Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory committee

MINUTES

Monday, August 23, 2010 7-9pm

1. **Como Park Transportation planning-**committee comments on transportation/parking concepts as presented at the August 12 public outreach meeting:

* Road extension through Audubon woods to Hamline-the Audubon Woods serves as buffer to the Como Woods Outdoor Classroom and is wildlife habitat. As such if the road extension goes through, keep it to the south end of the woods as close to the existing Parks maintenance facilities as possible.
* If the road extension is put it should be constructed in such a way so that the surface run-off is directed into the Outdoor Classroom thereby adding water to the ephemeral wetland feature.
* The Como Woods Outdoor Classroom Advisory committee has always envisioned the outdoor classroom as accessible to all park users. As such we have some concerns about visitors crossing Horton Ave into the classroom on the north side. We would suggest traffic calming features on Horton such as speed bumps.
* A bike rake near the outdoor classroom close to the Hamline entrance would be helpful.
* Add signage about the outdoor classroom on the T3 and T5 signage near the classroom.
* While the committee had issues with all three park adjacent shuttle parking sites, if one had to be selected the one that impacts the green space the least is the site on the corner of Jessamine and Hamline. It has a further advantage of already having a large amount of impervious surface. Further more if this site was used and existing staff need to be relocated, we would advocate for using the building as an interpretive center for the park featuring both natural and historical information.
* Pool parking-have that a pay lot.
* The pool has only a tree month traffic impact, that begs the question whether the road extension is worth the costs.
* Shuttle-expanding the shuttle more into the neighborhoods so that adjacent schools can access the woodland would be helpful. Closet schools where distance or student age is a deterrent are: Como Elementary, Como Sr. High, Cheslea Heights Elementary, and Great River Montesorri.
* Utilize the time visitors are on the buses have volunteer interpreters giving historical and natural features of the Park.
* It is important that the pool road/parking design take into account the road/turn around needs for the Como Woods Outdoor Classroom. See the Master Plan located at:

[**http://www.comowoodland.org/masterplan.html**](http://www.comowoodland.org/masterplan.html)

All committee members are encouraged to visit the website where these plans are discussed and comments are being taken until **August 27.** Comments and discussion will also be happening at the upcoming District 10 and 6 meetings.

**http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3556**

ACTION: Comments will be compiled and submitted by the August 27 deadline.-DONE

1. **School Forest update-** School Forest-not able to present our resolution to the St. Paul School Board in August because still waiting on comments from the city attorney. Kelley will keep pushing this along. The School Board meets monthly so we can get scheduled as soon as this is done.

Permit process-a free permit will be required by school groups visiting the CWOC, there are two time blocks: 8-12 and 12-4. The process right now is to call St. Paul Park and Rec and Kelley will coordinate with CWOC web folks so scheduled visits can be posted on the website calendar. Our teacher contacts need to know this. ACTION: develop a flyer that can be email to our teachers and post on website. Kelley will do.

1. **Joyce Kilmer Memorial Fireplace and Poet-Tree workshops**

**Kilmer Biographer visit:**

\*Sharon, Matt, and Deb met John Covell before **July 12th** meeting, at the Kilmer Fireplace (Matt took photos for Monitor press release and website story Deb wrote). Meeting went well, good attendance (12?); Covell donated 6 copies of his book to use as an incentive for future $50 donations to Poet-tree Workshops.

\*Sharon sent Covell thank you and link to articles: <http://www.monitorsaintpaul.com/Graphics%20Folder/Aug2010.pdf>

\*Sharon submitted Kilmer Fireplace/Como Park story to 2011 St. Paul Almanac (with Matt’s photo of fireplace in winter) – way to go, Sharon.

**Poet-tree Workshops and Kilmer Fireplace Rededication** related.

\*Our last donation for the Poet-tree Workshops was on **July 14**, which brings the current total to $375 (a little over half of what we need to pay the poet ($600). \*Sharon has been in contact with Lynn Bartol (teacher at Chelsea Heights Elementary, and the week of **September 13 to 17** is when Sharon and Deb will give a CWOC and Kilmer Fireplace history tour, and the Poet-tree Workshop will take place that week as well at the school. Sharon has not heard back from our partnering Como Park Elementary teacher this summer . . . yet.

\*Deb has not yet scheduled (officially) any speakers for May 19, 2011 rededication event – is waiting to see at least a little restoration activity at Fireplace first.

**4. Recent upcoming events in the woodland: burdock bust, not fall Como Sr. field day, Oct. digital photography workshop.**

\*Burdock Pull with Target on **July 23**, 1-3pm, very hot, 17 participants, Hands On Twin City involvement; Deb did a pre-event pep talk about Como Park, CWOC and burdock.

\*Burdock Pull **August 17**, 6-8pm, very hot, 8 participants (Teri, Joan, Deb, Will, 3 staff, 1 YCC), found homeless shopping cart in CW.

\* **Fall Field Day**. The September 2010 Fall Field day has been canceled (Jess wants to do lake water field day); Jess has said she still wants to do a Spring Field Day (this is very important to Historical Subcommittee – **May 19, 2011** is the currently scheduled rededication and field day date).

5. **Website** additions: \*Expanded Covell story with two images, and August 17 Burdock Bust notice.

Next meeting Monday, September 27

Future meeting dates-to be at Como Street Car Station unless otherwise notified

10/25

11/22

12/27

**2011**

1/24

2/28

3/28

4/25

5/23

6/27