

1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna
Nature Center Building
1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna



Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

In-Person

1. Call to Order

Pautz called meeting to order at 5:33 pm

Members Present: Breitzman, Carlson, Pautz, White

Also Present: Nowak, Van Berkel

2. Reading and Approval Minutes

a. 1000 Islands Education Sub-Committee Minutes of January 6, 2023

Breitzman moved to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the January 6, 2023 Education Sub-Committee Meeting. Second by White. Motion carried.

3. Old Business

Pautz inquired about the status of the new snowshoes. Nowak informed the group that they arrived and a boy scout has agreed to build racks for the snowshoes as an eagle scout project.

4. New Business

a. 2023 Summer Public Programs

The group discussed summer programs. Nowak highlighted the new Service Saturday programs intended to encourage visitors to volunteer one day per month to help with projects around the property. Sub-committee members liked the variety of programs offered.

b. Upcoming Field Trips

Nowak shared that spring field trips are pretty much full and summer field trips are approximated 75% full. So far, half-day field trip scheduling is going well. A summary comparing the scheduled field trip this summer compared to last summer, including revenue generated, will be provided in the fall. Staff feedback on the pros and cons of the half-day program structure will be shared as well.

c. Volunteer Opportunities

Carlson inquired if more help was needed for field trips and other programs. Pautz informed the group of her efforts to recruit more program volunteers. The Sign-Up Genius list of program volunteer needs has been updated through the spring months and an email was sent out to volunteers to sign up. Pautz will include other education sub-committee members as well as other committee members on the email communication.

Nowak will also be offering a volunteer training session for those interested in helping with field trips and other programs. Training sessions will be on March 28 and 30 at 1:00 PM

and 9:00 AM respectively.

d. New Exhibit Ideas

Nowak shared the ideas and progress of a few new educational exhibits to take the place of some of the old display cases and animal cages that have been removed from the building. Nowak is working with co-op student, Lilly Roehrig on revamping a monarch butterfly display originally donated by an area Girl Scout. Roehrig has also been working on designing and building a new bird exhibit that will display bird information, including examples of the bird, nest and eggs, in an interactive way.

Nowak updated the group on the conservation display idea that was going to be created with funds from the Tom and Diana Driessen memorial funds. During communication with the WI Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Coordinator, it was determined that we may need to shift gears from the original exhibit idea. It is still the goal to create something that promotes safe and ethical hunting as a conservation tool and highlights the state Hunter Safety program.

Pautz inquired about the status of new animal pelt displays. Nowak shared the idea of creating frames to mount just a piece of the pelt to prevent damage from visitors pulling on the pelt as it hangs in the wall.

Pautz mentioned how valuable Roehrig has been and suggested that we find a way to recognize how much she has done for 1000 Islands.

White asked about the status of the goat book. Nowak will get info to her so she can get some quotes on the printing costs.

5. Other Sub-Committee Items

The group discussed the location of 1000 Islands maple taps and the maple sap collection process. White and Breitzman offered to help collect sap if needed.

Carlson mentioned an idea to purchase an eagle costume to use at special events as a 1000 Islands mascot. This would pair well with new signage that is being developed using an eagle mascot to inform visitors of behavior expectations. Carlson will request that the Friends of 1000 Islands supports the purchase of the costume.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Breitzman. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.