Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory committee

Minutes

Monday, July 12, 2010 7-9pm

1. **Guest speaker: John Covell**—Joyce Kilmer biographer—Wonderful, what a treat, we all learned so much!
2. **May meeting minutes/Action Status from May meeting:**

ACTION-Teri contact Meghan to remind her about scheduling- Follow-up—Kelley and Adam have been discussing this and have decided that the best way to handle this is for teachers to request a FREE permit from SPPR. On the CWOC website there will be a notice and a phone number of where to call, not finalized yet where this might be, but most likely Kelley. Then once a week or so the scheduler would have to notify the CWOC webmaster of what is scheduled to put it on the website calendar.

ACTION- at August meeting check that is process is reflected right and update and then need to get on the website for any fall teacher visits.

ACTION-Kelley will ask Megan about posting the plant guide on the website-DONE on website in curriculum section.

ACTION-Joan reforward data to Jennifer. New bird data? ACTION-Joan add May 2010 bird data to spreadsheet and send to Jennifer. NOT done yet, Deb will handle.

**Quick updates:**

* **Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace and Poet-Tree workshops-**fund now has over $300 in it! ($600 is needed for the two workshops). Sally will write up a short notice about the fund for posting at visitor info desk at the Como Conservancy. Follow-up on John Covell visit-Deb will write up a news release and submit to the Monitor and Bugle, this can also be posted on the website. Fireplace-the City will start looking at a contractor the end of August.
* **What new on the website? Any things need to be added?**

Digital Photography workshop-Oct. 23 (ACTION-Teri send out notice to teacher list-DONE)

UW invasive curriculum

U tube of St. Paul award

* **June teacher meeting**

June 15, 2010

Como Woods Outdoor Classroom—Teacher outreach meeting

Attendees-teachers

Ann Pelletier Como Elementary k-6 science

Rosalind Shore Como elementary site council

Tasha Hardin Groveland 3

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Jessica Ley Como Sr. science

Tim Chase Murray Jr. science

Attendees-CWCO

Joshua Leonard

Teri Heyer

Joan McKearnan

Kelley Dinsmore

Concerns/barriers:

1. Busing-comment once we are a School Forest the DNR can assist with looking out for grant opportunities. The MN Assoc. of EE has managed a grant fund in the past and busing was an allowed cost.
2. How to schedule-Teri will check with Beth Albrecht do see if she be the contact for scheduling and post visits on the CWOC website. ACTION-once Beth is OK with this send contact info to teachers.
3. Lack of staffing on site-comment-Valley Branch could potentially assist with staffing a few times a year if a large group will be there.

Workshops/training what works?

* Th. Of MEA weekend
* Weekends
* Early release day-this would have to be scheduled school by school
* Summer
* Beginning of school year –before kids arrive is v. good
* Opportunity—Oct.23 there will be a “digital bridge to nature” workshop
* **School Forest update:** June 8 meeting with Como Park Sr. High principal, Dan Mesick went very well, supportive of school forest idea, willing to provide time for teacher updates about during various teacher meetings, wondered if Como Sr.High can be on the CWOC-School Forest signage-Yes; and willing to assist in presenting resolution to the SP School Board.

School Board resolution: still planning for the August 17 meeting. There are actually 2 things the School Board needs to approve: entering in a Joint Powers agreement with the City designating the 17 ac of Como Park as the CWOC and they also designating it as a School Forest. Not decided yet if this will be one or two resolutions. And if it is two are they both at the same meeting or at subsequent meetings?

ACTION-Teri send out a heads up to the CWOC AC and our teacher contact list about the August 17 meeting, save the date.-DONE

ACTION-Teri and Kelley need to confer about that information the School Board needs ahead of time and what talking points the meeting attendees need to have.

* **Como Park Transportation planning-**Discussions are ongoing but an important meeting is August 12 this is where actions related to the CWOC would need to come up such as signage directing folks to the classroom and the idea that has come up before of having the shuttle for use transporting students during its off season. See the website for more information:[**http://www.district10comopark.org/CRPTIP.html**](http://www.district10comopark.org/CRPTIP.html)

Other items:

Leopold bench-Teri passed out a picture. What a great idea for Como Sr. High shop class or an Eagle Scout project. Getting something like this going would have to be done via the AC as the city cannot have other folks build stuff for the park (labor rules.)

