

Thurston Nature Center Committee Meeting

March 13, 2025 via Zoom

Attendance: Amy Creten, Colin Brooks, Jim Vallem, Praveena Ramaswami, Pam O'Neal, Kristen Cella, Michael Tucker, Sandy Breck, Smita Malpani, Mary Manthey

1. Update on the new Thurston Plan

- Decision update - The AAPS Board of Education voted 4-3 to move forward with the new Thurston plan, no staging, no adjustments to the placement of new Thurston.
 - Jason Bing requested to meet with TNCC March 17 virtually @ 3:30pm, and March 20 @ 11am for in-person walk through, developing a plan for moving plants, trees, and infrastructure

2. Documentation - boundaries, agreements, etc.

- The TNCC has records filed with the City of Ann Arbor noting boundaries of the TNC. Praveena requested area boundaries to be defined for future purposes and discussions.

3. County Commissioner letter about TNC pond/ Millers Creek

- Andy LaBarre from the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to Superintendent Parks for support of preserving the TNC
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bJl0N1q23QSgqhpdBikM2G9XqeJyZf4W/view?usp=drive_link

4. Hole on OHAC property near bench

- A neighbor reached out to Praveena about a hole that needs to be filled, hazard to neighbors walking in the area
- TNCC will coordinate with OHAC board on fixing issue

5. Rain Garden Grant and Relocation

- The TNCC has applied for the grant, but has not received a response yet.
- OHAC board is open to naturalizing areas near pond/ parking lot, possibly receiving plants from rain garden relocation.

6. Events

- Earth Day Plan
 - Mary Manthey has a full week of celebration planned. TNC to possibly be included in an end of week celebration/ work day.
 - Activities will be focused around moving plants and mulching trails. Jim, Mary, Elizabeth Morehead and Mike will meet to coordinate activities. Mary requested a timeline for coordinating activities.

7. Steward updates

- Jim Vallem - Asset Plan
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tzGyKf5TEijiNfK1jzDViO-6rrpald2u>
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- Scout Projects
 - April 27: Girl Scouts put down 100' of boardwalk, east side of pond. Need access to electricity to cut some boards on diagonal to turn corners, requested of OHAC.
 - May 24-25: William Militzer has two activities in Oak-Hickory Woods:
 - (1) plant native flowers and grasses north of the bridge, between the Thurston-Clague Trail and the TNC/Stuber property line
 - (2) trench below west Rain Garden to move water to the downhill side of Pond Circle Trail. Requested/received permission to use OHAC if needed for bathrooms.
 - Summer: Samuel Fort is still waiting on final BSA approval, will start fundraising for raised boardwalk at NE corner of pond as soon as he has permission. Expects to build on site during summer.

8. Financials - Holly Zechar sent an update via email - no financial updates, budget spreadsheet is located in TNC shared Google Drive.

Next meeting: April 10