

DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 18, 2022, 6:30PM
DRAYTON PLAINS NATURE CENTER, 2125 DENBY DRIVE, WATERFORD, MI 48329

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:33 pm, Murray Day
- II. **Introduction of Members, Staff and Guests:**
 - a. **Members Present:** Aubrey Golden, Murray Day, Mike Ristich, Jim Zampol, Terri Chapdelaine, Linda Zabik and Marie Hauswirth
 - b. **Also Present:** Ian Ableson, Josh Lumsden and Tori Heglin
 - c. **Excused:** Teresa Serowoky and Sandy Pulk
 - d. **Guest:** Lori Champagne
- III. **Review and Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve M. Day, second M. Hauswirth. Motion approved.
- IV. **Review and Approve September minutes and notes from November 2021 Meetings:** Motion to approve September minutes by T. Chapdelaine, second by M. Day. Motion approved. Motion to approve November notes by M. Day, second by M. Ristich. Motion approved.
- V. **Reports:**
 - a. **Director's Report: Alison Swanson**
 - i. 2021 Year in Review. Document was distributed and discussed at meeting and is attached.
 - ii. Basketball registration has ended and the league will start on January 29.
 - iii. Flash's Friendship Club, Waterford Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Social Club has programs in January (Canvas Painting-21st), February (Glo Golf Zap Zone-24th) and March (The Creature Feature with Dan Briere-24th).
 - iv. Blizzard Blast event is scheduled for Sunday, February 6, 1-3pm at the Warming House. This is a free program presented by Oakland County Parks in partnership with Waterford Parks and Recreation.
 - v. Mental Health Awareness event with Waterford Youth Assistance and On A Dragonfly's Wing is scheduled for January 22 at the Waterford Recreation Center 10am-12noon.
 - b. **Parks and Recreation: Tori Heglin**
 - i. Holiday Hoopla and Tree Lighting event took place on Saturday, December 11. Event was initially planned with many activities outside, but due to high wind advisory all activities that could be were brought inside. The lone exception was the reindeer and two elves whom greeted visitors as they entered the Township Hall. There were 168 visits to Santa and 267 cookie kits handed out (extras were distributed to the Senior Christmas luncheon program, Flash's Friendship Club's Holiday celebration with the remainder going to the Goodfellow Christmas assistance program. Waterford Mott Jazz Band came out and performed. Sponsorships were generous this year. We are grateful.
 - c. **Caretaker Report: Josh Lumsden**
 - i. Reinstalled "Do not feed waterfowl" signs
 - ii. Will add to or reposition security camera notice signs
 - iii. Created equipment procurement "wish list" and will share with Friends representatives
 - d. **Friends of the Drayton Plains Nature Center: Terri Chapdelaine and Murray Day**
 - i. The *Birds Recorded at Drayton Plains Nature Center* document was updated as of January 2, 2022. In 2021, 118 bird species were observed at the Nature Center. Drayton Plain Nature Center Total Bird Species Count equals 191. Counts date back to 2000. Notable first-time sighting this year was the Kentucky Warbler. Possible explanation for our impressively high variety of species includes a varied habitat, migratory patterns and a nice large green space in the middle of a residential/commercial area.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - a. **Management Plan Review:** FINAL DRAFT was sent out on January 13 and copies were available at the meeting. We are asking that any corrections or clarifications are submitted to Tori by the end of February. We plan to vote on final approval at the March 15 meeting.
 - b. **Boiler Plate:** Ian explained that pages 22-24 titled Appendix 2 in the Management Plan cannot be edited (these pages are *boiler plate*) and are part the Conservation Easement that was signed on June 29, 2005. **J (4)** was discussed, Ian indicated that he will provide us with these signs. **N** was discussed in regards to public use and connection of Waterford Township's Riverwalk trail system on the western edge of the property. **J (7)** the reference to **6 (E)** was mentioned, and Ian said that he would make this available.
 - c. **Conservation Easement:** The entirety of the document was requested. Please see attachment.

VII. **New Business**

- a. **Recommendation of Term Renewal for Teresa Serowoky:** Motion by M. Day, second by M. Ristich. Motion carried.
- b. **Recommendation of Term Renewal for Terri Chapdelaine:** Motion by M. Day, second by J. Zampol. Motion carried.
- c. **Voting on Committee Designations of President, Vice-President and Secretary:** President - Motion by T. Chapdelaine to nominate M. Day for President, second by M. Hauswirth. Motion carried. Vice-President - Motion to nominate T. Chapdelaine for Vice-President, second by J. Zampol. Motion carried. No nomination for secretary.

VIII. **Roundtable**

I. Ableson: Funds are available through Oakland County – CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) due to the passing of an Oakland County millage. Oakland County will pay one of their three designated contractors directly. Waterford Township has applied for phragmites removal and a prescribed burn. Notice on awards should be received around mid-March.

L. Champagne: There was a Nature Center pedestrian entrance point of access at the southern end of the Cooley Elementary School property by the corner of Forest Avenue and Glen Street. This was closed off by someone, and now has an area where someone opened a hole in the fence. Lori also added that there is concern with the fluctuating water levels in the area of the Nature Center and how that affects Finley Bay of Watkins Lake.

J. Zampol: Jim added that the access point by Cooley Elementary has been an access point for years and is utilized by school children and many others. He wondered if an access path could be negotiated with the Waterford School District. Others questioned whether another access point is needed. He also mentioned that the dam has been open for 5 months and that is very unusual. The water tends to go to the low side. There is an interest in having more water on the high side, so that the water can flow and flush out contaminants and reduce algae growth.

M. Ristich: Security measures at the Waterford Schools have increased due to the school incident in Oxford. That may be why the access point that was discussed earlier has been closed off.

M. Hauswirth: Nature seems to have fixed the problem with the run-off from the school property.

T. Chapdelaine: Still interested in pursuing the opportunity to save the pedestrian bridge by Hatchery Road, even if the only assistance we can get at this point it is to have contractor move it to the side. Marie will contact Gary Wall about this.

IX. **Public Comments** - none

X. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm by Murray Day.