Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory committee

Minutes

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

1. **Update on Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace restoration.**

Restoration has started!!!! Timeframe is weather dependent but scheduled for completion by end of April. The rededication celebration is still scheduled for May 19, 2011. The Como HS spring field day is scheduled at the same time.

ACTION-need a few volunteers to assist Deb with planning the rededication event. If you have not been very active to date with the CWOC this may be a great way to get reconnected with a project that has a definite end date. Send reminder email in January.

ACTION-Teri send Jessica Ley and email confirming the spring Como HS field day event.

1. **Any other recent and upcoming events in the woodland or related to the woodland?**

**Neighborhood Honor Roll**-each District nominates up to 3 people that are recognized at a City ceremony in January. Two folks connected with the CWOC have been nominated and selected: Sharon Shinomiya and Matt Schmidt. Sharon worked diligently behind the scenes to organize the poetry workshops this fall. Matt supports Deb and helps with CW events, usually as our photographer. Matt was also very active with D10 and made sure all CW related events were in the newsletter.

Many thanks to both.

**Park and Recreation new plan** outreach meetings-we have requested that the CWOC is put on the maps in the plan and as future meetings are held. P&R has agreed to do this.

Josh asked if anyone had heard a local group call “**Big Urban Woods**”, according to Josh’s handout their mission statement is “within the parameters of Ramsey County, restore and maintain urban natural woods so that is serves educational purposes that target plant and animal life, geographical history, human history, and nature’s interdependency.

<http://www.bigurbanwoods.org/>

According to the website:

We are a volunteer group of concerned citizens, master gardeners, local business owners, educators and students dedicated to restoring a natural wooded area on the east side of Saint Paul.  This area is intended for educational purposes for those interested in learning about the history, plants and animals of the Big Urban Woods.

ACTION: Teri contact the folks listed on website, at least link them to our website, maybe suggest we meet or they attend one of our meetings.

**Summer recreation programs-**Joan suggested they may be a good partner. The Smore Fun summer program at North Dale rec center does have vans for transportation. Another possibility may be the Discovery Club after school program.

1. **School Forest update**

Kelley had sent a message to Great River Montesorri asking if they wish to be our School Forest partner—for two reasons-getting the agreement ready for the School Board has been difficult and slow and GRM is already using the site several times a year. No response as yet.

1. **Grant opportunities?**

**EPA regional EE grant:** Josh is considering submitted a grant focusing on Valley Branch as a teacher training site for EE-first visit at VB but the second visit could be another more local/urban site such as Como Woods. There will be a focus on state ed standards. Part of the grant could pay for buses.

.

**5**. **Website additions?-none**

**6. Prior action items:** regarding education kits donated to CWOC by the Forest Service.

ACTION-Teri draft a letter from CWOC committee indicated the education boxes are on long-term loan to SPPR. –DONE.

**7. Are we OK with change in meeting dates?** Not sure-Kelley is a key participant to this committee and right now she has a class on Tuesday nights. Lets stay with current schedule until we know what her spring semester calendar will be.

This lead to a discussion that we need more regular contact with Park and Rec besides Kelley as the restoration work starts—Adam would be best. Discussed having maybe every other meeting later in the day or first thing in morning at the P&R bldg.

ACTION-Josh will contact Adam to see what days of the week might work for them. Keep tuned via email regarding this.

**Future meeting dates, please mark your calendar--**

Dec. 28—suggestion to have this as a fun/holiday celebration event and less of a meetings-ACTION-Teri send email to see if we can get a critical mass, suggested local place-Bascali’s. (Joan and Josh cannot attend.)

2011

Jan. 25

Feb. 22

Mar. 29

Apr. 26

May 31

June 28