

## Environmental Corridor and Open Space Committee Minutes

Thursday 9/8/2022

The meeting was called to order by Jim Muenzenberger, Committee Chair

Attendees: Jim Muenzenberger, Chip Schneeberger, Linda Hallquist, Dave Van Thiel, Ryan Bailey, Dave Felkner, and Tom Jenson.

1. The minutes of the 8/18/2022 meeting were approved.
2. Dave Van Thiel volunteered to serve as acting secretary for the meeting.
3. Review of the original ECOS Task Force report and prioritization of report items.
  - a. The group reviewed all of the environmental corridors and open spaces identified in the report and discussed priorities for future projects and routine maintenance. High priorities discussed included: regular maintenance of the Centennial Park river walk area, to include controlling invasive species and clearing downed trees; removing invasive species and creating vistas and overlook areas around the new Penbrook Park trail; installing signage in all areas to educate users about invasive species; developing educational materials about invasive species that could be distributed to homeowners residing along environmental corridors; start a community based “Friends” group to assist with care and maintenance of the trails and corridors; and whenever possible, support Ice Age Trail volunteer efforts to maintain the Marsh Loop and Maple Avenue trails. The group also identified several low priority areas and recommended use of educational materials for homeowners whose property abuts those locations.
4. Discussion and possible actions related to projects for the 2023 budget.
  - a. Based on priorities identified above, the group discussed options for responsible use of the projected 2023 ECOS Committee budget. The group recommended the following expenditures: \$1000 towards removal of Japanese Knotweed along the Bark River corridor; \$500 towards purchase of low mow grasses to reduce invasive species; \$1000 towards signage and educational materials related invasive species; and \$5500 towards mechanical clearing (Fecon) of invasive Buckthorn in dense growth areas. Linda H motioned to recommend approval of budget priorities, seconded by Dave VT.
5. Discussion and update on funds remaining in the 2022 budget.
  - a. The group discussed possible uses for the \$1692 remaining in the 2022 budget. Following discussion it was recommended that \$1000 be used to combat invasive Knotweed removal, and \$692 would go towards the purchase of hand tools that would be used by the community “Friends” group to maintain designated areas. Dave VT motioned to recommend approval, seconded by Chip S.

6. Discussion related to replacement candidates for open ECOS Committee membership.
  - a. The committee currently has one vacancy. The group discussed the process for seeking new members. Potential candidates are encouraged to complete a Committee Volunteer Profile form and submit it to the Village Clerks office.
7. The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.