

**DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021, 6:30PM**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:39 p.m., Murray Day
- II. **Introduction of Members, Staff and Guests:**
  - a. **Members Present:** Aubrey Golden – Waterford Township, Murray Day – Waterford Township, Mike Ristich – Waterford Township, Jim Zampol – Waterford Township, Terri Chapdelaine – Waterford Township, and Linda Zabik – Waterford Township
  - b. **Not Present:** Marie Hauswirth, Sandy Pulk and Tori Heglin
  - c. **Also Present:** Alison Swanson – White Lake Township, Josh Lumsden, Waterford Township, Ian Ableson, Stewardship Manager, Six Rivers Land Conservancy – Orion Township, Walter Paliga – Eagle Scout Project Presentation, Troop 75706 Cadets from Pierce Middle School: Morgan, Hannah, Ashley and Kendra.
  - d. **Guest:** Walter Paliga: Eagle Scout Project, Troop 170 from Commerce – Walter presented Bridge Restoration Project for approval. Scope of the project will include cleaning of the culvert to allow for proper water flow, repairing the concrete as needed, repairing the wood railing, leveling a trail across the bridge, and installing an erosion control blanket. In addition, goals include preventing potential safety hazards, taking steps to align trail for any use by the visually impaired, making sure the cover is properly functioning for healthy watershed and removing harmful debris from the water system. Would like to begin in late June of mid-late July. Anticipates taking 2 weekends to complete. Motion by M. Day to approve the project. Seconded by T. Chapdelaine. Motion approved.
  - e. **Guest:** Troop 75706 Cadets: Silver Award Project, Michigan Monster Trail – Group indicated interest in providing signs of monsters for trail feature. Committee felt our mission was to educate the public on the natural surroundings. Motion by M. Day to install Michigan Monster Trail as presented and take roll-call vote. Seconded by M. Ristich. (Yes: M. Day, N. Ristich) (No: T. Chapdelaine, A. Golden, J. Zampol) (Abstain: L. Zabik, was not present for presentation). Motion not approved.
- III. **Review and Approve Agenda:** Agenda approved with following change: remove Review and Update Goals List.
- IV. **Review and Approve Minutes from March 2021 Meeting:** Corrections: T. Chapdelaine – under Friends, item two, the third line should indicate “bird” not “broad”. Motion by T. Chapdelaine to approve the agenda with corrections, support by M. Day. Motion approved.
- V. **Reports:**
  - a. **Director’s Report: Alison Swanson**
    - i. Garlic Mustard Pull is this Friday, May 21.
    - ii. Planning 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party for Saturday, June 12 at the Civic Center soccer fields from 3-6pm.
    - iii. Civic Center Drive is under construction from Hatchery Road up to where the gravel parking lot is by the soccer fields. A sidewalk is being constructed on the way down Civic Center Drive to allow for safer walkways for schoolchildren.
    - iv. Concerts (every Thursday in June at Hess-Hathaway Park) and camps (7 weeks, Nature Camp at Drayton Plain on August 2-5) are proceeding. Billy’s Tip ‘N Inn will be selling barbeque and beer at all concerts.
    - v. Interpretive Center at Drayton Plains did re-open on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Annie Humphrey is our attendant. Hours are Fridays, 10am-2pm and Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5pm.
    - vi. Oakland County Parks and Recreation will be collaborating with Waterford Parks and Recreation to offer a “Riddles and Rhythm Park to Park” Scavenger Hunt. From May 14 until May 23, registrants will follow clues to ten different parks and facility within our park system. Prizes are awarded to those that submit the final answer. This event is free and we have families, couples and seniors registered.
    - vii. Golden Age Club is having their perennial plant sale the weekend of May 22.
    - viii. Park seasonal maintenance workers are still needed. Applicant number is low. Farm attendant is needed for Friday nights and possible additional assistance on Saturday and Sunday during our busiest times.
    - ix. We are working with the Rotary Club to fundraise for, purchase and install new playground equipment for Rotary Park. It is also a goal to replace other play structures that have been removed at Shell, Herrington and Optimist Parks.
    - x. The Community Garden at Hess-Hathaway has filled all 88 established plots. We may expand in the future. Our garden, along with the District Court garden donates thousands of pounds of fresh produce to local pantries like Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford.
  - b. **Parks and Recreation: Tori Heglin – no report**

c. **Caretaker Report**

- i. Working with maintenance crew to deal with woodchips on dedicated trails. Going to do the manual labor required to build the parking lot/covered bridge trail back up from their current widened state.
- ii. Just started using the mower and other tools to clean up the perimeter trail. The mower can be used to mulch smaller brush/branches. Larger branches are being moved by hand.
- iii. There is still no WWAM planned for the 2021. Continuing to work with Tori to come up with a schedule to get community service workers.
- iv. Removed a buckthorn tree from the front yard of the nature center. We are hoping to plant a native tree in its place.

d. **Friends of the Drayton Plains Nature Center: Terri Chapdelaine – no report**

VI. **Old Business**

- a. Management Plan Review subcommittee is planning on their next walkthrough meeting to be held on May 24 for Management Plan #8. At that point, we should have finished all but one Management Unit.
- b. DNR Fisheries Pond Project Update: DNR is working on filling pond #6 slowly so the incoming water does not wash away the new material placed around the banks.
- c. Interpretive Building Reopened May 1 and will remain open through October 1: Please see above.

VII. **New Business**

- a. Resignation of Gerard Couture from Advisory Committee.
- b. Motion to appoint Teresa Serowoky to DPNC Advisory Committee to completed vacated term by M. Day. Second by T. Chapdelaine. Motion approved.
- c. Review and Update Goals List: There will be a meeting on June 15, 2021, 6:30p.m., to review and discuss the DPNC goals, which were last updated August 2019.
- d. Gavin Fritz, Oakland University Environmental Science and Research Management student is looking for internship opportunities and we will pursue that possibility. T. Chapdelaine is interested in assisting as a mentor.

VIII. **Roundtable**

**J. Zampol:** Green benches with planters built-in, have deteriorated. Alison has looked into replacement. Benches may be disposed of. We need to be careful about any plantings in the benches, any flowers could be relocated to the gazebo area.

**A. Swanson:** Road project on Hatchery is being discussed and reviewed (part of which includes Oakland County parcels). It is felt that we can repurpose the pedestrian bridge. The cost of moving it and storing it would be our responsibility. Further expenditures would be ours. This project is slated to begin late May of 2022.

**Public Comment** - none

IX. **Adjournment:** 7:54p.m., Murray Day