Monday August 29, 2011—3-4:30 St. Paul Park and Rec office

Agenda items:

1. Adam-status of restoration work, note to advisory committee-you may want to look over the schedule that Adam handed out in the spring to reacquaint what was proposed.
2. Adam-status of trail placement, how can the advisory committee help with that?
3. Kelly/Teri-school forest update

* Great River Montesorri
* Crossroads Elementary

1. Teri-Great River interest in the Dept of Ed. EE/OE grant:

Here is a copy of the email Teri sent to Crossroads after meeting with Tami from GRM

Melisa I met recently with staff from Great River Montesorri (grade 7-12) about their interest in applying for the Dept. of Ed Environmental Education/Outdoor Education grant opportunity (deadline 9/30/11). Great River like Crossroads is in the process of designating the Como Woods Outdoor Classroom as their School Forest. What Great River is interested in doing with this grant is developing a "teacher field guide for the Como Woodland" and other community service components. There are several ways how Crossroads could involved and benefit from:

1. Crossroads teachers could test drive the field guide as they visit Como Woods and provide feedback.

2. Great River School students have every Wed afternoon available for community connection projects. Some Great River students could be trail guides or otherwise help Crossroads teachers as they visit the Como Woods.

There could be transporation funds built into the grant to facilitate Crossroads visiting Como Woods.

3. A behind the scenes benefit would be that Crossroads Montesorri would develop a relationship with Great River Montesorri.

1. Deb/Teri-report out on the meeting with St. Kate’s service learning/community service staff.

NOTES from meeting (August 17) with St. Kate’s Center for Community Work and Leaning. Present: D’Ann Urbaniak Lesch (Assistant Director), Laura Haynes (Assistant), Teri, Deb, and Joan.

D’Ann contacted me about a possible partnership. The Center’s mission is to work with St. Kate students to encourage civic engagement, social responsibility, understanding diverse communities, leadership and making a positive impact in the community. Each new students starts with class “Reflective Woman” and this class can provide groups of 15 to 35 students for a single 3-hour volunteer event (like a planting or bust). Then there are individual students (could be a pair) who need a project for 1-2 hours a week for 10-12 weeks (total of 20 hours) My understanding was that the Center worked with 30 courses per year (4 during the summer). They work primarily with students in Nursing, Education, and Social Work. We were encouraged to contact Tony Murphy (with St. Kate’s new Center for STEM) for a partnership with the Sciences students. There could be an intern opportunity. The Center currently works with schools like Crossroads Elementary and Jackson Elementary (with YWCA – who happens to have a bus, by the way).

We went thought the “list of current and possible events/activities” that I provided and came up with a few more as we went.

After our meeting with St. Kate’s, I talked to Meghan. She suggested a planting opportunity – I sent email to D’Ann on August 23:

D'Ann & Laura,

I called Meghan Manhatton about our conversation with you about a Center for Community Work and Learning Service group of student volunteers (from the Reflective Woman class) that might be available this fall for an event in the CWOC.

Meghan said she needed a group to plant prairie grass seeds and plugs in our Oak savanna biome, but she thought the planting needed to get that done by mid October at the very latest (late September or early October would be better). Meghan asked if I would find out if you could make a commitment for the middle of October.

She also said that even a group as small of 15 would be OK. (And I would plan to be there to work with your group on whatever date you come up with.) If you can't say for sure that you would be able to bring a group by the middle of October this year, that's fine - I'm sure we can figure out something else to do with your group later in the fall. But I thought I would ask - a planting event would be so much fun and very positive activity.

Deb Robinson

On August 29, I followed up with a phone call to D’Ann; she said that the instructors had just returned to school, classes have not yet started (but soon), and there would be 2 Reflective Woman classes – one instructors wanted to do a public health related service learning project, but the other instructor might be interested in the CWOC planting event; D’Ann will try to find out by Wednesday (Aug. 31). She also mentioned that the Director just returned from maternity leave and a new assistant just replaced Laura (so it sounds a little hectic this week).

1. Meghan-volunteer events: Sept. **Melisa I met recently with staff from Great River Montesorri (grade 7-12) about their interest in applying for the Dept. of Ed Environmental Education/Outdoor Education grant opportunity (deadline 9/30/11).  Great River like Crossroads is in the process of designating the Como Woods Outdoor Classroom as their School Forest.  What Great River is interested in doing with this grant is developing a "teacher field guide for the Como Woodland" and other community service componets.  There are several ways how Crossroads could involved and benefit from:   
   1. Crossroads teachers could test drive the field guide as they visit Como Woods and provide feedback.   
   2. Great River School students have every Wed afternoon available for community connection projects.   Some Great River students could be trail guides or other wise help Crossroads teachers as they visit the Como Woods.     
   There could be transporation funds built into the grant to faciliate Crossroads visiting Como Woods.   
   3.  A behind the scenes benefit would be that Crossroads Montesorri would develop a relationship with Great River Montesorri.     
     
   I just wanted to give you a heads up early as we likely will have to talk about this before the proposed 8/15 school forest meeting.  Feel free to call me with any questions. Melisa I met recently with staff from Great River Montesorri (grade 7-12) about their interest in applying for the Dept. of Ed Environmental Education/Outdoor Education grant opportunity (deadline 9/30/11).  Great River like Crossroads is in the process of designating the Como Woods Outdoor Classroom as their School Forest.  What Great River is interested in doing with this grant is developing a "teacher field guide for the Como Woodland" and other community service componets.  There are several ways how Crossroads could involved and benefit from:   
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2. New volunteer coordinator
3. Any updates on security around the fireplace.

FUTURE MEETINGS FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

September 26

October 24

November 28

December-lets just plan a holiday celebration