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Eggleston made a motion to accept the 1st Quarter Usage Report and place it on file. Seconded by Breitzman. Van Berkel inquired on how the usage is split between Kaukauna residents and non-residents for the public programs. Nowak informed the group that the usage is split equally as there are no metrics in place to accurately determine the split. Motion carried.

Ash Tree Removal: Nowak continues to work with the City to get the diseased and dead trees removed before spring and summer field trips. The majority of the trees have now been removed thanks to the help from Kaukauna Utilities. Kaukauna Utilities provided two bucket trucks and workers to top several trees when the Public Works bucket truck was out of service. Public Works crews finished with clean-up and removing the trunks. There are four trees that still need to come down, but the majority of the risk in the picnic area has been removed. Stumps will be ground out after the Art Fair. Discussions will continue with the City Engineer, Streets Superintendent, and Finance Director on future divisions of work between 1000 Islands and Public Works as well as changes in how maintenance projects at 1000 Islands are budgeted.

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

Van Berkel – Nothing to report

Education Sub-Committee

Van Berkel made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2021 Education Sub-Committee Meeting and place it on file. Seconded by Gertz. Motion carried.

Nowak gave a summary of the Education Sub-Committee Meeting held on March 30, 2022. Items discussed included an update on programs, ideas for a new Fall educational event and strategic planning.

Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee

Manion – Nothing to report.

Old Business

Update on Strategic Planning: Nowak informed the group that she would like to restart the Strategic Planning process which began last year. She would like to meet with each Sub-Committee as well as staff to establish projects and goals that will help direct the department over the next 5 years. Nowak will work with Sub-Committee Chairs to set dates for these planning sessions.

New Business

Van Berkel mentioned working with the Kaukauna Fire Department in years past to burn several areas of the Conservancy Zone. Nowak will check with the Fire Department to see if this is still a possibility moving forward.

Van Berkel also inquired about some erosion issues on the Hoersch property. Nowak informed the group that one of the areas was address already. The other area is a much larger project and will get back in touch with the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department regarding this.

Van Berkel asked the group if they would be interested in restarting an annual property tour for Committee Members. Nowak will put this on the calendar for September, to be held right before the September Committee Meeting.

Good for the Center

Eggleston shared some feedback on the structure of the 1000 Islands website and how news posts are created. Nowak will share this feedback with Feldt and try to adjust posting style moving forward.

Next Committee Meeting

Next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Van Berkel moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. Seconded by Eggleston. Motion carried.

Debra Nowak,
Acting Secretary

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