

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021

Members Present: Carlson, Hietpas, Jakel, Manion, McGinnis, Pautz, and Van Berkel

Not Present: Gertz and McGregor

Also Present: Deb Nowak and Maureen Feldt

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, Manion at 6:33 PM. Quorum is present.

February 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

McGinnis made a motion to approve the February 18, 2021 Committee Meeting minutes. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

Public Appearances

None

February Financial Report

Jakel made a motion to approve the February 2021 Financial Report. Seconded by Pautz. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Feldt shared the memorials and donations received since the last meeting. Additional donations received through the seedling sale order form where a "donation" line is included this year.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

The Spring Art Fair is postponed until Sunday, September, 12. The Friends Group hopes that more people will be vaccinated by fall and that the Covid numbers will be lower for them to safely hold the event.

Maple Syrup season is underway and the new additions to the Sugar Shack are working great. The exhaust fan in the Sugar Shack is extremely loud and will need to be addressed.

Naturalist's Report

The Endowment Wall project is completed along with upgraded lighting in the entrance area. An Eagle Scout is looking to raise money to update the fishing pier closest to the Nature Center. The construction plan for the updated fishing pier still needs to be approved.

Site Manager Open Position: Received three applications and will interview two candidates. Goat Coordinator Open Position: Two applications received and will interview both candidates.

Classes and building rentals will start in June with maximum capacity of 30 people in the building.

Hietpas made a motion to accept February's Naturalist report and place it on file. Seconded by Pautz. Motion carried.

COVID Update

The entire Nature Center building will open to the public on Tuesday, April 6th. The lobby has been open for a few weeks and going well. Cleaning Solutions Services (Bill Fielder) donated an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer to the Nature Center to use for disinfecting surfaces at the end of an event/day. This sprayer will make it much easier and quicker to complete the disinfecting task.

Admin and Finance Committee

Nothing to report.

Education Committee

Summary of the March 11th sub-committee meeting and that the new programming kits will be promoted to schools as a supplemental medium for teachers to utilize.

Aquarium Replacements: The existing three aquariums and stands are very old and in desperate need of replacement. Nowak receive a quote from Custom Aquariums of Neenah for \$15,290.76 to replace all three units. The quote included having casters to move the units and also some decorative elements. The decorative elements are not necessary, but casters are needed to help in moving the units to properly clean them. The aquariums might be salvageable to sell, but the bases are not. Funding for the replacements would be from seedling sale proceeds and private donations. Lead time is eight to ten weeks. McGinnis made a motion to approve the replacement of the three existing aquariums, utilizing Custom Aquariums as the selected vendor and not to exceed \$15,000. Seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Nelson Overlook: McGinnis talked to the City Street Dept. to install "Enter" and "Exit" signs for the new parking lot. Nowak to work with the Street Dept. to address the mess left from construction and to possibly get some crushed stone put down.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good for the Center

Question to Nowak regarding the committee members' commitment to 1000 Islands and minimum time requirements. A policy is not in place for minimum commitment and required attendance at meetings. Nowak to reach out to committee members that have not been attending without notice.

Next Committee Meeting

Next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021; 6:30 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business McGinnis moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. Seconded by Van Berkel. Motion carried.

Maureen Feldt,
Acting Secretary