Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory committee

MINUTES

Monday, December 28, 2009

Attendees: Teri Heyer, Keith Philippe, Deb Robinson, Susan Jane Cheney, Alison Bunge, Jennifer Otremba. Guest-Ruth McDonald

1. Review LCCMR grant—expected outcomes and role of CWOC advisory committee,

Stressed the role the committee will have in assisting with teacher training and teaching aides/curriculum. These are grant deliverables that the grant provides limited funding for. It is expected that the new SPPR staff person will be the lead with assistance of this committee, expected to start Feb. 2010.

COMMENT-there is a range of complexities that the teaching materials could take from a new curriculum to more of a natural history guide linked to the numbered posts (such as the Mlps. Wildflower garden has.) The form it takes will depend on the expertise and time availability of the new SPPR staff person and how much volunteer time the committee is willing to put in. There is also the possibility of UMN or possibly Hamline student assistance.

COMMENT-SPRC wanted progress on this to be on the back burner until the grant starts July 1, 2010.

**ACTION—Teri will set up a meeting for early Feb with Adam and new staff person to discuss expectations in this regard. Deb and Keith also want to participate.**

There also could be a role for committee members if public testimony in needed as the LCCMR bill moves through the legislature.

**ACTION-Deb will follow up with LCCMR staff to see what is expected and where public involvement may be needed.**

Web presence—do we want to keep there since we have nothing to post? (new web design says Como Woodland Curriculum) Yes-under construction. Anything available now or soon? Yes-Josh’s materials and SPPR “EcoRanger Academy” materials are possible.

**ACTION—Jennifer ask Josh if he as anything to post.**

**NOVEMBER ACTIONS--LCCMR FUNDING:**

**ACTION-Deb will have Jennifer post the proposal on the website-not done, waiting on web site revision.—NOT DONE YET.**

**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.-DONE at December meeting.**

1. WEB site redesign. Jennifer has done a great job on version two of our website, draft is posted at:

<http://www.butterflydesign.com/newcomowoodland/>

Jennifer introduced Ruth McDonald who is helping Jennifer with the web redesign.

**ACTION—Jennifer will set up a follow up meeting with Ruth, Deb, and Teri to discussion expectations in regard to what goes on the web site and who does what.**

1. School Forest application-outline next steps and possible timeline.
2. 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.**

**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.**

1. Teacher training for fall 2010 next steps.

Start with five schools: Como Sr. Como Elem, Chelsea Heights, Murray Jr. and Great Rivers. When to do it? There are both district level training and school based workshops. Continuing ed credits need ok’s by SPPS.

1. Other grants, especially need funds for buses.

Comment-Belwin found bus funds hard to find but one foundation was willing.

ACTION-Jennifer look into what foundation this was.

ELM—from state EE committee headed up by PCA, last years deadline was Oct. 1, 2009.

**ELM School Grants Category**

The purpose of the ELM School Grants is to give students access to a variety of EE experiences in and out of the classroom. For the 2009-2010, ELM School Grants will provide **up to $1,500** that can be used to:

 Provide resources that give students and teachers access to a variety of learning sites on the school campus and beyond, including transportation, entry fees, education materials, equipment and teacher preparation time.

 Provide easy access to current and accurate materials, resources and resource people within the school or community.

CURA-Jan. 15, 2010 deadline. Decided not to pursue at the short timeframe. Not clear what we could ask for.

COMMENT-District 10 has a new chairperson, Leah Johnson, who is also a grant writer. She may be of assistance to us. D10 could also be a fiscal agent for a small grant