

Thurston Nature Committee Meeting

November 19, 2024

Zoom

Attendance: Colin Brooks, Praveena Ramaswami, Beth Caldwell, Mary Manthey, Kristen Cella, Jeff Hamilton, Amy Creten, Jim Vallem, Pam O'Neal

- October meeting minutes approved
- Chair Report:
 - Praveena presented TNCC budget at the Thurston PTO meeting and the budget was approved.
 - There may be a possible issue with donations being processed via the TNC website. Will investigate this further.
 - Praveena presented at the Clague PTO meeting on updates on the TNC and educating more of the community on the space.
 - Praveena presented at the Board of Education meeting on concerns for the TNC and asked the BOE to listen to speakers on the behalf of the TNC.
 - Praveena met with Thurston's principal to mediate concerns with the Thurston PTO.
 - Praveena TNCC/ Amy OHAC representative were invited by Jason Bing @ AAPS November 20 along with the Thurston PTO and members of the AAPS leadership to discuss next steps.
 - What is the message the TNCC wants to present to AAPS: What is AAPS's current plan? Where would trees be moved? Where would construction equipment be staged during construction?
- New Positions:
 - Emily stepping down from the TNCC, Thank you Emily for all your hard work over the years!
 - Colin will take over responsibilities on the website and emails. Praveena will handle social media; Amy will create and distribute newsletters. Jeff offered to take over the water/ pond steward position. Harrison Tucker is interested in a steward position.
 - The TNCC discussed open positions on the committee and decided to put together a description of the various positions and the preferred qualifications and solicit volunteers from the school and neighborhood.
 - There is an optional vice-chair position open that the TNCC could solicit volunteers for if we want to fill that role.

- Colin replaced the doors at the Bluett kiosk location – thank you Colin and Jim!
- Stewards Report:
 - Jim: Not planning to transplant seeds, waiting to see on next steps for new Thurston project
 - Mike & Harrison Tucker: finished clearing and dabbing on the end of the peninsula
- Lantern Event Planning 12/6- Michael Tucker will lead a nature walk around the pond. TNCC will have information available at a table.
- Kristen proposed Bio Blitz/ survey on animals in TNC; possible Spring/ Earth week event
- TNCC Meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month, starting Dec. 12 @ 7pm in person at Thurston library.
- Wild Ones asked to be present at Thurston Science Fair January 31st. TNCC discussed having a table at the science fair.