

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2022

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

Also Present: Debra Nowak and Maureen Feldt

Chair, Manion called the March Committee Meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A quorum is present.

February 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Public Appearances: None

February Financial Report

By mistake, January's Financial Report was inserted in the packets instead of February's. Eggleston made a motion to table the review and approval of February's Financial report until the April Committee Meeting. Seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Nowak read two thank you notes from St. Ignatius 8th graders that participated in a Survival Camp last week. Memorials were received within the last month for Isie Winus, Mary Werner, and Thomas Zwicker.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Maple Syrup season has started with the sap is starting to run and we will begin cooking this weekend. The Art Fair is Sunday, May 15th and we are looking for volunteers to help during the day. Approximately 30 vendors are signed-up so far.

Naturalist's Report

Tree Seedling Sale: Van Berkel questioned if more trees were purchased this year. Nowak said that the quantities stayed the same, but there was a price increase to ensure a profit was being made.

Summer Naturalist Intern: We received seven applications and Nowak will interview three candidates. Next year we need to shorten the application period and increase the pay rate to attract quality candidates.

Eagle Nest: Monitoring is ongoing and there are three adults in the nest again this year. The National Eagle Foundation stated that they are still interested in installing a camera on the nest, but timing was an issue last year. Nowak will continue to follow-up with the Foundation.

Goats: The existing fence needs to be moved to the new browsing area. All posts will need to be moved along with cutting a path to install the fence.

Pautz made a motion to accept February's Naturalist Report and place it on file. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

COVID Update: The Nature Center is fully open and COVID protocols have been removed. Building capacity is now at 50 people at one time.

American Rescue Plan Act: The City has asked for ideas on how to best spend the ARPA money that is receiving. Ideas/projects need to be tied to the pandemic. Nowak submitted boardwalk improvement as we had a significant increase in hikers that utilized our trails during the pandemic. The boardwalk is in need of repairs in spots as well as overall improvements.

Ash Tree Removal: Nowak continues to work with the City to get the diseased and dead trees removed before spring and summer field trips. A bucket truck is need to remove the remaining trees and timing is an issue with the ground thawing. Nowak has a concern as budget and timing are an issue with the City Street Dept. and asked for assistance from 1000 Islands to help complete the project. Grignon Home has all of their trees removed and the stumps will be taken out by a contractor. Committee very concerned about the trees being a hazard and safety issues with branches falling on visitors. Van Berkel made a motion for Nowak to draft a letter to John Neumeier and Patrick VandenHeuvel stating the safety concerns and to ask for a meeting to discuss the importance of getting the trees removed sooner than later. Seconded by Gertz. Motion carried.

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

Van Berkel – Van Berkel made a motion for Nowak to purchase a short-term (6 month) CD in the amount of \$8,086.94 with the 2021 memorial donations received. Seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Education Sub-Committee

Pautz – Nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee

Hietpas – Nowak mentioned the cracked flooring and that the tiles were tested for asbestos. The asbestos test came back negative and we will work with John Neumeier to get the foundation fixed and flooring replaced later this year.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

New Business

Nothing to report.

Good for the Center

The City Council approved the revised 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Charter.

Next Committee Meeting

Next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Jakel moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM. Seconded by Pautz. Motion carried.

Maureen Feldt,
Acting Secretary