

**Thurston Nature Center Committee Meeting  
September 4, 2025 @ Thurston Elementary School**

Attendance: Kristen Cella, Holly Zechar, Jim Vallem, Colin Brooks, Pam O'Neal, Mary Manthey, Smita Malpani, Michael Tucker

- 1) **2025-2026 TNCC budget:** Holly detailed budget line items. Added line item for Thurston Earth Week, sharing expenses with Thurston PTO ( \$ 500). The board voted and approved the budget.
- 2) **TNC Summer Fun Series:**Elizabeth shared a summary via email:
  - We hosted three events: Nature Art Show, Scavenger Hunt and Fairy Houses.
  - The Fairy House Find event was the most popular with 30 attending. (possibly because it was also back to school night at Thurston) (Aug)
  - The Scavenger Hunt was a bust. (July)
  - Nature Art Show had 4-5 people show up with requests for tours of the TNC. (June)
  - Budget wise we spent roughly under \$20 for the fairy houses.Requesting to store the fairy houses in the TNCC shed.

Mary suggested a change in themes for the series next Summer, more interactive activities and incorporating nature walks. Good idea to link to other events, possibly OHAC events or Thurston back to school night, to maximize attendance.

- 3) **TNCC Fall Work Day:** Jim suggested an adult-only work day for trimming and daubing Honeysuckle and Buckthorn in the N. Prairie area. The board agreed to delay this event until after the Eagle Scouts project, see how many woodchips remaining, possibly have adult only activity, and woodchipping for families ( adults and children).
- 4) **Land Steward report:** AAPS move ( 13) oak trees, all seem to be doing well post-transplant. AAPS moved signs, kiosks, and moved the kiosk display board to the side of the shed. AAPS did not add directional signs for the Thurston-Clague trail path detour as promised. Work has been done on the invasives near the shed and ragweed removed. Planting has been done on the peninsula, including wild indigo. Jim requested Plantwise to cut down phragmites and invasive cat tails.

**Water Steward:** Colin presented a long term goal to remove invasive aquatic plants in the pond.

- 5) **OHMHA Fall Festival October 5:** Colin and Mike will support the TNCC table at the festival. Thank you!

- 6) **By-laws:** Colin and Jim worked on revising the by-laws this summer. A draft was circulated to the board. No objections were raised, the draft will now be sent to the Thurston PTO for review and approval.
  
- 7) **Fall/ Winter TNC events:** Board discussed fall lantern event and winter ice hockey/ cocoa event. Further details and dates TBD.

**Next meeting: October date TBD**