

Brooks Nature Area

May 18, 2023

Members present: Dave Phaner, Patty Hoch-Melluish, Ben Lark, Erin Skidmore, Brian Huggett and Janet Schoenmeyer

Members absent: Margaret Steele and Justin Miller

Technical advisors present: Jim Coury, Don Jewett and Jeff Crone

- A. The minutes of the March 16, 2023 regular meeting were approved.
 - B. The May 18, 2023 agenda was approved.
 - C. No public comments
 - D. Dave Phaner gave an update on the park's monies as of May 1st, 2023: \$40,186.40.
Brian Huggett gave out BNA maps and encouraged Board members to mark them up with anything they thought was missing or needed to be amended.
 - E. Don Jewett discussed restoring the martin house. He placed it in the park, but thinks it should be higher. Also, he has not seen any bluebirds in their houses as of this date.
 - F. Dominic Dent completed his Eagle Scout project. Everyone agreed it looked great. Janet Schoenmeyer will write Dominic a thank you note.
Dave reminded everyone that keeping the trails open by removing invasives and using a weed wacker in the parking area or anywhere else, was always in need of volunteers. The big board by the parking lot needs to be re-stained. Janet Schoenmeyer said she will stain it before the summer ends.
 - G. Patty Hoch-Melluish reported that the price for 25 signs identifying trees in the BNA would cost \$326.11. Everyone agreed on not including a QR code on the tree signage. Jim Coury will help with identifying main trees that need signage.
Patty stated that David Mindell from PlantWise will visit BNA May 31 or June 1 to tour BNA to see where the largest infestation of invasives are growing and what major invasives are growing there. Jim Coury will walk with Mr. Mindell to check out the different areas. Patty asked Mr. Mindell to email her a quote with his recommendations.
 - H. Ben Lark reported about the BNA burn that was contracted through the city of Marshall. Ben stated that he thought that the burn was late and the ground was wet, which made it impossible to kill the growth down to the roots. Furthermore, some birds had begun making nests and had already laid eggs in the prairie fields. He also felt that it was unfortunate that so much money was spent for a project that cost so much less in past years, when the burns were conducted by the Marshall's Fire Dept. and some neighboring city fire departments.
Ben announced he was retiring from the BNA Board effective this date. Board members thanked him for all his work and efforts throughout the years in maintaining and working for the BNA.
 - I. Brian Huggett stated that he would present a Power Point to the Marshall City Council in the next few months. Patty had attempted to give a presentation about the park on March 20, that included explaining BNA activities, boy and girl scout projects and the number of volunteer hours that have been spent for park upkeep. She spent about 20 minutes of frustration trying to use the city's computer to no avail.
 - J. Adjourn
- Submitted by Janet Schoenmeyer