Como Woods Outdoor Classroom

Advisory Committee

November 30, 2009 7-8:30 pm

Como Streetcar Station

Minutes

Attendees: Sally, Alison, Jennifer, Josh, Keith, Susan Jane, Sharon, Deb, Joan, Teri

Guests: Jim Olsen—St. Paul Parks Conservancy

 Bryan Murphy, Park and Re

1. **Bryan Murphy-SPRC Landscape Design-plans for the Joyce Kilmer fireplace redesign.**

Bryan handed out the draft restoration design for the Joyce Kilmer memorial fireplace. Funding is secured for the refurbishing the fireplace and the stone wall surrounding it. Bryan indicated he also was taking into account how the area will be used as part of the outdoor classroom in the design process. Concerns the committee had:

* Since this is a more elaborate design, how much will the extras cost and where will those funds come from.
* The group thought the size looked off—what is on paper seems bigger that it actually is.
* Less vegetation
* Benches are good but need to be secured somehow.
1. **Status of Joyce Kilmer rededication-April 2011-Deb.**

Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace Rededication Report: Deb Robinson,

Sharon Shinomiya, Katie Plese, November 30, 2009 (report prepared by

Deb)

 Nov. 12, 10am to noon, Sharon and Deb meet with Mary

Bakeman (historian and historical book publisher) at her office for

advice and to look at other history books and their bindings. Sharon

said she is not interested in doing major research working on a long

companion book. With that information, Deb decided that a Fast Track

grant might not be appropriate for a small booklet. However, a grant

for an Oral History of Kilmer’s daughter (Pat Knapp, now in her 80s)

would be important to collect (for further research for a site

history lesson plan and to save her memories of her father for any

other historians’ research) – Deb will look into getting a Fast Track

historical grant for an Oral History of Lamont Kaufman’s daughter

(while her memory is still intact). My last opportunity for a Fast

Track grant for this would be April 2010; Pat Knapp has is “thinking

about it.” (Pat Knapp has already be the subject of an oral history

but that oral history only included her years of service in the Navy

during WW2 and Korean War.)

Nov. 15, 10:30-11:30am, visited Hamline U. archeological dig at

Hamline Church (invited by Ms Bakeman) – this type of dig could be

done at Como Woodland in Cascades area perhaps; also talked to Ms

Bakeman about finding a professional oral historian and transcriber

that lives in the Nashville TN area (Pat Knapp’s home) – she

suggested a friend of her (Barbara Sommer, author and oral historian)

as a contact who would know a profession in that area.

Nov. 22, 11:10am-3: 30pm, Sharon, Katie, and Deb did research

(Kilmer, WPA, Kaufman, American Legion) for Rededication booklet at

MN Historical Sociey Library. We agreed to independently produce

outlines of what we each thought should be in the book and how it

might be organized on December 7; we will find what ideas we have in

common and start writing when we have a Chapter Outline that we all

agree on. It was agreed that we should include the influence of WW1

on both Kilmer and Kaufman, but to drop the American Legion as a

topic (not much connection was found).

Sharon is doing lots of independent research. Deb: Finished the

Joyce Kilmer Biography (authored by Sharon’s uncle), and started the

“Hard Work and a Good Deal” (by Barbara Sommer). Currently studying

the MHS Oral History Guidelines. Discussing with Tree Advisory Panel

and City Forestry a combined event: Arbor Month/Kilmer Rededication

for May 2011. Could use some help with making connections with

schools that would participate in Poet-tree Contest and bring at

least one class to the event. Q: What day in May would be best for

the maximum impact and attendance? Not a conflict with May Field

Day; other school holidays or events; or construction in the

woodland. Maybe we could resurrect some aspects of the Season of

Renewal to coincide with the event; or could do a tree planting;

garlic mustard pull on same day. Who could or should be there?

1. **Jim Olsen-St. Paul Parks Conservancy**—introduced the Conservancy and its mission “enhance and expand parks and recreational opportunities throughout St. Paul.” The first project they are taking on is the Lilydale Regional Park Enhancement project. How could the Conservancy support the CWOC project: they could take it on as a “project” as help us embark on fundraising or take funds that folks are willing to donate for the project. It is unlikely at this time, given the limited staff, that the Conservancy will be able to take on the role of fiscal agent for the CWOC for grant we may pursue.

4**. Web revision**-Jennifer-all agreed looks very nice. No serious coments: suggestions have tag line of “last updated” on front and add a “this month’s feature” section.

5. Go over **LCCMR application**, so we all understand the outcomes and what is expected of the Advisory Committee, please bring a copy. NOT DONE

6. **School Forest status**-Teri—no progress as yet except I asked Greg Childs, SPPS HQ how to go about getting a school board resolution through and he responded that it would be submitted by the school principal—Como Sr. High. Also Adam requested that we slow down on this and let the person that St. Paul Park and Rec is hiring (NOT Feb 2010, moved up from July) take the lead on this as this is an outcome for the LCCMR grant so don’t want to get ahead of ourselves too much.

7. **Go over action items from last meeting**-all. (Any not done will be forwarded to the December agenda to discuss.)

LCCMR FUNDING:

ACTION-Deb will have Jennifer post the proposal on the website-not done, waiting on web site revision.

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

proposal.—NOT done ran out of time, will be discussed at the December mtg.

SCHOOL FOREST—

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.-in process but slowed down, see comment above.

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

Forest concept.-NOT done.

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.NOT done

ACTION-once the agreement has been drawn up have a meeting with Como Sr.

High principal to present it for his signing. NOT done.

WEB SITE UPDATES-

ACTION-Deb will summarize comments and send to Jennifer. DONE

COMO CLASS DATA-

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. -DONE

TEACHING TIPS:

ACTION-Teri and Alison will connect on revising and resubmitting the FS More Kids in the Woods grant.-NOT done, missed deadline.