

Lawrence Nature Center Minutes - May 12, 2010

Attendance: Lisa Ilaria, Madeline Price, Pam Mount, Sue Hermann, Helen Dutko, Dave Bosted, Anne Demarais, John Gaston, Carol Nicholas, Tahirih Smith, Teresita Heron, Linda Townsend, Rick Dutko.

Guest: Alen Takasugi

Scout Projects:

- Alen Takasugi , Troop 28 would like to build boardwalks in the wetlands along the Blue trail. He is working on a proposal to present to the committee. He hopes to raise boardwalk on 2x4, and cover 130 feet of trail.
- Girl Scout troop lead by Pepper Evans is working on book plates for our library.
- Nick Bosted is progressing with his project to build a fence around the bee hive.
- Elliot Nagel wants to make a bridge over the blue trail ditch.

Earth Day:

- Rick estimated that 250-300 people attended.
- Teresita completed survey of participants and most were pleased and only one will not come back next year.
- Alternate dates were discussed and may consider moving event up one week or postponing it one week so it does not compete with Spring Fling, Shad Festival and Communiuniversity.
- Everyone would like to see food a component for next year. Teresita suggested involving the local restaurants. Will work with GEPNA to improve for next year.
- Teresita suggested using the boom box to have music when the band is not playing.
- Improve signage next year - have a large program of events posted and programs.
- Make sure we have more people for break down at end of day to clean up.
- Make sure we have a volunteer at the LNC table all day.
- Anne sold \$75 at the flea market. Carol's plants made \$46 for the kitty, which now has \$321. It will be used to buy refreshments at the summer programs.
- Sue had 12 books donated to the nature center from her Snowy Owl booth.

Summer Program:

- Anne has completed the summer program flyer and is still looking for volunteers to help host. PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING AT FAMILY NIGHT. This is an important community outreach, and we need your help.
- Responsibilities:
 - Open the LNC and introduce the speaker
 - Help control the crowd so are respectful of the speaker and protect the LNC property.
 - Answer questions about the center, recruit volunteers, and encourage sign up for e-news.
 - Lock up.

Native Garden:

- Pam will rototill next week.
- May 25th at 9 am will pick up plants and plant larger pots.
- June 6th and 14th at 9 am will plant smaller plugs.
- Carol and Teresita will clean up the butterfly garden and label.

Lecture Series:

- Teresita is preparing evening programs for adults and is working out the dates with Professor Clara Haigner who will talk on Insect Transmitted Diseases; Professor Grant will talk on Evolution Ecology – Finches.
- Rick will talk on the Sourlands at the LNC at 7 pm May 19th followed with a hike on May 22 at the Sourlands. See website for more info.
- Teresita is organizing a summer reading program at the Community Center June 17th and 24th. More details to come.
- Other ideas for future programs are Music Festival in October; Master Gardener talk on weed control; make a wreath; collaborate with Jen Roger's from the MCP.

Rain Garden:

- Rick is still trying to work out a date to meet with Brian and Chris to discuss location of rain garden.

Rain Barrel:

- The Artist Network rain barrel was painted at Earth Day, and they are coating it with a protective paint and donating it to the nature center in the near future.

By Laws:

- Teresita, Pepper, Dave and John have created a long and short draft document outlining the by-laws required to become a 501-c3.
- There were many questions about age of membership, fees, number of trustees, attendance required, length of document, formal language of document.
- It was decided to slowly work through the document 4 pages at a time to address the questions systematically over many months and not rush the process.
- Everyone thanked the committee for getting this initiative started in such a professional manner.

Board:

- In the absence of a President, Carol volunteered to chair the June monthly meeting. John volunteered to chair the July meeting.
- Linda volunteered to be the Treasurer.
- The option to open a bank account was discussed. Anne said she did not mind holding the grant money in the Non-profit Greenway account. Since there are no other outstanding financial needs, it was decided that it is easier to continue with the current setup of Township dedicated account, and the Greenway account.

New Business:

- Rick started Geocaching with his junior naturalists and it was highly successful. He and his son would like to set it up at Drexel Woods. He will send out more info.
- Tahirih is looking for volunteers to hand out "Project Porchlight" info packets. It not only teaches people how to conserve energy, but has community building info included. We will put the summer program flyer in the bag. If anyone is interested, contact GEPNA or Tahirih.
- Rick added 13 boards to the woods to make shelters for herps. He will check them once a month to see what amphibians frequent our woods.