

Minutes for 1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025

Members Present Pautz, Eggleston, White, Breitzman, Van Berkel, and Jakel

Not Present Manion, Hietpas, Vosters, and Rumbuc

Also Present Brad Garrity and Cassandra Kohls

White called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

November 21, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

VanBerkel requested to spell out "Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)" in the November 21, 2024, minutes. VanBerkel moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

The Committee reviewed the November and December financial reports and Donation Report. Funds were received for a memorial bench purchase. Garrity mentioned a list of memorial donation options will be created by April. Eggleston recommended memorial trail markers. VanBerkel requested account 4910 be added to the Donation Report. Pautz moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Jakel. Motion carried.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

In Hietpas' absence, Garrity reported that Friends will provide concessions at Eagle Days. Friends donated \$2,500 to establish a bus subsidy program for schools within the Kaukauna School District (public and private). 1000 Islands will administer the program. Friends held an annual meeting with a small turnout and hosted an Eagle Cultural Presentation by Kim Cackowski. Garrity presented a grant proposal to the Community Vision Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region to support the Assistant Naturalist position. Friends has a Facebook group page, and staff will assist in improving their social media efforts.

Naturalist's Report

Garrity reviewed the Naturalist Report. Kat Berge began her full-time position. Friends received \$30,000 as the first installment of a grant from the Community Vision Fund within the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region. The Committee requested clarification on the Committee's roles and authority. Vosters is researching the Committee's history and will report back. Pautz asked for a timeline. Garrity explained Vosters will provide a timeline. As resolutions were passed, old policy was not repealed. There's housekeeping to do. The structure of the City has changed. Staff attended two RecTrac training sessions but decided not to proceed with implementation. Funds spent on sessions will not be refunded, but licensing payments will be credited to the Rec Department. 1000 Islands pavilion rentals will continue to be managed by 1000 Islands staff. Successful programs included the Lip Balm Take and Make Workshop and Silent Night Hike. The Sweetheart Hike is scheduled for February 14. Boardwalk Phase 1 is complete, and Phase 2 construction will resume after Eagle Days. Trail signage will be coming and funding options are being explored. A roofing contractor inspected the roof, but no update is available yet. Siding will be replaced after re quoting and purchasing materials. Jakel commended Kohls for social media efforts. Garrity will provide the Year-End Review report at the next meeting. Eggleston made a motion to approve and place on file the November/December Naturalist's Report. Seconded by Pautz. Motion carried.

VanBerkel asked about snowshoe usage, and Garrity mentioned that none were rented this season.

Snowshoes are not allowed on the boardwalk. Pautz recommended placing signage by the trail. White suggested bringing snowshoes to Electa Quinney. Garrity noted that Gonnering proposed a skating pond at 1000 Islands. Garrity noted that Vosters suggested contacting the Street Department to discuss a skating pond for future years.

Admin and Finance Sub-Committee

No report

Education Sub-Committee

Pautz summarized the meeting. April - May programs are filling up fast. Berge is tracking program stats. The 5-year strategic plan was reviewed, with many goals met or in progress. Discussions included updating program exhibits, funding exhibit updates, and volunteers. The bird exhibit is underway, with the help of several Committee members. The toddler area is being enhanced. Cabinet doors were painted, new games and books have been added. Pautz suggested updating the pelt exhibit and seeking sponsorships for exhibits. VanBerkel suggested offering sponsoring a display as a memorial. Garrity prefers private donor preference.

Building & Grounds

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Garrity requested action on the Golden Investment Account. The Committee deferred the discussion to the Admin and Finance sub-committee. Jakel asked for staff input. Eggleston suggested using the funds or transferring them into the endowment.

Committee requested an updated Member/Term Listing.

Good of the Center

Eagle Days will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 7 AM – 5 PM at 1000 Islands. Volunteers are needed for mid-day and afternoon shifts at the observation areas. Garrity will be interviewed by several media stations. Eggleston asked if the eagle presentation cost was sponsored; Garrity stated no. Pautz suggested seeking a sponsor for future years. Eggleston recommended soliciting sponsorships for main events.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on February 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Jakel moved to adjourn the January 17, 2024, Committee Meeting at 7:49 PM. Seconded by Pautz. Motion carried.

Cassandra Kohls, Administrative Assistant