Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee minutes

August 17, 2009

Pre meeting comments:

New Como Sr. AP environmental studies teacher will be Jess Ley

School Forest presentation---- Amy Kay Kerber, MN DNR

For those not there go to this link for the DNR School Forest website.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/schoolforest/index.html>

Highlights of the discussion:

1. One of the benefits of being a School Forest is that a DNR Forester can help develop a management plan for the property. The forest who would help us is Art Widerstrom.
2. What are the requirements for being a School Forest? 5 activities on the site, annual report, school forest committee and coordinator/chair, funding (very vague), stewardship/management plan, a site not owned by the school must have a written agreement between the school and landowners indicating conditions of use.
3. Have there been other situations such as ours where multiple schools use the site? Yes Newport and Bemidji. However one school usually serves as the focal point and assigns the coordinator.
4. DNR will provide training to teachers focusing on how to teach outdoors and existing curricula. Teachers receive a Project Learning Tree curriculum at the training. However this is not the only curriculum, there are many others, and School Forest teachers are made aware of these. One example is an Inquiry curriculum that Lisa attended training for.
5. There is a School Forest sharing section on the website where teachers can share what has worked for them. (This is something we had wanted to do.
6. The new science curriculum specialist with the SPPS is Marty Davis (Marshall for email).

ACTION: Teri will arrange a follow up meeting between Marty Davis and Adam or Megan or higher up in Park and Rec, not sure, to discuss the potential for our site as a School Forest with the target being an agreement between SPPS and St. Paul Park and Recreation.

LCCMR grant: we have made the first cut! Had 238 proposals, down to 86, and of which there were 16 EE proposals. Next steps: Adam, Deb, any maybe Teri will meet with Rep. Ellen Anderson on 9/2 at 9am to discuss the presentation. The LCCMR presentation will be on 9/22.

Joyce Kilmer memorial restoration and rededication: St. Paul Park and Rec received Legacy money for the “Dutch Ovens” restoration (CIB proposal was taken off the table.) The work is being overseen by Brian Murphy and may start this fall. Deb and Sharon are working on the rededication ceremony for spring 2011 which co-insides with the 75th anniversary of the memorial dedication.

ACTION: If you have ideas of what should be included with the ceremony contact Deb Robinson.

Ramsey County CD/BSWR grant for native plantings: Ann has written a letter that Adam needs to finalize and sign. There are some concerns about when the road work might happen and that changing the water flow and so what to plant where.

Summer Youth Job Corp work: Allison is the new Americorps volunteer. She will be there for one year. A total of 128 staff hours and 538 crew hours were spent in the woodland this summer, primarily removing invasives (burdock).

UPCOMING events:

Como Sr. High AP env. Studies field day Fri. Sept. 25

Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee Mon. Sept. 28