

April 2019 TNC Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Frank Commiskey, Jim Vallem, Avi Eisbruch, Emily Eisbruch, Pam O'Neal, Beth Caldwell, Michael Tucker, Praveena Ramaswami

Updates:

1. Willows - over 50 years old, some of concern; Frank's suggestion, when it is windy, don't walk under the Willow.
 - 1.a. Avi will initiate planting willow branches in area that has been cleared, with stake and fence, to start re-growth in bare area. Jim and Avi will coordinate getting plants and planting, and Frank will back them.
2. Donor Wall – Praveena & Frank been working on project for about 4 years. \$500, \$ 1K \$ 1,500 donations made to the pond restoration will make the donor wall. Estimated price \$ 350 – using existing kiosks – engraved wood in honeycomb design – about \$ 7.00/ engraving. Design would fit easily into space, honeycomb incorporates nature theme. Glue wood honeycombs onto backing and put into kiosk. Board voted 8-0 and approved that Praveena will work on preparing the content, funds to be approved by Elizabeth and Holly for final approval to move forward.
3. Earth Week: Pre-K: sensory nature walks, K-1st: Vegetable Gardens, 2nd: butterfly garden and seed bombs, 3rd: trees and invasives, 4th: water monitoring, 5th: rain gardens. Dates and times are TBD. if you are interested, and willing to help for any of these events please let Mary Manthey or Elizabeth Morehead know. Mike volunteered for the water monitoring. Beth is open to volunteering, based on dates/ times. Frank needs to think about doing the vegetable garden. All will contact Mary Manthey for more information.
4. Work Day April 6th 1-4pm on the Prairie, focus on cleaning up debris. Jim & Mike cut trunks to length for the path. Ideally would like to have 12 people at all times for event. If debris is brought out to Prairie Ct., school district has agreed to take the lead to chip the wood. Jim will put signs in the kiosk; information sent out via email and via Facebook. Jim is leading this event.
5. Plans for reforesting the area cleared for the pipeline project. Jim, Mike, Frank – north end of playground, start of the Comboy trail, took out mostly buckthorn. Want to reforest that edge. Mostly medium to low shrubs; 2/3 have edible nuts or fruits or flowers. Start project late August 2019, school district contributed money for the project. Jim will proceed with placing plant order, and schedule August project size depending on number of volunteers at work day.

6. Plans for the OHAC buffer strip. 8ft x 77 ft long buffer strip between River Birch and the Willow to the North by the pool. Next to the water, 2-3 ft high hedge, couple feet away up the hill will be ornamental native Prairie grass. Different flowers planted, will remain low. There will be a path through it, with minor fence. OHAC voted to purchase, Jim added \$100 to total, Elizabeth & Holly agreed to additional cost. May 22nd flower/ plant pick-up.
7. District Sponsored Trees: AAPS is giving us the opportunity to be part of the selection process for trees that Thurston Elementary will be receiving this year. I casually mentioned oaks and hickory to Emile but I do not fully know what the list is to choose from. The company planting these trees will be taking care of them for the first year or two. Please consider tree types. These will be going in around the building and playgrounds. Mike volunteered to walk with the school and discuss recommended spots for the trees.
8. Eagle scout projects updates: Christopher is fundraising his rain garden. Aiden is developing plans for the shed and garden boxes. Mazma is working on turtle nesting boxes and benches.

Finances:

Check is in from district for remaining pipeline project – estimated around \$2,400.00

No monies from PTO for Thurston festival in fall of 2018 as of 4-2-2019

New Business:

1. Permanent email addresses for committee members: Recommendation was made to have permanent email addresses for treasurer and chair members. Similar to OHAC.

Board voted yes to proceed with permanent email addresses.

2. Online giving options: Recommendation was made to have an online option for people to donate to the TNC. Facebook does have a platform for this. A PayPal account (with a link from our web site) is another option but there are fees. A third option would be to have donations given right to the bank account. Board did not want to proceed with vote – want to investigate further options for donations online.

3. Wording for relationship with PTO in regard to subordinate committee and finances. PTO is rewriting the manual with positions, relationship and bylaws. I have submitted our documents to them for inclusion. We have the opportunity to clearly define our relationship with the PTO as a subcommittee or subordinate committee and in regard to our finances. Please consider wording that we as a committee would like to submit. There is no deadline to this motion as this time. Board will discuss at future meeting.

Future Considerations:

Photography 101

Open Pond weekend for non-motor water vessels. Board voted no on open pond weekend for any water vessels.

Work Day for invasives and mulching trail – standard Spring and Fall work days – trails need to be mulched. Emily volunteered to create work day signs for future work days.

Family Fun Run with sponsor Ypsi Running Company - board will discuss at future meeting

Fall Lantern Walk with sponsor Hish Family – board will discuss at future meeting

Beth still interested in Spring Flower Walk, when more flowers are present.