



Groen Visioning Committee

Tuesday, August 7, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.
Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools
Media Center – 10854 M-32
Johannesburg, MI 49751

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present —Lee Olsen, John Burt, Jim Hilgendorf, Don Sklarczyk, Matt Nowak, Kevin Kennedy

Others Present —Roger Latusek, Patricia Osburn

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sklarczyk, seconded by Hilgendorf, to “accept the minutes of March 9, 2012 as written”. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates/Reports

1. Preserve Opening Update

Burt reported that the Nature Preserve Dedication Ceremony went very well. Mike Tarbutton had informed Burt that there were approximately seven to ten vehicles in the parking lot at all times on Friday, approximately twenty-five vehicles throughout Saturday, and about fifteen to twenty vehicles throughout the day on both Sunday and Monday.

2. Oral History Interviews

Duczowski and Phil Alexander interviewed both Bill Kujawa and Mrs. Groen. Hilgendorf will be working with Duczowski to set up further interviews.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Topics

The Committee discussed spending the next year improving the current setup of the Preserve, and gathering further historic data through the interviews, prior to doing any further planning for the Preserve.

Burt discussed the need to incorporate equestrian uses on the property. The Committee discussed having a trough put in by the restroom, and possibly starting with having horses on the first and last Sundays of the month. Osburn discussed Latusek’s idea of cutting a

more accessible trail down to the lake where a previous trail existed. That trail also had a spot to tie up horses. Tarbutton, Osburn, Latusek, and Burt will meet to discuss.

A majority of visitors to the Preserve have brought bicycles. The Committee discussed the need to increase bicycle accessibility since this is the way many families are able to access the property with their children.

The Committee discussed forming a volunteer base to help man the check-in building. They discussed seeking interested volunteers through a survey card as well as from R.S.V.P.

Nowak asked whether we could allow visitors to also access the property off of Waters Road so that if they are traveling west on Waters Road they will not have to go on to Gingell Road. Burt will discuss with Tarbutton.

Burt reported that the Foundation Board is planning on asking Stop Stick to donate an alarm system for the check-in building, storage shed, and restroom.

The Committee asked about putting up a sign to request people to leave their maps when finished, if not needed, so that less will need to be printed.

The Committee discussed the selling of hats and other items to bring in funding for the Preserve, which is allowed in the Conservation Easement. They also discussed the need to trademark the name and logo.

Nowak asked about having rolls of barbed wire found in the woods removed to a safer spot.

Latusek reported that the Foundation Board had discussed having a run in memory of Mr. Groen on the Fourth of July prior to the parade.

Osburn reported that the Foundation Board members asked her to concentrate on getting children to the property.

B. Assignments for Next Meeting

Burt/Tarbutton:

- Develop a seasonal survey to find out what activities users want at the Preserve and to seek volunteers.
- Look into adding cardinal direction signage, or possibly a color on poles to represent north.
- Purchase and install a pole, similar to those used by the DNR, to accept donations.
- Look into a muffler addition for the utility vehicle to help make it run more quietly.
- Sign asking visitors to leave maps if not needed.
- Look into a trough for the restroom area.
- Add a suggestion box at the check-in area.
- Look into trademarking the name and logo and discuss selling of merchandise with Tarbutton.
- Ask the Road Commission to brush hog along Waters Road.

Burt/Tarbutton/Osburn/Latusek:

- Meet to discuss an alternative lake access trail; an alternative trail to the current trail near 62 that is highly erodible; look at the current status of the emerald ash borer; and decide equestrian trail compatibility.

Latusek:

- Start accepting the collection of artifacts for the property.

Duczowski/Hilgendorf:

- Continue work on historic interviews

C. Next Meeting Date

The Committee will be meeting quarterly, with the next meeting in the fall. Burt will send out regular updates.

Mr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.