

Thurston Nature Center Committee Meeting

December 12, 2024

Zoom

Attendees: Pam O'Neal, Jim Vallem, Amy Creten, Holly Zechar, Jeff Hamilton, Michael Tucker, Birgit

1. Board approved November meeting minutes
2. Chair Updates – Praveena absent; Amy Creten led the meeting
 - a. AAPS BOE meeting Dec. 11—The Let Thurston Play group commented on the new Thurston school plan. A handful of commenters supported AAPS's new school plan; 3-4 commenters spoke against changing the plans.
 - b. Bylaws - The Committee needs to review in 2025; Jim submitted suggestions previously for changes, clean up wording and rearrange some sections.
 - c. 2024 Lantern Festival – good turnout at the event, and good engagement with the community, about 40 people on lantern walk led by Mike around the pond.
 - d. Committee needs to set date for Broom Hockey event in 2025
 - e. Google Drive for TNC - Colin sent an email to the committee about pricing (\$ 24.00/ year) for establishing a Google Drive for TNCC. Motion made to proceed with Google Drive, motion passed by the board.
3. Steward Updates –
 - a. Jim: has a new volunteer for invasive control, one morning/ week. May need some additional resources for the winter. The stewards added 11 species along the water, near the amphitheater. Completed burns in oak-hickory woods, between N Prairie and Thurston/ Clague trail. Two workdays in 2024. Moved 6-7 plants from south end of Conboy Trail to OHAC buffer strip.
 - b. Mike: Harrison and Mike did work on the peninsula. Put a new seed in this area.
4. Roles – The committee will work on creating and voting on new roles in 2025
5. Financial Update—Holly talked to Thurston PTO about donations that are not being directed to TNC. The PTO suggested that TNC get a PayPal account to receive direct donations. Holly will work on tracking down donations and creating our own payment system going forward.
6. Board voted via email for Smita Malpani as new water steward for the TNCC.

Next meeting: January 9th via Zoom