

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2024

Members Present Pautz, Breitzman, Eggleston, White, Manion, Hintz, Jakel, and Van Berkel

Not Present West

Also Present Nathaniel Blood, Brad Garrity, Cassandra Kohls, and Jill Zipperer

Pautz called the July Committee Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

Manion raised a motion to go out of order. Seconded by Hintz. Motion carried.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Friends of 1000 Islands member, Jill Zipperer, summarized the art fair expenses and revenue. Pautz commented that foot traffic was down this year. The bake sale was all profit and based on a free-will offering. Better signage may help increase baked good sales. The food stand had the highest expenses; leftover meat and soda were resold, recouping \$400. Hintz suggested a food truck to increase revenue. Pautz noted food trucks require guaranteed revenue. Zipperer stated craft beer and soda may be options for next year. Wood-fired pizza was suggested by Eggleston. Overall revenue was down \$1,500 from last year, with the raffle being the most profitable. Eggleston commented that last year was the first year after COVID. Blood stated the Friends purchased a new reusable sign this year. Next year, sponsors will be contacted 6 weeks in advance. Garrity indicated Scheels donated items in the past.

June 20, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

Pautz wanted to attend the Nelson Boardwalk Tour. Garrity stated a presentation was held inside the Nature Center, followed by a boardwalk loop walk. Van Berkel requested a correction to change the next meeting date to July 18 (from June 20). White made a motion to approve the June 20, 2024, Committee Meeting minutes with the correction. Seconded by Van Berkel. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

The June Financial report was reviewed by the Committee. Van Berkel suggested the Admin/Finance Sub-Committee meet to discuss the budget and endowment. Pautz commented on the clear format of the report. Capital projects were discussed. Garrity stated there will be no labor charges for residing the nature center as the City's Street Department will provide labor. Van Berkel requested a correction from "fising" to "fishing" on the June Donation Report. Manion moved to approve the June Financial and Donation Reports. Seconded by White. Motion carried.

Naturalist's Report

Blood reported Kohls met with the Community Foundation. Grants are possible in 2025 to fund an Assistant Naturalist.

The Goat Schmooze had a good turnout.

Rain presented some challenges. Crayfishing was cancelled due to high water levels; trails closed as water was over the boardwalk. No major damage occurred but the need for a new boardwalk was shown. Manion asked if the new boardwalk will be able to be raised. Blood indicated it will be raised and can be adjusted if necessary. Garrity indicated swamp mats and modular sections will be used which can be raised/lowered as needed. Manion asked about railings along the boardwalk. Garrity stated the new

design will be ADA compliant with more railing along the river. The design keeps the boardwalk open while maintaining safety. Pautz indicated the boardwalk will increase to 6ft wide instead of 4 feet wide. Garrity stated construction is scheduled to begin in October and conclude before Eagle Days in January 2025. Phase 1: Boardwalk section along the river, completed by January 2025. Phase 2: Area by the Sugar Shack, beginning in 2025. Boardwalk material likely to be white pine. The Nelson Family will be meeting to decide on grant awards.

2nd Quarter Usage Report

Blood reported the first quarter had 400-500 students. Attendance in the second quarter increased significantly. Pautz requested a correction to change Lineville school to "other school". Eggleston made a motion to receive and place on file the 2nd Quarter Usage Report with the correction to change Lineville Intermediate School from "KASD" to "other school". Seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

No meeting, but members will meet soon.

Education Sub-Committee

There was an informal meeting to discuss coverage after Blood's departure. White is covering one day and Jakel is covering another. White is exploring ways to fund Jabber's expenses. Eggleston suggested a flat-rate sponsorship for goats. White suggested expanding the goat enclosure roof height.

Building and Grounds Sub-Committee

No report. The Committee recommended scheduling a meeting. Garrity indicated two quotes were received for the building siding; quotes were under budget and for vinyl material. Manion suggested cement board for durability. Eggleston commented that the city was installing the siding. Garrity indicated quotes did not include labor costs. Windows will not be replaced as part of the siding project. Garrity recommended an update to the Conservancy Zone Master Plan, created in 1981. Items to review include the timber harvest, erosion issues, invasive and native species inventory and recreation plan. Eggleston indicated Kaukauna Utilities (KU) mapped the trail with GPS. Garrity indicated the boardwalk was the only area mapped; the city engineer has the data. We may ask KU to assist with future mapping for trail signage. Fox Valley Tech could assist with forestry assessment/mapping. The Conservancy Zone may also include future expansion areas.

Old Business

Staffing Update: Blood's last day as Naturalist is July 25, 2024. Garrity was offered the Naturalist position and will be starting on July 27, 2024. There were 20 applicants for the Assistant Naturalist position. 4 applicants for the Site Manager position. Applications are under view and interviews will be taking place in the next few weeks. Summer intern, Maddie West, will be leaving on August 27th and is interested in coming back next summer.

New Business

Focus on the Fox will be held September 21, 2024, at 1000 Islands. Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance will not be participating in the clean-up this year. Friends will run a food stand. KHS will be hosting fishing lessons. Carol Mainville Van Boxtel, author and local historian will provide storytelling sessions. Grignon Mansion staff will share history and Fox Locks will provide a Lock Demonstration.

Good of the Center

Jakel suggested a goat calendar as a fundraiser.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on August 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Manion moved to adjourn the July 18, 2024, Committee Meeting at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Hintz. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls, Administrative Assistant