

Friends of Bass Lake
 August 10, 2021 Board Meeting
 Bass Lake Playground Park Shelter

1. President Don Weirens called the meeting to order at

Attendance: Nancy Rose, John Snyder, Don Weirens, Doug & Elizabeth White

Absent: Adam Maier, Joelyn Malone, Susan Sackrison

2. The minutes of the February 2021 meeting were approved as written.

3. Treasurer's report:

Balance 9/1/2020	\$ 2314.95	
Income	4799.10	inc. 388.10 in-kind
Expense	3978.31	inc 388.10 in-kind
Gain	820.79	
Balance 8/15/2021	\$ 3135.77	

4. Committee reports:

a. Membership committee -

The membership campaign to contacts was completed in February. Three Spring events added 10 members and 19 non-member contacts.

	Contacts	Members
<u>Treats by the trail</u> - April 24	5	5 (1 on 8-14)
<u>Members' Meeting</u> - May 8	-	2
<u>Parktacular</u> - June 17	14	3
Mail-in / web site or kiosk.		1
One renewal / two persons / mid-July.		
Paid members on August 14.		58

b. Reforestation -

Tree and shrub planting within the fence is complete, other than one species which has not been available in the market. We will shop early next spring or substitute another shrub.

Planting of ground covers within the fence was delayed by late delivery of plants and by drought and very high temperatures.

Visiting Naturalist Dave Crawford walked the larger area outside the fence and identified several species of interest.

Volunteer aspen sprouts are growing in the "point" area near the GH Trail amid several other larger aspens. They have a temporary fence, but a larger area fence is needed to protect these and future volunteer seedlings.

Watering in the fenced area has been frequent to offset the drought. The Whites have provided water through extensive hoses. Some reimbursement seems appropriate, if it can be quantified.

The Prairie Garden near the Outlet is maturing, and a few more species have been added this season. Susan Sackrison is monitoring the buckthorns treated by the 3-cut method (Critical Cutting), in which leaf removal deprives roots of energy.

Outside our area of the Preserve, Great River Greening will be removing invasives and replanting natives during a 5-year period. Details are not yet available.

Replanting of the area where diseased ash trees were removed is on the City Calendar for September 18, at 10.AM-1 PM. Registration for the event will open soon.

c. Communications -

We have sent two comments to the City regarding City environment actions.

The EAW for the Sherman project north of the Beltline Station did not include climate change information. We requested that Council ask that it be added before approving the EAW,

The Annual Stormwater Prevention Pollution Program public meeting was to be held on August 12, two days after this meeting. We submitted written questions for that meeting.

5. Old business:

We are eligible for exemption from State Sales Tax, which may amount to \$ 50 -100 per year. John will investigate the process for exemption status.

Our reportable income for this year is near the annual limit for simplified tax reporting. Application for higher limits may be useful in another year. Cost is \$ 250 . We may want to consult with Propel, the assistance program for non-profit organizations.

6. New business:

a. 2021 Projects -

i. Ground cover plants are ready for planting. Cooler weather will be favorable for planting through early October. We will schedule some digging and planting events during this time to complete the season.

ii. Woodchip trail maintenance - Frank has reversed his commitment to this task. Doug has volunteered to do this when he is more fully recovered from his August heart attack and surgery.

iii. Rock Garden / Deb Schein - the area should be defined to not impinge upon the aspen regeneration plots.

iv. Woods fence and gates - costs have tripled because of COVID shortages. The most recent estimate this Spring was for about \$28,000 including professional installation. Another supplier has been contacted.

b. 2021 Calendar of Events -

August 14 - SLP stormwater information meeting

August 23 - SLP City Council Sherman Project EAW

September 18 - SLP / Tree Trust planting at Bass Lake

September 11. “Walk the Park” - No action

This program is part of the City Mental Health / Wellness Program. Our recruiting and publicity outreach activities seem not to be aligned with their purposes.

c. Evolution of mission and programs - as our restoration projects progress, and other organizations undertake that purpose around Bass Lake, we may consider scheduled maintenance programs for the gardens. Weeding and replacement planting will be ongoing. Teams may be trained to work independently as time allows. The Eloise Butler Garden has trained volunteers to work this way. .

Ongoing advocacy and education may be expanded in communications with City residents and staff.

d. City and County evaluations of Bass Lake Preserve -

We looked at the City Wetland Inventory of Bass Lake Wetlands. The evaluation of environmental value is used as a basis for prioritizing investment in the various wetlands in the City. The top-value group is classified as "Preserve". Bass Lake is in the second group, "Manage 1"

The SLP Buckthorn Management Program uses a similar classification, and Bass Lake is described as Low Priority. The highest category is "Eradicate". Wolfe Park and several parks near schools have that high rating.

Hennepin County uses a similar classification of Natural Resources. Bass Lake Preserve is rated very low for native vegetation.

As habitat improves, the Friends will request upgrades of the ratings.

7. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.