

Ecological Advocacy Committee Meeting 7-11-19

Location: Rum Village Nature Center

Committee Members Present:

Steve Sass
Sarah Nerenberg
Andrew Tucker
Allison Egan
Lindsey Chadderton
Amy Kryston
Alicia Czarnecki

Others Present:

Garry Harrington – VPA Rum Village Park Supervisor
Hannah Teshka – VPA Naturalist
Brent Thompson – VPA Forester
Patrick Sherman – VPA Project Manager
John Martinez – VPA Director of Facilities and Grounds

Call to order – Steve Sass at 3:12 pm.

Vote to approve minutes from May EAC Meeting by Lindsay Chadderton seconded by Sarah Nerenberg.

Discussion:

Pinhook Park Upgrades – John Martinez, Patrick Sherman, and Alicia Czarnecki

- John Martinez presented the EAC with Pinhook Park's 60 % plan for the grounds around the park and the building. This park improvement is to draw people off the Riverwalk into the park making it a destination park for VPA.
- Updates to the park include:
 - 10 foot wide asphalt pathway around the park
 - Picnic area for families
 - Upgrades to the parking lots (adding more ADA parking spaces)
 - Upgrades to the boat launch and
 - Adding an ADA accessible kayak launch
 - Proposed ADA accessible fishing dock
- Only 6 trees will be removed (3 within the park and 3 on the Riverwalk).
- Brent Thompson will be pulling the tree inventory list for Pinhook to find out what specific tree species are being removed.
- The consultants left blank spaces on the 60% plan which could include some native plants or be used as "no mow zones."
- Consultants can create educational panels on the playground equipment which could be used as scavenger hunt for kids.
- There is currently no plan to clean the lagoon or improve the water quality.

- An archeologic study was complete at Pinhook. They did not find anything of historic value.
- EAC Suggestions:
 - Native plantings with interpretive panels around the walking path would be a great education piece.
 - Enhance the native plantings around the lagoon to help with Canada goose problem.
 - Create spaces for rain gardens to help with the parking lot run-off into the lagoon.
 - Educate the VPA staff to properly maintain native plant areas, “no mow zones,” rain gardens, etc.
 - Recruit volunteers to help maintain native areas.
 - Have a balance between water line vegetation and water recreation (fishing, boating, etc.).
 - Have part of the asphalt walking path be a porous surface to help with run-off.
 - Include some interpretative signage about the history of the park and the historical significance of the area.
 - Have a boat cleaning station to remove weeds before a boat goes into or out of the lagoon with signage.
 - Diversify the trees being planted with the park.
 - Have a reverse periscope to see the fish and vegetation under the water in the lagoon.

Q & A from EAC Members – John Martinez

- VPA Facilities & Grounds staff will attend all future EAC meetings.
- VPA F&G would like to get suggestions/recommendations from the EAC electronically when necessary in between EAC meetings.
- Upcoming Discussion for the EAC –
 - Standards/ best management practices of River Windows within VPA Parks.
 - Plantings around Rum Village Nature Center.
- EAC suggested to VPA F&G staff that they would like to engage more during the early planning process.

NRMP Updates – Garry Harrington

- EAC has requested guidance from Aaron Perri and the Park Board regarding what the action matrix should look like from the NRMP.
 - Template for what the action steps should look like for each Topic of Concern.
 - Template for the Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Add Tree Preservation document to the NRMP.
- The changes made to the Tree Specifications document will be going before the Board of Public Works.

Elbel Update – Steve Sass

- First step is to find out who owns Mud Lake.
- If the lake has not been deeded, ownership would fall to the State of Indiana.

Action Items for EAC Members:

1. Send EAC Recommendations regarding Pinhook Park to Alicia Czarnecki include what native tree/plants species to use within the park.
2. Review/suggest edits to the Tree Preservation document by September EAC Meeting.

Action Items for VPA Liaison:

1. Contact Aaron Perri about the Action Matrix portion of the NRMP.
2. Follow-up with Matthew Moyers regarding the additional two Topics of Concern within the NRMP.

Next meeting is September 9th at 8:30 am at Rum Village Nature Center.

Motion to Adjourn by Sarah Nerenberg at 4:34 pm.

Minutes approved 9/9/19

APPROVED