Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory committee

AGENDA

Monday, January 25, 2010

1. Status of web site redesign.

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

Redesign in process. Jennifer is working with Ruth McDonald on this. Should be launched in February. Periodically the Advisory Committee will need to assist with providing content for the website. Note the city website revision is moving along faster than anticipated. This means that will have to figure out what goes where (city vs this website) and how to link.

Actions:

Joan-talk with Jessica about moving Como study site data to the website.

Teri-talk to Josh to see if he has any curricular materials to post.

Deb-provide Jennifer the materials on how to conduct a bird survey for the curriculum section.

1. Status of LCCMR grant—any follow-up needed at State Legislature as bill moves through session?

Deb recently talked to LCCMR staff, Dan Gange, and Ellen Anderson about this. According to Ellen Anderson it may be good to have participation in the hearing concerning the LCCMR bill. St Paul staff have been making minor changes to the project work plan. Deb requested a copy when finalized.

Question by our guest as to which schools we are focusing on led to a discussion other nearby schools: Crossroads is a preK-6 science magnet. Galtier (Deb Wilson, a teacher, has express interest in working with us.)

Scheduling schools? Will be done by education coordinator, now done by Megan.

ACTION: Advisory committee would like a quarterly report from Megan or ed coordinator about how has used the classroom (scheduled use) in the past three months.

School

Grade level

How did the class use the site?

2/8 update\_\_here is the specific language for our project in the LCCMR bill

(e) **Urban Woodland Como Regional Park**

17.33 $218,000 is from the trust fund to the

17.34 commissioner of natural resources for

17.35 an agreement with the city of St. Paul,

Department of Parks 18.1 and Recreation, to

18.2 restore and develop an outdoor classroom

18.3 for ecological education and historical

18.4 interpretation at Como Regional Park in

18.5 St. Paul. This appropriation is available

18.6 until June 30, 2013, by which time the

18.7 project must be completed and final products

18.8 delivered.

1. Status of SPPR new education hire.

Person should be on board in early February. This person’s priorities include:

* Redesigning the curriculum for Crosby Farm Regional Park
* Interpretation programming for Lilydale fossil grounds
* Programming for Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
* Como Woods Outdoor Classroom

ACTION: set up meeting in Feb with new ed person to discuss how this person will assist us in implementing the School Forest designation, curriculum development and teacher training. Friday afternoon, either 2/12 or 2/19. Attending: Deb, Joan, Teri, Adam, and Keith.

Question-how secure are the funds for this position? Have to request funds every two years from Met Council be fairly confident they should be there.

1. New education partner—Humbolt High School (grade 7-12)
2. Next steps for School Forest?

SCHOOL FOREST— NO PROGRESS

1. Next steps for fall teacher training? NO PROGRESS
2. Next steps for teacher materials development? NO PROGRESS
3. Other grant opportunities? NO PROGRESS, briefly discussed the call for the next round of LCCMR proposals but most of the group felt that this first grant needed to get off the ground first.

Hold over actions from prior meetings not completed yet:

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.

Other items:

May have a new school partner: Humbolt Jr. and Sr. high in West St. Paul (grades 7-12). The school is restructuring with an environmental theme including studying the Mississippi river and MN Biomes. They are already visiting the bottomland forests of Lilydale and are interested in contrasting that with an upland forest site. This may very well be at Como, they do have funds for buses.

Report from Deb on the Fireplace historical research and rededication:

