

Eagle Nature Trail Committee Minutes—Special Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, Eagle Municipal Building

Meeting called to order by Chair, Jean Weedman at 3 p.m.

Present: Jean Weedman, Mary Jenks, Dave Traver, Lyne Neuburg

Approve Minutes: Lyn moved and Dave seconded the motion to approve the minutes with one correction per Jean: our first ever Trail Walk will be from 1-3 p.m. not 1-4 p.m.

Kline Award: The Eagle Nature Trail is the recipient of the 2014 Virginia Kline Award for Excellence in Community-Based Restoration! The award program is administered by the Friends of the Arboretum in collaboration with the Aldo Leopold Foundation. We will receive an engraved plaque and a \$2000 cash prize which we will receive in October. A reporter and photographer from the Arboretum's newsletter will meet with our committee the first week in July for interviews and pictures of the trail for their article. Jean will attend the awards evening on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at the Arboretum Visitor Center. Lyne suggested sending Alli Chase, Library Director, a thank you letter for writing a letter of recommendation for the award.

Invasive Species Consortium: Larry Ziegler loaned us two summer interns to pull and bag invasive species on the trail. A generous donor pledged \$1 per pound of invasive species pulled. Our team, which included committee members, children from EES, and the interns pulled over 1000 pounds of garlic mustard/dames rocket from the wooded area bordering the trail. Half of the money, approximately \$500, will be returned to us to be used for further projects. Dave suggested using goats to control the invasive species and referred us to Tracy Novak from 4-H to discuss this possibility. Jean will follow-up on this suggestion.

Dedication/Trail Walk Planning: Discussion about changing the time of the trail walk from 1-3 p.m. to 11 a.m.-1 p.m. so it doesn't conflict with the Eagle Historical Society's ice cream social that day. Dave moved and Mary seconded a motion to change the time of the Trail Walk to 11 a.m.-- 1 p.m. on July 13. Motion passed. Jean brought the bench decorated by art students from Palmyra/Eagle High School to show the committee. It is beautiful! Jean will talk to the Director of the Library about leaving it in the library until the Trail Walk with a note about auctioning it off. We decided that opening bids should start at \$75. Lyne reported that her daughter volunteered to do face painting that day. Lyne was not able to find anyone to provide musical entertainment. Dave suggested contacting the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Lions Club about providing refreshments, i.e. lemonade, water or juice boxes instead of ice cream cups. Jean will follow-up. We will provide three or four different coloring sheets to give out to children that day. Dave suggested we invite the residents of the local retirement home. Jean will follow-up on this as well. Lyne will make public announcements at the School Board and Village Board meetings inviting members to attend. Jean will create posters and signs.

Signage: Jean reported that building the bases of molded concrete bricks to hold the two signs proposed for each end of the trail would cost us around \$600 each. Instead, Jean suggested putting up split rail fences at each end of the trail at a much reduced cost. She also suggested cutting off the top of the dead maple tree at the southern end of the prairie and putting a wood sculpture of an eagle on the top of the remaining trunk. However, this sculpture would cost more than the two original signs. Jean will discuss the change with Bob Younger, the artist. Jean moved and Mary seconded a motion to write a letter to Menards requesting a donation of \$1000 to include \$500 for signage materials and \$500 for materials to build split rail fences. Motion passed.

Jean shared a brochure with examples of the type of signage she would like to have placed on the trail. There was discussion regarding size of the signs, number of signs, and information to be included on the signs. We tentatively decided that we would need a minimum of four signs with placement and information included to be decided at a later date. Lyne moved and Mary seconded a motion to approve cost of signage for no more than \$2000 pending approval of the Village of Eagle Building Inspector. Motion passed.

Summer Plans: We will continue to use volunteers, i.e. NHS students and others, to remove invasive species on the trail. There are four dead elms in the forested part of the trail on school property that could pose a hazard to people. Lyn will contact the school district about having them removed. Jean will have her contractor spray the reed canary grass in the fall at a cost of around \$200.

Finances: There is currently \$810.59 in the Treasury. (\$100 from Wild Ones was deposited for the trail becoming a monarch waystation.)

Public Comment: Heartfelt thanks go to Dave Traver who recognized the need for this trail and began the organizing to make it possible. He stayed with the idea from 2009 until now. Since he is relocating to California, we will miss his sense of humor, his diligence, his wise counsel, and his need to use his tractor at the trail!

Lyne moved and Mary seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 15