

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2018

1. Cash Flow Designations - Gifts, Grants, CRP, and Endowment:

Rationale: Because the CFNIL endowment has generated dramatically higher returns than the TNC endowment and the CFNIL distributions are controlled by Friends, we recommend to the Board of Directors the following policy for handling cash flow for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- 1) The distribution of undesignated funds, after donor gift designations are honored and after expenses are paid, will be directed to CFNIL. All CRP receipts will also go to the CFNIL endowment.
- 2) The 2018-2019 Endowment distribution from CFNIL will be paid to TNC for operations at NG. This September distribution is projected to exceed \$20,000.

Note: This is the same policy as the prior year.

2. 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – 2019

We recommend the Board approve a 10th Anniversary Celebration to take place during 2019.

Rationale: The Friends were incorporated August 2008 and received Federal not-for-profit status January 2009. We have enjoyed considerable success.

Why celebrate?

- Thank volunteers, donors, staff, and partners such as CFNIL and TNC
- Reflect on our achievements
- Reinforce our mission
- Have fun partying together

What to do?

- Announce anniversary plans in January 2019 by letter and email
- Recognize volunteers at the annual Prairie Potluck in June 2019
- Host a special event: A presentation by a notable speaker at either a May 2019 luncheon OR a Prairie Sunset celebration the weekend following AOTP OR a similar event
- Conduct a special fundraising effort or begin new initiative or both

Questions:

- Available human resources?
- Most appealing approach and/or event?

3. ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY (AIR) PROGRAM

We recommend the Board approve an artist-in-residency program commencing in 2019.

What is an artist-in-residency?

An AIR program would allow established artists to compete for the opportunity to live and work on-site at Nachusa for one to three weeks. A committee of 5 prominent artists would select the artists. Three to four artists would be in residency at the 201 House during 2019.

As part of their residency, each artist would conduct one or more events for Nachusa such as a lecture, a review of prior work or a teaching session. Each artist would provide a piece of their work to Nachusa within a year of their residency. In most programs, the artist covers their own expenses except for housing.

Rationale:

1. Art would create a new point of access to "see" or experience the prairie, which would be quite valuable to a large subset of people who find art more approachable than science or nature.

Think of the artist-in-residency as a parallel program to our hugely popular science program. Sciences teach us about the prairie and help us develop best practices for its restoration. Art – photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, music, poetry, and narrative – teaches us about the prairie through an emotional, experiential process.

Art is an effective way to interpret (explain) this unique landscape in ways somewhat parallel to the new Visitor Center. The VC uses printed media (panels), touchable items (fuel canisters, bones, animal skins, etc.) and animal sound to interpret the prairie on a primarily factual or scientific basis. Art can do the same thing on a personal, emotive or spiritual level.

2. The program would provide a rich experience for artists that would build their connection to NG and that of their artist communities; it would raise the visibility of NG in groups not already connected to NG. It might stimulate Nachusa-themed art exhibits throughout the area at galleries like Last Picture Show in Dixon.

3. While the program would be very economical to operate, it could generate substantial additional financial support for the advancement of our overall mission through nurturing of donors oriented to the arts.
4. Beauty available through art can be central to a joyful life.

Resources Required:

Program set-up:

- Develop policies and documents, such as a liability waiver and an agreement with the artist
- Artist recruitment/residency announcements

Artist Review Committee:

- Five prominent artists with different specialties to select participants
- Friends administrator to organize distribution and review of applications and make awards

Operational activities:

- A "welcome couple or individual" to orient artists, advise on NG practices, provide introductions to staff and volunteers, and address personal requirements.
- Organize and promote artist presentations to the community at NG and beyond.
- Organize gallery show or other venue.

Additional Notes:

Cindy Crosby was an artist-in-residency several years ago at Isle Royale National Park; she had a wonderful experience and subsequently served to evaluate and select future artist residencies. She would be a great resource.

The program could be accomplished at very little expense and can be scaled up at a suitable pace. We expect there would be a tremendous level of interest from artists – painters, photographers, musicians, authors and poets – to spend several weeks in residence at NG.

Bill Kleiman is comfortable that Nachusa has sufficient housing to accommodate the artists.