

1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

City of Kaukauna
Nature Center Building
1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna



Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

In-Person

Members Present: Carlson, Jakel, Manion, Pautz

Also Present: Assistant Naturalist Ironside, Director/Naturalist Nowak

Pautz called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

1. Reading and Approval Minutes
 - a. 1000 Islands Education Sub-Committee Minutes of March 11, 2021
Jakel made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 Education Sub-Committee. Manion second. Motion passed.
2. Other Sub-Committee Items
 - a. Introduction of new Assistant Naturalist, Sarah Ironside
Nowak introduced Sarah Ironside to the attending members. Sarah started on Tuesday and has already started facilitating programs with school groups. The attending members introduced themselves.
 - b. 2022 Programming outlook
Nowak mentioned three program areas where she would like to focus some new programming efforts based on visitor feedback and a recent conference: citizen science, climate change, and survival skills for adults.
Pautz suggested revisiting the sustainability programming that was started before the COVID shutdown.
Pautz inquired about the maple syrup and paper express programs. Nowak said that maple syrup program will go ahead in March, but the paper express program will be on hold until there is more interest.
Pautz inquired about volunteer recruitment. A few ideas were discussed. Jakel will look into contact info for a retired teachers group to reach out to regarding program volunteers
 - c. Update on Goat Project
Pautz shared with the group how the original intent of the goat project was to experiment with an alternate method of invasive plant control. That was achieved over the past 3 years and resulted in many unintended benefits as well such as exposure, increased revenue due to gift shop sales and donations. The Goat Team is unsure where to go from here. The suggestion is to pause the project for a year to see what the reaction is, both in the invasive species battle and public reaction. Manion suggested to keep planning for what the project would look like in the event that it is brought back after a year.

Pautz emphasized that plans should be made for the browsing enclosures to champion the results of the goat browsing. This could including planting native species, or creating a natural playscape in the cleared area.

d. Discuss plans for 2022 Eagle Days event

Nowak shared ideas for the 2022 Eagle Days event scheduled for Saturday, January 22. The National Eagle Center will be returning for in-person presentations with a live bald eagle. The program participants may need to be registered ahead of time in the event that there is still a reduced capacity in the nature center building due to COVID activity levels. A change in the times of the National Eagle Center presentations will allow time for an additional program to be offered by 1000 Islands Staff.

Most aspects of the event will be the same as previous years. Nowak would like to include some lead education as a new feature. She will work with area businesses to try to get lead free tackle samples and/or inventory that can be sold at the event.

e. Discuss ideas for new Fall education event

Nowak shared ideas for a Fall event. Manion shared some additional ideas on including programming on early settlers and indigenous groups. Nowak and Ironside will work on planning the event with the goal to start small for the first year.

f. Discuss 2022 Bald Eagle Nest Watch program

Nowak gave update on the Bald Eagle Nest Watch program. With the departure of former Assistant Naturalist Feuerstein, Nowak will be coordinating the program, but welcomes any of the sub-committee members to assist.

g. Update on traveling trunks

Nowak informed the group that the traveling trunks created last year have not been checked out at all this school year. Many items used from the kits have been used in on-site programming, so the materials are still beneficial.

3. Adjournment

Manion made motion to adjourn. Jakel second. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

NOTICES

THIS MEETING IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED. IF REQUESTED THREE (3) DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE.

WE ARE FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES REGARDING MASK-WEARING IN CITY FACILITIES.

1000 Islands Environmental Center Mission Statement: To provide children, adults and families the knowledge and skills needed to build a sustainable balance among the environment, economy and community through education, conservation and recreation.