

## **Brooks Nature Area**

**March 16, 2023**

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

**Members absent:** Ben Lark, Brian Huggett, and Justin Miller

**Technical advisors present:** Jim Coury and Don Jewett

- A. The minutes of the January 19, 2023 regular meeting were approved.
- B. The March 16, 2023 agenda was approved.
- C. Boy Scout Dominic Dent presented his Eagle Scout project for BNA. It will cover information on invasives. Those present named the invasives that are prevalent in BNA. Dominic will make a sign with a list of the invasives, how to eliminate them and will print a QR code for identification. He will also provide a foot brush for visitors to clean off their footwear, to help eliminate the seeds of the weeds to spread to other areas. The Board approved Dominic's project.  
Marshall resident Jeff Crone, came to the meeting to learn what the BNA organization was about and to offer his services to help out where needed.
- D. Dave Phaner gave an update on the park's monies as of March 1<sup>st</sup>: \$40,186.04. Brian Huggett was not present to give an update on the BNA map.
- E. Don Jewett inspected the martin house that is located at Margaret Steele's home. It has a metal pole. The existing martin house is wood. Don will paint the house white, so the sun's reflection will not be so hot for the birds. Don stated that it could take up to 5 years for a colony to live in the martin house. Margaret said she thought Herman Electric might be a source for poles, if needed.
- F. Patty Hoch-Melluish reported that there is a lot to do at BNA. One tree fell on the trail near the Lakeshore Loop. Besides cleaning up the trails in the woods by the lake, the bat houses will need to be placed near the forest. Much work needs to be done, but the rain and cold weather are inhibiting any activity.
- G. Thanks to Patty's great power point presentation at the Eckford Township meeting, Eckford gave BNA \$3,000 to hire an organization to spray and eradicate many invasive species thriving in the park. BNA was also given an additional \$238.75 to identify trees located along the park's trails. Janet Schoenmeyer stated that she would write Eckford Twp. a thank you note.
- H. Ben Lark was not present, but he emailed the Board to inform them of his meeting with City Manager, Derek Perry concerning Ben's past work coordinating with Marshall's Fire Dept. and the fire departments of neighboring townships to conduct a voluntary burn at selected areas in the park. Derek was very concerned about liability issues. Ben sent Dave a formal letter that he received from Derek afterwards, that stated that the city of Marshall would hire a professional company instead, to complete the burn. The city of Marshall will pay for the endeavor.
- I. Dave spoke with Marshall's City Hall to request a spot on the next City Council meeting to give a power point presentation on BNA's past projects and what is planned in the near future. Patty Hoch-Melluish and Margaret Steele will give the presentation.
- J. All present agreed to a pot luck at the May 18, meeting.
- K. Adjourn

Submitted by Janet Schoenmeyer