



Prepare Each Student To Be Successful

Boston School Forest

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STEVENS POINT
AREA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boston School Forest Advisory Council April 3, 2024 ~ 4:00pm Oelke Lodge

1. Arrival & Welcome

- Present: Sarah Hopp, Jean Diedrich, Terry Rothmann, Alex Brzezinski, Brenna Lockman, Christie Nystrom, Kelly Rowe, Sally Ellingboe, Chris Nyman, Miranda Moody, Jacque Gerritsen, Jess Smith, Angela Hintz, Karla Lockman

2. Review/Discussion of Q2 Meeting Notes (review on your own)

3. Financial Report

- General Monetary Donations – McDill PTO \$250; Kennedy PTO \$200
- General In-Kind Donations – Bags of Mittens from Sally Ellingboe – Thank you Sally!!; The Family Radio Network Earth Day promotion.
- Grants – No new grants at this time
- Fund 21 expenditures – None at this time

4. Old Business (Use and Activity)

- Student groups
 - 4th grade – 457 students, 141 adults
 - Kindergarten – 456 students, 175 adults
 - 9th Grade (including PoDS) – 457 students, 6 adults
 - CFC – 25 students, 10 adults
- Scout groups
 - Eagle Scout – Derek Brooks received approval to put in a split rail fence bordering 1 or 2 sides of Sandy Land replacing rotting logs with an obvious boundary between the play area and the parking lot. The work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 6. Alex is coordinating getting the materials and the build.
 - Boy Scout Troop 293 (2/10-11) – 27 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (2/12) – 20 people
 - Samoset Council BSA (2/15) – 22 people
 - Cub Scout Pack 293 (2/17-18) – 11 people
 - Boy Scout Troop 297 (2/24) – 19 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (2/26) – 19 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (3/11) – 20 people
 - Samoset Council, BSA (3/14) – 24 people
 - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (3/25) – 20 people
- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
 - EBOC Lakeland H.S. – Cancelled due to weather

- EBOC 4U Adult Care – 4 people
- Plover Clover 4-H Club Meeting – 38 people
- Mid-State LE Wellness Class – 14 people
- UW-Extension Solar Conservation – 48 people (We made Channel 7 news)
- Wild Ones Meeting – 18 people
- UWSP NRES Student Observers – 35 people
- Past events & activities
 - Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom (EBOC) Updates –
 1. The Schmeekle cedar sign that says “Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom” is still in manufacturing. It should be finished by the beginning of May. Karla is still finalizing the sign recognizing the sponsors, grants, and donations that will be manufactured at Fast Signs.
 2. Email invitations have been sent to home school contacts, St. Paul’s, Pacelli MS & HS, Wisconsin Rapids Washington Elementary.
 3. A check-in/check-out form was developed by Alex. He also built a stand for the garbage cans so they don’t blow away or get critters in trouble.
 4. Grand Opening is currently scheduled for Friday, June 7th beginning at 6:00pm.
 - High Nitrate Remedy – Culligan installed the water softener and nitrate brine tanks over spring break. Oelke Lodge has been hooked up and everything is running well. We removed the “high nitrate” signs by each of the sinks. The system that services Noble Lodge has not been hooked up yet. That is because the drain system does not drain fast enough for the regeneration water. After a broken well pipe was repaired, we also realize that the water to the green bathroom building does not go through the pump house and is therefore not going to be treated. Therefore, we may have 2 costs in the future.... 1) install a holding tank to accept grey water from sinks and water treatment system (or some environmental alternative) and 2) Run an additional water pipe from the well to the pump house and reconnect to the bathroom building.
 1. No questions or discussion at this time. Karla will provide an update at the next advisory council meeting. If funds would be needed from the donation account, and email with specifics would be sent to all Advisory Council members for approval.
 - Site Improvements – Alex repainted the inside of Noble Lodge and it looks beautiful. Alex and Karla constructed a soil profile using soil from the pit that dug for the new outhouse. After the meeting feel free to walk downstairs and see it. Keanna, Gabby and Luiza are just about finished with the bird wingspan interactive art and it should be installed in Sandy Land soon.
 - Lake Pacawa Story Walk – BSF continues to partner with the Village of Plover Parks by preparing and swapping out the stories. Thanks to Kelly Rowe and her Plover YMCA 4K class for sponsoring the March-April Story “Don’t Touch That Flower.”

