

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Environment and River Gorge Committee**  
Wednesday, July 7th, 2022, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

**1. Introductions**

**Present:**

Ian Young, *Co-chair*

Mike Luke

Christine Marlo Triemstra

Marya Johnston-McIntosh

Dan Schultz

Reed

**Recorder:** Bennett Olupo, *LCC Community Organizer*

**2. Approve Agenda**

**Motion:** Agenda is approved. **MSC**

**June Minutes:** Tabled to next month

**3. Park Dedication Fees Meeting**

**Ian:** Describing the survey we have been working on over the past couple months.

**Bennett:** Describing the updated survey. A branching survey was created It was updated to send participants to specific parks and not to the neighborhoods. We want to first see what local residents want and then they can leave feedback on specific parks.

**Marya:** At the end, can residents leave feedback on any parks?

**Bennett:** Yes. The survey has branching questions so they can go back and leave feedback.

**Reed:** Did you see my comments about adding sections and other information?

**Bennett:** Yup. I took in what you said and made the modifications from the email.

**Reed:** Did you have the park selection first?

**Bennett:** We wanted to focus on people's perspective based on where they live first.

**Ian:** There are trade-offs in every format, and this is what we ended up settling on.

**Dan:** How are we oing to tally the votes at the end? How are we going to get it to the board?

**Bennett:** We can download the sheets and then manipulate he data through sheets. The only thing is that someone will need to be proficient in excel.

**Dan:** How are going to present the information.

**Bennett:** I will put it in the minutes to schedule a meeting for data **acquisition and processing related to the Park Dedicaiton Fees.**

**Ian:** General guidance is more important than direct quotes and extremely concrete data. They want top choices and general information.

**Reed:** The cynic in me tells me that they will do what they want to do in the end.

**Marya:** Thats why it'll be good to have the data for the neighborhood. It an hold them accountable.

**Ian:** An executive summary will be nice.

Using NRP funds for Trails:

**Bennett:** Carolyn Carr has desires to write SOS's for the trails and updates to our park systems.

River Gorge Festival Updates:

**Bennett:** We had all the applications through Wilderness Inquiry, the SOS, and park permits approved. There are also \$400 floating around that we should be able to use for the festival.

**Ian:** We just put out a bucket, right? What made the fundraising so successful laast year?

**Marya:** It is our highest participant and donation event. It helped having the bucket right be the ice cream.

**Christine:** IN the past, they didn't want to ask for any money for donations. It was a contentious topic. The LCC pushed hard to have the donations

**Ian:** maybe just have the donations in a visible place.

#### **4. Dan's Tree Scope of Service:**

**Dan:** Not all trees support a many caterpillar and insects as others. There is still great variation within native trees. We want to promote keystone species. I am worried about monocultures, limited specie variation, and non-native trees being planted. The tree trust does not push the keystone species too much and they just recently started a nursery in Wisconsin. Outback Nursery is the most local stock we can find. We can get seedlings for 2 to 3 dollars a piece. However, they are seedlings.

**Marya:** How big are they?

**Dan:** They are really tiny. It's a long term thing. There would be more education with it as well. Participants will need to attend a 20 to 30 minute workshop. The city is worried about the canopy, but we an also focus on other factors. Some of these are good for the spring blooms and work well with the Lawns to Legumes programs. Additionally, placement is important. The black cherry tree's fruit can stain things and the plum tree has thorns. We need to be careful of that.

**Bennett:** are we going to talk about the fungal networks?

**Dan:** Yes! I want to show a clip from the BBC describing it. Also, it'll be cool that we are focusing on

areas beyond the gorge. That is why I am favoring oak trees. That is the native habitat.

**Ian:** Can the trees be planted on their boulevards?

**Dan:** I will not allow that. Unless the park approves it or it is a special circumstance.

**Ian:** Will we be committed to 500 trees?

**Dan:** Yes. We will need to put the order in as soon as possible to get the desired trees. We need to put in the order no later than September. It will be cool to do in person workshops at the River Gorge Festival.

**Ian:** You'd like some advertising and accounting help. Would you like some help with who is attending?

**Dan:** Can we create a google document that tracks participants?

**Bennett:** I can make a google sheet with everybody's information on it along with the species of the tree.

**Dan:** We will also need to track if we helped them plant.

**Marya:** How are we handling the storage and distribution? I know bare root needs to stay in the dark and moist.

**Dan:** That's the scary part. As soon as they arrive, they need to be planted and put out for delivery. There isn't even any soil. The difficult part will be getting it, having the crew ready, and sending them out the door.

**Marya:** I was just wondering if you had those concerns. We can connect you with Frogtown Farms for good tips and advice since they do something similar.

**Dan:** I would love to talk to her and find out more.

**Ian:** Do you know when we will plant?

**Dan:** It's in the nursery's hands. We can't do Arbor day because it's too early in the season. I assume it will be in May.

**Ian:** It might be wise to do this in two deliveries to split up the days so we are not overwhelmed.

**Dan:** The raingardens worked really well with people just showing up and picking up the plants to bring home.

**Reed:** Will the oak trees go as quickly as the smaller trees? They have a large canopy and may be difficult to find a place.

**Dan:** They are still in high demand. People love the oaks. I am more worried about the black cherry tree due to the height and the stains. But, they support so much of the environment. So we might emphasize the pin cherry.

**Ian:** How much choice do we have in the trees?

**Dan:** It depends. For some trees, we will need to wait for the company to let us know and for others there will be a greater availability.

**Ian:** I did not catch that you are also doing shrubs. That's really cool.

**Dan:** Yea, the berries are huge for the migratory birds. And they are good in the spring time for the pollinators.

**Marya:** I like the focus on the wildlife aspect because so much attention has been given to the shade component.

**Ian:** are there any other questions before we move to a vote?

**Christine:** Are you going to describe the height, width, age of maturity for the trees, and other information for those who plant the trees?

**Dan:** Yes, I would like to have that at the workshop. I also want to provide a sheet for participants to be able to reference at the time of the drop off.

**Ian:** Do we need to pay sales tax?

**Marya:** No, we should not need to since we are a non-profit.

**Bennett:** I will get the letter from Rachel.

**Ian:** We can leave the line in the budget and then take it out when the time comes. Let's motion to vote.

**Action:** Mike motions to have a vote the approval of the scope. Christine seconded the motion. The motion passes 5-0.

## **5. Lock and Dam #1 Tour:**

**Bennett:** We will have a tour provided by FMR at 6pm on July 18th. Open spots will go to the board after the ERG has their spots reserved.

Mike and Marya are both interested and want to attend the tour.

## **6. Other Announcements:**

**Bennett:** This is my last meeting with the ERG. I will be walking Carolyn and other through how to write a scope and secure funding for projects. I will also have a transition document.

## **7. Adjourn**

**Ian:** I will take a motion to adjourn.

**Action:** Mike moves to approve the motion. Dan Seconds.