

Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes 5/24/18

PRESENT: Josh Boyle, Nancy Brundage, Laurel Gay, Kat Paull, Stacey Sahli, Lauren Schroeder, Nick Visingardi, Advisor Carol Vigorito

The meeting was opened by Chairman Boyle at 6:30 PM 5/24/18. Mrs. Vigorito proposed an amendment to the minutes from the 4/17/18. Mr. Boyle moved to approve the amended minutes with no opposed. Mrs. Vigorito also proposed that the minutes include more detail and perhaps changing pronouns to be more descriptive to avoid misunderstanding.

OLD BUSINESS:

We decided to table the discussion regarding grant recommendations to the board. Next, we also decided to table Dr. Schroeder's report regarding the use of park resources for a later discussion. To conclude old business, we revisited our goals from the previous year and assess whether MCMP meets the needs of everyone in the community and make sure people walk away with knowledge and understanding of the information presented throughout the park and its resources. Mr. Boyle made a recommendation to propose to the board to bring in presenters and provide programs that focus on environmental issues. Dr. Schroeder mentioned downed deadwood and invasive species as topics. Mrs. Brundage informed us of a program "Gardening for Pollinators". Mrs. Vigorito suggested we create SMART goals while Dr. Schroeder proposed that we think about objectives that could relate to our goals. Finally, Mrs. Vigorito suggested we as a committee decide what is it we want the board to approve or mandate and back it up with a road map, including how many people will be affected and cost among other details, before we decide to go to the board with any proposals.

NEW BUSINESS:

We discussed Dr. Schroeder's proposal for a symposium on Best Management Practices for Small Natural Areas. Mr. Boyle summarized the report for the committee. Dr. Schroeder mentioned that he composed an email to East Gate with no response, but word of mouth has expressed interest by them. Dr. Schroeder said that he envisions the conference on small wild area management to examine the spectrum of no management to extensive management, including benefits and harms, cost benefit analysis, educational opportunities, legacy of area, and extreme situations that could arise. Dr. Schroeder proposed that we present the idea to other MCMP committees and see if they are interested in being involved. Mrs. Vigorito suggest we compile a list of organizations that address the topics to be presented. Mr. Boyle motioned to allow Dr. Schroeder to reach out to other groups for their opinion, Mrs. Sahli seconded the motion. A vote resulted in one member opposed because id does not meet the goals of our committee. It was decided that the committee members could ask around unofficially to determine if interest existed within the community. Mrs. Paull suggested that we as a committee keep the mission in mind and keep it within MCMP.

Next, we discussed Mr. Boyle's proposed meeting format to keep meetings efficient and timely. Mr. Boyle suggested the format to create an atmosphere of respect among committee members, to encourage preparedness, and initiate productive conversations. Mrs. Vigorito suggested that Mr. Boyle share the proposed meeting notes in writing with everyone before the meeting. Mrs. Paull mentioned "Robert's Rule" to which Mr. Boyle said he would research and follow this format when writing proposed timeline for the meetings.

Mrs. Brundage resigned as committee secretary and this was committee approved through a vote. Mr. Visingardi nominate Mrs. Sahli to assume the position of secretary, which was seconded by Dr. Schroeder. The committee voted and approved Mrs. Sahli as secretary.

Next meeting dates were discussed. (June 28th with the 26th as a second choice).

Mr. Boyle adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Secretary Stacey Sahli