

## **Brooks Nature Area**

**January 19, 2023**

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

**Members absent:** Justin Miller

**Technical advisors present:** Don Jewett

- A. The minutes of the November 17, 2022 regular meeting were approved.
- B. The January 19, 2023 agenda was approved.
- C. No public comments
- D. New board member Erin Skidmore was introduced to the group. She related her background and her interest in joining the BNA board. Dave Phaner and present board members welcomed her. Dave gave the park monies report. The amount changed since January 1, to \$40,036.04. Margaret Steele reported that she recently walked all of the BNA trails. She marked the active and inactive trails. She added that the Woodland Trail is so overgrown, that it has only deer paths now. Everyone agreed the benches and the labeled trees in the orchard should be added to the map. Discussion if the wetlands should be shaded in as future part of BNA.
- E. Don Jewett stated he will mark GPS locations of all the park's birdhouses. All birdhouses are now repaired. Some birdhouses will be relocated when the weather permits. Don still has three birdhouses to place. He suggested that a trail to the Sandhill Crane nesting area would be an interesting addition to the park. Don plans to pick up the martin house from Margaret. Darwin Gwin will be asked to mow a path so that the present martin house can be reached.
- F. The summer projects of clearing the woodland trails, removing invasives and putting up bat houses will be tackled when weather permits. A big tree is blocking some of the Lakeshore Trail.
  - a) Ben Lark has a meeting planned with City Manager Derek Perry on January 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss coordinating a control burn at the BNA in the spring.
- G. Patty reported no progress on the Eckford monies from County Parks funds.
- H. Patty gave a report on the December 10 work day. Patty and her father repaired a big trail sign that had fallen down by an entrance to the Lakeshore Trail. Jim Melluish, Jim Schoenmeyer and Don repositioned it into the ground. Don, Patty, Travis Johnson, Troy Johnson and a friend of Travis, installed bird houses and trail signs. Janet Schoenmeyer wrote a thank you note to Travis for building and replacing 18 trail signs and six birdhouses and also thanking him for installing his handiwork on December 10.
- I. Margaret and Patty will get together and work on a power point BNA update presentation to the City Council.
- J. Dave will talk to Darwin requesting removal of the bench by the Woodland Trail that Roger Graves donated, since that trail will be closed. A different location for the bench was not decided. Agreement that all Woodland Trail signage needs to be removed.
- K. Adjourn

Submitted by Janet Schoenmeyer