

**DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, March 15, 6:30PM**  
**DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER, 2125 DENBY DRIVE, WATERFORD, MI 48329**

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:35 pm, Murray Day
- II. **Introduction of Members, Staff and Guests:**
  - a. **Members Present:** Aubrey Golden, Murray Day, Jim Zampol, Terri Chapdelaine, Teresa Serowoky and Mike Ristich.
  - b. **Also Present:** Ian Ableson, Annie Humphrey, Alison Swanson and Tori Heglin
  - c. **Excused:** Linda Zabik, Marie Hauswirth, Josh Lumsden and Sandy Pulk
  - d. **Guest:** Lori Champagne
- III. **Review and Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve T. Chapdelaine, second M. Day. Motion approved.
- IV. **Review and Approve January minutes:** Motion to approve January minutes by T. Chapdelaine, second by M. Day. Motion approved.
- V. **Reports:**
  - a. **Director's Report: Alison Swanson – Report submitted at meeting and attached as Appendix A – Director's Report for DPNC Committee Meeting March 15, 2022, Alison Swanson, Parks and Recreation**
  - b. **Parks and Recreation: Tori Heglin**
    - i. **Blizzard Blast:** On Sunday, February 6 Oakland County Parks and Recreation worked collaboratively with Waterford Parks and Recreation to offer snowshoeing, craft, snow art, hot chocolate bar, scavenger hunt and s'mores at the Warming House. Twenty-one individuals joined us, many seemed to relish their first time ever snowshoeing! Participants spanned from 4 to 48 years old.
    - ii. **Nature Escapades Camp:** There will be one week of Nature Camp at Drayton Plains Nature Center from July 25-28 for 6-10 year olds. Farm, science and sports camps will also be offered.
    - i. **Seasonal Position Flyer:** Many entities are having a hard time recruiting staff at this time. We are making additional efforts as best we can. We will be reaching out to local private and public schools as well as our sponsors and various other leads. We have posted flyers on Oakland University bulletins boards and will utilize Handshake, a recruiting platform used by Oakland and other universities in Michigan. Our seasonal staff job flyer will be included with the board mailings and hard copies will be available at the meetings. Please let us know if you have any additional suggestions or contacts that would be worthwhile. If you know of anyone 21 or older you might be good for a supervisory role or 18 and older that might be good for a counselor position, please let us know. Recruiting within the school is difficult so our best opportunities may come through personal contacts.
  - c. **Caretaker Report: Josh Lumsden**
    - i. Leaky upstairs kitchen faucet in the interpretive building has been replaced.
    - ii. Volunteer days planned for April—goals include painting the overlook by pond 5
    - iii. Preparing equipment for 2022 season—working with staff to maintain and fix Gator
    - iv. Exploring options for maintaining trails under very wet conditions
  - b. **Friends of the Drayton Plains Nature Center: Terri Chapdelaine and Murray Day – no report**
- VI. **Old Business**

**Management Plan Review:** Motion to approve T. Chapdelaine, second M. Day. Motion approved.
- VII. **New Business**
  - a. **Earth Day at Drayton Plains Nature Center – Saturday, April 23:** Ian Ableson, Six Rivers Land Conservancy will facilitate two hikes one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Josh and Annie will be available to assist.
  - b. **Cooley Elementary School Retention Pond and Fencing: Mike Ristich:** The following information was shared as the meeting was finishing up due to the excused late arrival of Mike. Regarding the fence, it is Mike's understanding that the District did, in fact, put up fencing to block the access in question. At this point, it has been reported that the fencing has already been cut down by residents. There seems to be confusion about the points of access to the DPNC, including some debate about the ownership of some mystery parcel of land that abuts the DPNC. Mike also spoke to the Waterford School District Team about the basin at Cooley. The plan for this project was approved by the Township, County, and State. In 2021, the WSD also received a third party opinion on the functioning of the basin at Cooley. The results of which confirm that everything is functioning properly. It is felt that hopefully this serves as a confirmation that everything is working as planned and that the basin does undergo regular monitoring and evaluation.
- VIII. **Roundtable**
  - I. **Ableson:** Garlic Mustard Pull at the DPNC is scheduled for Friday, May 20 at 9am until 12 noon.
  - J. **Zampol:** In regards to discussion of the River Walk Project, Jim emphasized that we do not want any part of the trails to be paved. We do want them to remain in their natural state.
- IX. **Public Comments – none**
- X. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm by Murray Day.





## Drayton Plains Nature Center (DPNC) Advisory Committee Meeting

3/11/22

### Director's Report

#### Cooley Elementary School Run-off Concern

A concerned resident contacted me about a fence that the school district installed at the boarder of the parking lot of Cooley Elementary School and the DPNC late last year. This was previously an opening for pedestrian access to the DPNC and has now closed off that access. This occurred sometime after my first contact with the district in fall 2021, about runoff concerns. Mike Ristich is looking into this. The closing of the pedestrian access at this location did not solve runoff issues; it has just prevented pedestrian access from this point.

#### Community Service & Volunteers

Christ Lutheran Church will be holding their Annual IMPACT Sunday, Sunday, April 24. They will be working with Josh to help with trail maintenance and other projects that he needs assistance with. I will keep Josh informed as I receive more information from the group.

#### Management Plan Update

Thank you to everyone for your help with the Management Plan update. This was a long process but it is a great accomplishment.

#### Finance Report

- 2021 Year End Report attached
- 2022 Year-to-Date Report attached
- I have requested the DPNC CD 2021 Year-End Report. The bank the CD is with informed the Treasurer's Office that they do not send out statements, like we received before. That the interest on this CD will only post at year-end and again at maturity, so the balance has remained unchanged. CD was resigned 6/4/21 and matures 6/6/22. The amount as of 6/4/21 was \$575,698.62 and is a 0.20% interest rate.
- Township is in discussions on how to allocate the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds received. I have discussed several park projects, including replacing the footbridge.
- Former Township Clerk, Sue Camilleri, is working towards the expansion of the River Walk. The development at the red phone booth located off Crescent Lake Road is planned to be completed in spring 2023. Then there are plans to expand east via an easement that was obtained from the condominium association located on the east side of Crescent Lake Road. This will bring the River Walk to the DPNC. There will need to be discussion about paving or not paving trails at the DPNC since funding sources Sue is exploring are likely going to have accessibility requirements that need to be met.

#### Seasonal Employment & Hours

- Seasonal positions are posted for this year. We are hopeful we can fill all positions and that we don't encounter a low application rate like we did in 2021. These positions include: parks maintenance, camp counselors, camp supervisors, park attendant, farm attendant.
- Annie Humphrey will be returning as the Nature Center Attendant this year.
  - DPNC Interpretive Building will reopen May 13 – October 2, Fridays 1PM-5PM, Saturdays and Sundays 10AM-2PM.

## Halloween Hayrides

- As of right now, the department's maintenance crew cannot make the necessary repairs/replacements to the hay wagons. Will this be something the Friends of the DPNC can tackle?

## Hatchery Road Bridge Project Update

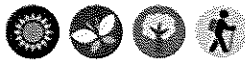
- Construction by Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will begin in mid-June. Access to Fish Hatchery Park will be possible from the west only. Road closed signage will be put up at Frembes Rd./Hatchery Rd. In early September the entrance to Fish Hatchery Park will be impacted as the culvert work will begin.
- I will get more information at an upcoming pre-construction meeting.

## Tree Snags in West Side of River

- We will be working with a contractor to clear a few areas that the Water Resources Commission (WRC) spoke with Murray Day about by end of March. These areas may be affecting the water flow on this side of the river and WRC suggested us removing them.



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