

Arboretum Advisory Council Minutes

April 6, 1998, 2:00 pm

Members present: Mr. Gordon Bailey, Ms. Nancy Diedrich, Ms. Dorothy Johnson, Mr. Tom Kroll, Fr. John Kulas, Ms. Janette Monear, Mr. Ron Weinhold and Fr. Paul Schwietz.

Members absent: Dr. Gordon Brown, Dr. Cheryl Knox, Dr. Peter Olin, Ms. Sarah Pruet, Mr. Scott May.

I. Minutes approved. The minutes of the February 9 meeting were approved.

II. Update of projects and events - Fr. Paul

There will be a 5K Arbor Month Woods Run on May 2. It will be the first annual fundraising run, geared to members of the two campuses. The co-chairs are: Adam Halbur, Mark Janikula and Ryan Olson.

Peggy Callahan will be coming on campus to speak about the Minnesota Wolf Project on the evening of May 11. It will be co-sponsored by the Arboretum and Environmental Studies.

The Tree Walk Dedication which was planned for May has no set date. The text is ready, but we still have to figure out the tree signs and finish the brochure. Dr. Stephen Saupe is in charge of this project.

Colin Robertson, a new student worker, will be taking over the newsletter and be in charge of the prairie identification garden signs and brochure. In all there will be six student workers for the summer and six for the 1998-99 school year.

III. Update of Restoration and Management Committee - Fr. Paul

We plan to do a detailed inventory of the prairie this summer. We originally planted seventy species in 1991 and added some twenty others, but we are not sure how many are out there. A butterfly inventory will be done to supplement the work done two years ago under Dr. Jim Poff. (At that time there were 27 species present.) There will be a survey of the wetlands which will include a study of water flow and plant communities to plan how to restore the hydrology and vegetation back to a sedge meadow. We will also decide where we want to put board walks and how to direct traffic flow. We are considering the development of two loops through the habitat restoration project.

The members of the management committee toured the oak shelterwood that has been underway the past several years. A shelterwood is an area where trees are thinned out to allow for sun to hit the forest floor. Care is taken to promote natural regeneration. When oak seedlings are about four feet tall, the overstory is removed to allow for the new generation to mature. There are about twenty five acres in the south-east section of the woods that this method has been done. The shelterwood could be a good example of oak management to landowners and students.

IV. Update from Fundraising & Public Relations Committee - Dorothy Johnson

Everyone should have received a handout on fundraising summarizing three different sections: 1. Long-term revenue, 2. Arboretum Membership, and 3. New kiosk and homecoming weekend.

Concerning long-term revenue an application for a Minnesota Common Grant was considered and Dorothy passed out a photocopy of an application form.

A long discussion took place concerning the fees for membership. It was suggested that the student fee include possible work time or a service learning component. In considering the other fees, it was asked if we want to attract a large number of people at a low fee or aim for a lower number of “more committed” members at a higher fee. What is the goal of membership?

We want to promote a sense of belonging, of goodwill, and encourage people to learn from our resources. We decided that the fees decided so far are lower than most arboretums. In addition, our main target group will be Alumni because giving to environmental causes is popular among alumni around the nation, but we don’t know exactly how to target the Alumni. We need to contact the Alumni office on possible collaboration or how to start a separate effort to raise money. We need to decide what the perks of membership will be. Certainly there will be a monthly walk/event. Another suggestion was a medallion made by potter-in-residence-R. Breshnahan. Other benefits include the newsletter, a reduced fee for special events, and possible discounts at the bookstore. Can we also have the dues fully tax-deductable?

A dedication of the kiosk over homecoming weekend could be a good time to target Alumni for membership and just general interest in the arboretum. The problem will be scheduling activities with an overloaded schedule. (Each of the three committees should have a display for the event.) They are also considering as second event earlier in the fall.

V. Update from Education Committee - Nancy Dietrich and Gordon Brown

The need for pre/post visit packets were suggested for teachers bringing students on campus. In addition, a teachers training session during the summer was suggested with either SNAP or the Tree Trust so that they can give self-guided tours.

It was suggested that we keep things out of the museum context and stress human active participation in the environment through regeneration and sustainable management. Fr. Paul talked about the cross section of 263 year old tree that was cut down this winter and suggested that it be hung in the woods kiosk when constructed. In addition, others suggested putting up things like this through out campus in meeting rooms, etc.

VI. Update on Newsletter - Fr. Paul and Adam

The next issue will include articles on the five principles of management, prairie burns, a student profile, and the Arbor Day run. Another suggestion was a section on putting things in the ground or on a plant of the month and plant phenology (i.e. Red Oaks germinating, 263 year old oak stump, planting the 8 acres of the savanna, etc.) Other suggestions were a calendar of events, articles on land use, and articles on teachers (?).

The Next Meeting: Set for June 8 at the home and River Glen Gardens of Ron Weinhold.
(Hopefully, the lady slippers will be in bloom!)
Directions are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted:

Adam Halbur