

## **Naturalist Report**

### **August 2023**

#### **Admin/Finance**

- Department Heads have completed the City Strategic Plan. The plan will be presented to Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 16.
- The Finance Department has decided to make a City-wide change on how the processing fees for credit cards are handled. Previously, the City paid the processing fee for all 1000 Islands credit card transactions, but it was not consistent across all departments. Moving forward, all credit card fees will be paid by the card holder. Credit transactions will be assessed at 2.2% or \$1.00, whichever is greater. Debit transactions will be assessed a flat \$3.50 fee. Signage on this change has been updated.
- Outagamie County has set their 2024 budget schedule. I will be meeting with the Finance Committee virtually on October 19 regarding the County grant to 1000 Islands for our 2024 budget.

#### **Education**

- We will be welcoming another group of goats from Mulberry Lane Farm for the fall browsing session on September 25. The goats will be on-site for 2 weeks, getting picked up on October 9. I will be hosting 2 “meet and greet” sessions for City employees, Council members and staff. We are once again working with the high school’s Environmental Topics class to survey the vegetation in the browsing areas both before the goats arrive and after they leave.
- The Grover the Goat book is now complete and we have 100 printed copies thanks to the Friends of 1000 Islands for sponsoring the printing costs. The book will be available for purchase in the gift shop and will be the featured storybook walk in September while the goats are on-site.
- The 2023 Focus on the Fox event will be held on September 23. We have a new event logo created through Guide Studio and have 7 partnering organizations highlighting several different aspects of the Fox River. The Fox River Navigational System Authority will be offering lock demonstrations at Lock #3 during the event. Kobussen Buses has offered to donate shuttle services between 1000 Islands and the lock. Volunteers are still needed to cover various activity areas.
- I have received notification that the City of Kaukauna has once again been awarded Bird City status through the Bird City Wisconsin program. Many qualifying factors that help the City achieve this designation come directly from the Conservancy Zone, 1000 Islands programming and staff time put into the application process. I will work with the Mayor to put this achievement on a future Council Meeting agenda.

#### **Building & Grounds**

- I have been in contact with the Community Foundation on pursuing a grant through the Nelson Family Fund to help cover costs of the boardwalk replacement project.
- Site Manager Garrity and I will be working on getting some quotes on replacing some of the windows in the Nature Center. The majority of the windows are no longer operational for opening and closing. Although a few windows have been replaced in previous years, we would like to start replacing additional windows as our maintenance budget allows.

