

DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, 6:00PM
DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER, 2125 DENBY DRIVE, WATERFORD, MI 48329

- I. Call to order at 6:10pm
- II. Introduction of Members, Staff and Guests
 - Board Members Present: Terri Chapdelaine, Jim Zampol, Murray Day, Aubrey Golden, Karen Joliat, and Gerard Couture
 - Others Present: Alison Swanson, Tori Heglin, Josh Lumsden, Martina Golden and Ian Ableson, Stewardship Manager, Six Rivers Land Conservancy
 - Excused: Sandy Pulk and Linda Zabik
- III. Review of January 2020 minutes. Motion to approve – Jim Zampol. Seconded – Terri Chapdelaine. Motion carried.
- IV. Reports
 - a. **Financial**-Alison Swanson
 - i. Outdoor fitness program at the nature center have been very well received. They will continue as long as weather permits this year.
 - ii. 2021 budget for the department has been submitted and preliminary budget meetings will be held the week of September 21. It is unclear how any reduction in state revenue sharing might affect the township's budget overall, thus affecting the department's budget. For 2020, the department has seen a very significant revenue loss and anticipates that some programs will not be able to be held in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions that will likely still be in place.
 - iii. Ongoing concern with patrons visiting the nature center and having dogs off-leash. One specific concern by a patron was brought to my attention and I informed the police department.
 - iv. We have purchased and will install two memorial benches this fall. Donated by Bruce Brede.
 - v. Estimate received on replacing the footbridge, \$120,000.
 - b. **Parks and Recreation** – Tori Heglin
 - i. Several fall programs offered by the department.
 - ii. Pumpkin Fun Run at the Drayton Plains Nature center on Sunday, October 18. Pre-registration required with Waterford Parks and Recreation Department, www.waterfordmi.gov/parks.
 - c. **Caretaker** – Josh Lumsden
 - i. Working on reducing the woodchip pile further.
 - ii. Focusing on trails and day-to-day tasks.
 - iii. Has had to stop several patrons on trails on motorized vehicles. Discussion on placing signage on property to notify that motorized vehicles are prohibited.
 - d. **Friends of the DPNC**- Murray Day and Terri Chapdelaine
 - i. Purchased three Stihl GTA 26 hand-held trimmers to be used on trails for trimming and removal of invasives.
 - ii. Halloween Hayrides have been cancelled. Friends would like to put a sign out asking for donations, since this event was the only fundraising event for the Friends of the Nature Center this year.
 - iii. Saturday, September 19, 6:30-8:30pm Terri and Ian will be hosting a group from the Oakland Audubon Society at the nature center that will learn about the bats and birds on the property. Reservations only, and limited to a small number of participants.
 - iv. Terri will work with Ian to coordinate volunteers from FCA to come out and assist with invasives removal.
 - v. Friends will be purchasing cameras to monitor the property for security purposes.
 - vi. This season was a great growing season and Josh has been trying to keep up on trail work as best he can without the assistance of the WWAM group. As such, the Friends have been working with Josh to obtain quotes to bring in a contractor to assist with trimming back trails and cut paths. Contractor estimate three days of trimming would be necessary to cover the area needed (approximately \$4,000). Friends are looking to split this cost with the township.
- V. **Round Table**
 - i. Ian Ableson, Stewardship Manager, Six Rivers Land Conservancy – FCA volunteer group will resume working on October 1, so there could possibly be a workday at the DPNC in November or a woody invasives day in March. He will coordinate with Terri on this. They work 9am-1pm, Monday-Friday, in small groups for COVID-19 safety, groups of 6-8 or 8-12 volunteers.
- VI. **Meeting Adjourned** 6:52pm. Walking tour followed meeting adjournment until 7:50pm.