

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024

Members Present Breitzman, Eggleston, Pautz, White, Hintz, Jakel, Manion, West

Not Present Blood, Hietpas, and VanBerkel

Also Present Terri Vosters and Cassandra Kohls

Pautz called the April Committee Meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

May 16, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

Eggleston made a motion to approve the May 16, 2024, Committee Meeting minutes with a correction to list Hintz as present. Seconded by Manion. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

The May Financial Report was reviewed by the Committee. Jakel approved of splitting out Jabber's expenses and revenue to identify when fundraising would be necessary. Jakel made a motion to approve the May Financial Report. Seconded by Eggleston. Motion carried.

Correspondence

The committee reviewed the May Donation Report and supported the donation of two garden beds to the Statesburg Apartments in Kaukauna. Eggleston moved to approve the Correspondence Report. Jakel seconded. Motion carried.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

In Hietpas' absence, Vosters reported based on the Friends Treasurer's report. The Art Fair revenue was lower than last year, with food stand profits down and leftovers remaining. The Art Fair revenue totaled \$7,300 revenue with \$5,500 expenses. The Committee discussed potential reasons for the lower attendance, including competing community events. Vosters reported the basket raffle did well. Eggleston spoke in favor of the variety of baskets this year.

Naturalist's Report

Breitzman supported revising the field trips. Jakel supported staff putting packets together for ages/grades. Vosters spoke in support of evaluating the program time frames. 1000 Islands staff were featured in four press segments on WLUK. Jakel moved to approve the May Naturalist report. Seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

No report.

Education Sub-Committee

White reported plans for fundraising for Jabber's medications in August. Eggleston moved to receive and place on file Minutes of May 13, 2024, Sub-Committee. Seconded by White. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds Sub-Committee

No report. The Committee is working to schedule a meeting.

Old Business

The Goat gathering with Council was well received. Manion mentioned it was impressive to see the goats running.

Eggleston encouraged more marketing for Service Saturdays to increase attendance.

New Business:

Staffing Update – City Council will meet in July to review/approve Vosters as the Director of 1000 Islands. Garrity's temporary dual role of Site Manager and Assistant Naturalist will end in August. A decision will be made whether to post the Assistant Naturalist position. Vosters voiced the need for additional education staff. Vosters informed the Committee of the phases of the city's staffing plan for 2025. Eggleston suggested adding media contacts to the data collected in the plan. Blood compiled attendance data from surrounding nature centers. The Committee discussed various staffing options including adding a facility manager position. Manion wanted defined roles if a facility manager is overseeing the Nature Center's site manager. Vosters would like to combine the Parks and Recreation Departments. Vosters spoke of the possible creation of a Community Enrichment Board with representation from each committee. Vosters indicated the AmeriCorps position that was not utilized this year was part of the 2024 Capital Improvement Projects and is not part of the 1000 Islands operational budget.

Website Plan – The 1000 Islands website will be integrated into the City of Kaukauna website with a rollout planned for December 2024. Friends of 1000 Islands could utilize the current 1000 Island website.

Music Festival - Vosters announced a music festival is planned for August 9-10 at Hydro Park. Hintz suggested marketing this event at the Grignon Mansion car show.

Good of the Center

The Girl Scouts "Bags to Benches" program was a success. 1,200 pounds of plastic and film were collected. Pautz suggested a different drop off process for next year to avoid the collection in the nature center lobby.

A Nelson Grant Tour of the Boardwalk will be held on July 17, 2024. 1000 Islands staff and the Community Foundation of Fox Valley Region will attend.

Vosters reported that staff have not received an update about the Greenways Grant application. John Neumeier is applying for a DNR Grant.

Jakel thanked Kohls for creating the goat celebration invitation.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on July 18, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, White moved to adjourn the June 20, 2024, Committee Meeting at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls, Administrative Assistant