

Lawrence Nature Center Minutes April 13, 2011

Attendance:

Alan Remde, John Gaskins, Anne Demairis, Rick Dutko, Steve Groeger, Heidi D'Ascoli, Linda Townsend, Teresita Heron-Bastides, Carol Nicholas, Tahirih Smith, Bret Smith, Madelaine Price , Pam Mount

Guests: Virginia and Richard Tomat-Kelly, Giovanna Tomat-Kelly

Beautification:

- Alan has made decorative LNC signs to go on the posts that the township will be replacing. The group selected a design and he will go ahead and paint in the near future.
- Landscape planting was discussed and it was decided to hold off until after May 7th festival.
- Port o Potty has been moved to the designated position out of initial view.

Bees:

- Tahirih and Alan report that during the weekend of March 20th, a group of teenage boys were seen in the meadow with a bat, and following this, the hive was found tipped over. It happened on a very cold weekend, and the bees could not sustain the frost and died. Tahirih has ordered 2 new colonies of bees and has replacement inserts. The committee agreed to pay the \$260 replacement costs from the Township fund. The group asked Steve to officially report it to the police.

Scouts:

- Rick is in dialogue with a scout who would like to install solar powered lighting along driveway. He will present his idea to the committee in the future.
- Zach has finished his boardwalks, and dropped them off at the center. He will return on Sunday April 17th to install them with John's supervision. He made 20 eight foot long sections.
- Linda T. knows a Girl Scout who would like to build bird houses for her Silver Award. The group suggested wood duck house(s) and a brochure on wood ducks to teach others about them.
- Giovanna Tomat-Kelly would like to work on her Gold Award. The group suggested an interpretive trail guide.
- The group discussed developing boy and Girl Scout badge program to encourage troops to use the nature center. Will discuss further.

Property:

- Board walks from the Trail Grant award have been installed, and are construction is almost completed on the white trail.
- A pre-festival property Clean Up is scheduled for April 30, 9:30 AM. We encourage everyone to come out and help prepare the property for the festival.

- Rick presented many fence designs currently available in the stores for the groups input. He will follow up to see if there is a low split rail product, and will price the black metal design Heidi saw at Alta. The garden in front of the house is being walked on, and he would like to have a low fence to keep people out. The 5 inch brown edging material was agreed upon for the border. He needs about 160 feet of fencing.
- The plant signs for the native species garden have arrived and will be installed. Thank you Rick for arranging the purchase and installation.
- Pam volunteered to provide flowers to beautify the area in time for the Festival
- Teresita prepared beautiful butterfly pictures and a brochure that will be ready for the festival. They will be permanent educational guides for the butterfly garden. Steve will help her get them laminated.
- Brett asked if he could take his chain saw and cut a slice out of the large downed tree that blocks the path. Steve will ask Public Works.

Festival:

- Carol has 12 positive responses for tables at the festival. She will follow up with the invitees who have not responded. The schedule for presentations is full. Two groups have agreed to provide music all day. Tahirih found a sponsor for the bench and bike rack. PNV will donate the bench, and Knopps will donate the bike rack. She has invited Joyce and her son for the presentation. Also honored that day will be Larry Beeber. The bridge near the creek will be labeled in his honor. Heidi will look into plaques for the bench and the bridge.
- Terisita has started the publicity. Carol requested that a banner be made and installed on the municipal building property. Heidi will look into cost and design, and Steve will fund it through the Township trust fund.
- Tahirih has a Sustainable Lawrence sign and she will post it at the entrance to the center.
- Anne will have a “Lucy Free Table” at the Festival.
- Carol requested people donate their perennial plant divisions for sale at the Festival.
- A volunteer sign up request will be emailed out by Anne. We need help setting up, cleaning up, and roving helpers during the event.

Thank You:

- Sue prepared a beautiful LNC table at the Home Expo on Sunday, and also made a nature craft table for all the visitors. Teresita made lovely flyers promoting the upcoming events. Thank you to Sue, Teresita, Carol and Anne for manning the table at this wonderful event.
- Thank you to Rick for leading successful program last month. The next one is Saturday at 1 pm. See you all there!