10/26/09

Como Woods Advisory committee meeting

Attendees: Nick Beerman, Alison Bunge, Deb Robinson, Teri Heyer, Joan McKearnan, Susan Jane Cheney, Sehoya Cotner, Sally Worku

Updates:

**LCCMR FUNDING:** our project was recommended for funding. The School Forest project was recommended also. What is next? The project summary which goes to the legislature is due Nov. 2.

Good news—the Park and Rec Dept had the funds to hire 2 positions-one for volunteer coordination and one for education and they will be hired in Feb of 2009. This will be very helpful to the committee in developing the educational materials. Now that we know it will be funded--the committee needs to be more aware of what is in the proposal.

ACTION-Deb will have Jennifer post the proposal on the website.

ACTION-set aside time at the next steering committee meeting to go over the proposal.

**SCHOOL FOREST—**right before this meeting Teri and Josh met with Jessica Ley, Como Sr High AP environmental studies teacher about Como Sr. High being the primary school in the School Forest agreement. She agreed that this is a good idea. We also discussed teacher training as one benefit of becoming a School Forest and agreed that next fall would be a good target.

ACTION-Teri will get a sample School Forest agreement from MN DNR and amend it to include Como Sr. High and St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

ACTION-Jessica will brief the Como Park Sr. high principal about the School Forest concept.

ACTION-Teri will work Adam on the amendments are they relate to Park and Rec and also who should represent Park and Rec with a follow up meeting with Como Sr. high principal.

ACTION-once the agreement has been drawn up have a meeting with Como Sr. High principal to present it for his signing.

**WEB SITE UPDATES-**Jennifer sent a revised web site proposal for the committee to review.

ACTION-Deb will summarize comments and send to Jennifer.

**COMO CLASS DATA-**Joan and Ann met with Jessica to discuss the data collected by the Env. Studies students. Some improvements: mentors will work with students to make sure data sheets are filled out completely and correctly. Students will get credit for entering their data into the spread sheets. We want the data on the website put want to make sure it is read only.

ACTION-Joan will reconnect with Jessica on the status of this fall’s data and that she needs to get it to Jennifer about getting it on the website.

**TEACHING TIPS:** continued discussion started last time. Basically we want the materials to cover: what we want the students to learn, how this concept fits on this site, and link to state standards. We also discussed that the information about the posts may have two different pieces—teaching tip and interpretive material. This project could be big, are there grant funds to hire someone to do this part? McNealy Foundation, and possible the Forest Service more kids in the woods.

ACTION-Teri and Alison will connect on revising and resubmitting the more kid in the woods grant.

**JOYCE KILMER MEMORIAL-**work has not yet started on the structure but Deb and Sharon are continuing to work on the historical research and possibly getting a grant to write it up in a small book.

**BUCKTHORN BUST-**another successful event attended by 52 people. After all the buckthorn was piled up started removing burdock seed heads.