

DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020, 6:30PM
DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER, 2125 DENBY DRIVE, WATERFORD, MI 48329

- I. Call to order at 6:35pm, Terri Chapdelaine
- II. Introduction of Members, Staff and Guests
 - Board Members Present: Terri Chapdelaine, Jim Zampol, Murray Day, Aubrey Golden, Karen Joliat, and Sandy Pulk
 - Others Present: Alison Swanson, Tori Heglin, Josh Lumsden, and Ian Ableson, Stewardship Manager, Six Rivers Land Conservancy
 - Not Present: Gerard Couture and Linda Zabik
- III. Review of September 2020 minutes. Motion to approve – Terri Chapdelaine. Seconded – Murray Day. Motion carried.
- IV. Reports
 - a. **Director’s Report**-Alison Swanson
 - i. 2021 final budget meeting was held for Parks and Recreation October 28. Revenue was reduced as COVID-19 cancellations makes it unpredictable what programming will be able to be held. Expenses over revenue projected for 2021 are \$92,000.00. This number could be decreased once more programming can be offered.
 - ii. Staff is being creative in the programming we are able to offer the community while being COVID-19 safe. Photos at parks have been popular. Hess-Hathaway has had photos with Champagne (horse) and Milford (donkey), as well as holiday family photos in front of the newly renovated historic barn. We are planning in February “Puppy Love” pet photos at the Nature Center (Saturday, February 6, 10am-3pm).
 - iii. Management Plan was sent to the Army Corps of Engineers to see if they may be able to help with invasive plant removal or other projects at the Nature Center. Jeannine Poulin, Recreation Coordinator has a contact in this organization and we are hoping to hear back from them with their input and or interest. I will keep everyone in the loop and we would work with Ian and Six Rivers, should anything progress.
 - iv. Planning a holiday event, Holiday Hoopla for outdoors on December 12, however recent COVID-19 restrictions/closures may make it impossible for us to hold this event.
 - b. **Parks and Recreation** – Tori Heglin
 - i. Thank you to Josh and Jim for caring for the animals located inside the Interpretive Building.
 - ii. One of the degus was humanely euthanized after a growth was noticed and declining health ensued.
 - iii. 5K Fun Run was held at the Nature Center on October 18. It was a rainy and cold day, but we had 73 runners registered and the event went very well. We look forward to making this an annual event.
 - iv. Hess-Hathaway has had photos with Champagne (horse) and Milford (donkey), as well as holiday family photos in front of the newly renovated historic barn. We are planning on a “Puppy Love” pet photos at the Nature Center on Saturday, February 6.
 - c. **Caretaker** – Josh Lumsden
 - i. Working on fall clean up. Without community service assistance, this year it is more challenging, but good progress has been made.
 - ii. Cleared away downed limbs from the windstorm over the weekend. There are additional downed trees that will require assistance from our maintenance crew to remove (two over river, one on the south side down off Denby Dr. the other off Georgeland/Riverview Dr. area and two in the pine flats).
 - iii. Working on cleaning up the left over debris from when the trails were trimmed.
 - iv. It’s nice having the “No Motorized Vehicles” signs up. Still an ongoing struggle to stop patrons from riding motorized vehicles on the property.
 - v. When DNR drained ponds 6 and 7, some carp were left behind. Alison contacted DNR Fisheries Division and they removed 36 carp.
 - vi. Ian Ableson was asked if it is a good time to treat any of the invasive plants that were cut during the trail trimming at the end of October, specifically the Autumn Olive. Ian said it would have needed to be done right away to be most effective (cut limbs on this plant close up within 15 minutes), but treatment could still be done. Terri Chapdelaine inquired about the impact the contractual trail trimming would have on the return of some of the impacted invasive plants. Ian indicated there might be some that do not return as strong. Ian also reminded group about oak wilt and that if there are any oak trees that have been damaged in the spring-summer months, it is very important to seal off any damage areas of the tree, so they are not susceptible to oak wilt.

- d. **Friends of the DPNC-** Murray Day and Terri Chapdelaine
 - i. Half of the contractual trail trimming cost was paid for by the Friends group.
 - ii. Security cameras have been quoted at \$3,000.00. Friends would be paying for this project. Limited number of monitoring permissions for camera system.
 - iii. Box to be installed on covered bridge with flyer asking patrons to donate to the Friends group, since the annual Halloween Hayrides had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.
 - iv. Murray and Alison had a virtual meeting with Todd Somers, DNR Fisheries division to discuss the possibility of leaving some water in a pond for skating. Follow-up on this to come.

V. **New Business**

- a. Review of 2021 meeting dates. Murray Day asked why meetings need to be held at the Waterford Recreation Center. Alison indicated that in the winter months, it is better for these public meeting to be held at the Recreation Center for accessibility purposes for community members wishing to attend these meetings. Request to have January, March and May 2021, meetings virtually was made by Terri Chapdelaine. Motion made to accept the 2021 meeting dates, with January, March and May meetings to be held virtually – Sandy Pulk. Seconded – Murray Day. Motion carried.
- b. Motion to approve a 3-year term renewal on the Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee for Murray Day – Terri Chapdelaine. Seconded – Karen Joliat. Motion carried.
- c. Motion to approve a 3-year term renewal on the Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee for Aubrey Golden– Terri Chapdelaine. Seconded – Murray Day. Motion carried.
- d. Motion to approve a 3-year term renewal on the Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee for Sandy Pulk – Terri Chapdelaine. Seconded – Murray Day. Motion carried.
- e. Nominations open for 2021 term as Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee President. One nomination was received by Aubrey Golden for Murray Day to serve as the 2021 Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee President. Voting will occur at the January 19, 2021, meeting.
- f. Nominations open for 2021 term as Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee Vice-President. One nomination was received by Murray Day for Terri Chapdelaine to serve as the 2021 Drayton Plains Nature Center Advisory Committee Vice-President. Voting will occur at the January 19, 2021, meeting.

VI. **Round Table**

- i. Murray Day – Parking lot needs to be graded, pot holes need to be filled especially the one right of the entryway. Please make sure the maintenance crew does not push all of the parking lot gravel to the sides when plowing in the winter.
- ii. Aubrey Golden – Karen Joliat will be missed, as this is her last meeting.
- iii. Karen Joliat – This is last meeting on the Nature Center Committee. Thank you to the Friends of the Nature Center, it has been great working with you.
- iv. Ian Abelson –The Fiat Chrysler volunteer group is available to hold a garlic mustard pull or woody invasive removal in spring. Please contact him to schedule.
- v. Sandy Pulk – Loves the idea of having skating at the Nature Center. Will miss Karen and thanked her.
- vi. Tori Heglin – Wishing everyone happy holidays.
- vii. Jim Zampol – Need to have a “No Motorized Vehicles” sign installed near pavilion pathway.
- viii. Terri Chapdelaine – Goals list needs to be reviewed and updated.
- ix. Alison Swanson – Management Plan needs to be reviewed and updated in 2021. Subcommittee should be formed to do this. Goal would be to complete by end of 2021.

VII. **Meeting Adjourned 7:42pm – Motion by Karen Joliat. Seconded – Murray Day. Motion carried.**