5. New Business (Discussion Items)

- Upcoming activities/needs
 - Wellness Pilot Program at PW – As part of the District Wellness Committee, Karla and BSF are helping to sponsor an after-school Wellness program for 3rd-5th graders at PW. Karla is working with UWSP Health Sciences majors Kellie and Kaitlyn to develop, pilot, and evaluate a program that encourages kids to make healthy choices with food, physical activity, and mental wellness. It runs April 1st-5th, 2024.
 - Summer Family Camp – Alex has proposed to bring back the Family Camp. This camp will be promoted through BSF channels and on Peach Jar. The camp will run Friday June

14-Saturday June 15 and will be for four families. See flyer. Because of the timing, this will be offering this for free, but asking families to sign up using a Sign-Up Genius to bring snacks, veggies, chips, and fruit to share.

- Summer Youth Archery League – Jean has proposed a youth archery league at BSF for this summer. The league will run Wednesdays. There are 4 Wednesdays in each of June, July, and August and run from 6:00pm-7:00pm. The limit will be 20 archers. The proposed cost is \$12/session. Although Jean, has offered to volunteer to run this, I think we should compensate her for her time. In total, there are 12 nights. Jean’s time is 2.5 hours/night which is a total of 30 hours. We will pay Jean a stipend for her work with the youth archery league.
 1. Discussion: Chris is comfortable with this plan. Jess commented that it will be a great opportunity for students. Sarah proposed that we charge \$15/session to cover Jean’s time as well as replace damaged equipment. Jean would like to run the program with students in grades 7 and up.
- New Equipment Need – Alex has requested to purchase a Stihl String Trimmer with Brush Knife. There is a huge need for brush cutting (not just grass trimming). There isn’t money in the budget for this from B&G, however Chris Trelka got us the quote.
 1. Action Item: We request \$453.58 from the Donation account for the purchase of this equipment from Jerry’s Small Engine Supply Co. Stevens Point.
 2. Discussion: Jess made the motion to spend \$453.58 on a Stil string trimmer and blade. Chris seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Upcoming Events

- Earth Day Celebration Sunday, April 21, 2024 –There are 28 activity stations!! Tom Pease will perform at 2:00pm. The promotional flyer went out via Peach Jar to all 4K-12 families and staff. I will ask Sarah O’Donnell to share it again as we get closer to the date. Fingers crossed for great weather.
 1. Shuttle – Last year we had nearly 50 volunteers from SPASH, Ben, PJs, and the community. This took up valuable parking space. The recommendation was to get a bus to shuttle the volunteers. Cheryl in transportation said that if volunteers could all meet and park at the bus garage at 12:15pm, they would arrive to BSF at 12:30pm. Then, clean up takes until 4:30pm and volunteers would load up and arrive back at their car at 4:45pm. The cost of this is \$140.
 - a. Discussion: Sarah asked how many cars it would save and would it be worth it? Karla said if we ask UWSP volunteers and any community volunteers (and they rode the bus), it would likely save 50 cars. We could promote it as a way to save energy and also be H.S. students’ last ever bus ride to BSF. Sarah also proposed a Plover pick-up location in addition to meeting at the bus garage. Karla will follow up with Joe Diedrich about using the St. Brons parking lot as a park and ride and book the shuttle with Cheryl in transportation.
 - b. Christie made a motion to spend \$140 on a shuttle for volunteers for the Earth Day event. Sally seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening – Mark your calendars for Friday June 7 at 6:00pm. We plan to invite community stakeholders, sponsors, and friends and family of Emery Babcock. Light refreshments and lemonade will be provided. Karla will coordinate with Sarah O’Donnell for a press release.

6. Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Karla attended the Town of Plover board meeting. There is a new ordinance that will reduce the speed limit through BSF to 45mph. Karla is also working with James Garbe to fund pedestrian crossing blinking lights. This will make crossing the road so much safer for our field trip classes and also the groups visiting EBOC.
- Alex informed us that the district applied for a permit to put in a driveway at the Halladay School Forest. The Halladay will be open to the public for walking trails and also available for field trips and other user groups. DNR Forest Health Specialist Alex Hornung is also conducting research on the Halladay School Forest and studying the forest regeneration in the presence of fungal pathogens located at the site.
- Kelly Rowe said that when she was at the Red Eye Brewery Restaurant, there was a that listed Boston School Forest as it's recipient of donations for that month. This is a huge surprise to all of us at BSF. Chris said that Dave and Mary Lucareli own the restaurant. Karla will reach out to them with gratitude.
- The musk ox pelt was transferred to the Mead Nature Center. Educator Sam DeRoche is using it for her program on the ice age. There is an agreement in writing that if the Mead ever no longer wants the pelt that it will be returned to BSF.
- Sarah Hopp is a senior this year and graduates before our next Advisory Council meeting (but she still plans to come in June). Sarah has been accepted to MIT! And we couldn't be more proud of her. Congratulations Sarah.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - Quarter 4 Meeting – Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 4:00pm

7. Adjournment