

Saint John's Outdoor University Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, December 6, 2013
New Science 150 (Natural History Museum)

Agenda

- 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Set-up for Open House celebration. Thanks ahead of time to whoever is available to help! Come to "Party room" Quad 170
- 12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Lunch (later than usual)
- 1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Welcome to the inaugural meeting of the Saint John's Outdoor University Advisory Council
Thanks to Terri Barreiro
Brief committee/Outdoor University updates
- Functions, scheduling, & membership of Outdoor University Advisory Council and Committees in the future. (See attached committee update for details)
 - New name rollout
 - Discussion of long-term targets.
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.** Annual Open House Celebration

2014 Council Meetings:

We'll set dates for the next council meetings after our discussion on Dec. 6.

Committee Updates – for December 6, 2013

PreK-12 Education

- Final numbers are still being tabulated but we had a busy fall field trip season with over 2600 student visits. Students participated in classes such as plants, sensory exploration, solar energy, and insects.
- Over 200 7th and 8th graders participated in the 5th annual Project Earth Conference on Tuesday, October 8th. Students first watched a keynote address by the Minnesota Zoo Mobile and got to see a variety of live Minnesota animals, such as Peregrine falcon, skunk, and Bull snake. They then participated in a variety of outdoor sessions the rest of the day. The Arboretum partners with Resource Training and Solutions and Sauk River Watershed District on this event.
- The 6th grade class at Saint John's Prep school learned about the water cycle, watersheds, and their impact on water during a weeklong session about water. They participated in activities such as dipping for macroinvertebrates and chemical testing of water samples.

CSB/SJU Education

- This year's orientation hike was a great success with all 1050 incoming students hiking through the Arboretum on the last day of orientation. Thanks to those who helped lead hikes!
- Collegebound took 56 students to the north shore for our pre-orientation wilderness trips.
- PRP has hosted so great student events this fall including sponsoring a trip to Forestville Park/Mystery Cave, Night Bike, MusiCollage (musicians sign up with their instruments/voice and are placed into a band then given 3 days to come up with 3 songs and a concert at the end! Over 30 people have signed up so far!)
- 20 FYS Classes have participated in Arboretum programs this semester.
- Lead solar tour for family weekend with over 75 students and their families participating.
- PRP is planning a spring break trip to Grand Canyon...\$550 for 12 days; sorry it is for students only!
- PRP's Apploozza event keeps growing with over 100 students participating in a day at Collegeville orchards. The day included transportation, group challenges, and Dutch oven apple cobbler and cider making!
- OLC held the Adventure Challenge, which included a wall climb, 2 orienteering courses to find canoe paddles, life vests and s'more making materials. Portaging a canoe, canoeing across lake Sag, setting up a camp and hanging a bear bag, starting a fire with steel wool and a battery all while keeping their carved pumpkin safe. 62 People participated.
- Outdoor week this year includes the ever popular Polar Bear Plunge, Run/Bike /Blade to class, medallion hunt, bike maintenance class, climbing competitions, the Banff film festival, a led "Nature Hike" Backpacking 101, geocaching and bike cross!

Community Education

- Collegeville Colors had perfect weather yet again! 479 participants, the best recorded yet, with many more estimated to have "stumbled" in.
- We are gearing up for another great Avon Hill Conference February 1st. We've confirmed this year's keynote speaker: Wildlife Science Center and some of their animals.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Our membership numbers are on track with previous years. The Abbey Arboretum deer hunt has brought in several new memberships this fall. Sustaining memberships currently make up approximately 4% of our membership base and approximately 5% of our membership dollars.

FY14	FY13
• 68 renewing (\$5105)	• 71 renewing (\$5082)
• 15 new (\$445)	• 6 new (\$155)
• 3 student (\$30)	• 2 student (\$20)
• 22 sustaining (\$2355)	• 2 sustaining (\$160)

- We already have more than 150 RSVP's to the Open House, so it should be a great party as usual!

Fundraising

- We are pleased to announce that John and Bonita Benschoter have generously offered to fund the design and construction of a new timber frame bridge on the chapel trail. (See Abbey Lands committee for details.)

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- We need to look at revising the current structure of the way we use the Outdoor University Advisory council members and committee members. We want to be efficient and effective in using the time and talents of these valuable volunteers. (List of committee members is attached below.)
- As the Arboretum's programs have matured and become more routine, the council meetings have become more informative and less decision-making. We do not want our council meetings to become perfunctory.
- Also because the need for advice is often specific to a topic such as K-12 education, or social media, or land use, discussion at the council level leave many, if not most, of the members out of the discussion on any particular topic.

Suggestions:

- Switch to committee meetings in Feb & June (or August) (like we do now in Feb) for the Program Admin committee & K-12 Education & CSB/SJU Community Ed committee. The Abbey Lands committee has already been split off and their work is related, but not under the jurisdiction of Saint John's Outdoor U. As there is cross-over in committee membership, we would likely see the same schedule for the Abbey Lands committee.
- Have full council meetings at end of June committee meeting and also in December.
- Eliminate the October Council meeting

Abbey Arboretum Lands Committee

This is not an education committee, but the report is included as it is of keen interest to many council members.

- The old concrete block bridge that leads to Pickerel Point below the Prep School is showing its age in terms of aesthetics. (It is still structurally sound.) We would like to replace the concrete blocks with a timber frame bridge on the same foundation.
- The timber frame styling would be carried over to the roof of the Chapel Trailhead and to other similar projects over time.
- The 2013 archery deer hunt is proceeding quite smoothly with 27 deer taken as of Nov 18. There have been no conflicts with other users.

Abbey Arboretum Advisory Council & Committee Members									
Updated Nov 21, 2013		Education Committee			Program Admin Committee			Abbey	
Name	Term Ends	K-12 Ed	CSB/SJU Ed	Comm Ed	PR/Mmbrs.	Fund-raising	Admin/Vol.	Identity (Recessed)	Lands & Forest
Current Council Members									
OPEN	2015								
Benschoter, John	2013					1			
Connolly, Mike	2013		1				1		
Daninger, Scott	2015	1							
Dumbrowski, Kari	2014	1							
Franklin, Emily	2013				1	1	1		
Geissler, John	2015			1					
Grobe OSB, Lew	2014			1					1
Haeg, Tom	2014								1
Knight, Troy	2013		1						
Miller, Glenn	2015							1	1
Miller OSB, Greg	2015								
OPEN	2015								
Russell, Bob	2014								1
Saupe, Steve, Chair	2014		1	1					1
OPEN	2015			1					
OPEN	2015								
2 Student Senate member yearly									
TOTAL COUNCIL MEMBERS		2	3	4	1	2	2	1	5
Current Committee Members									
Binsfeld, Alison		1							
Bailey, Gordon	In Recess							1	
Bengtson, Karen			1						
Brown, Gordon			1						
Brown, Mike	In Recess							1	
Culhane OSB, Alberic	2015								1
DeGeest, Pam		1							
Dickau, Bruce			1						
Dwyer, Jim						1			
Ellenbecker, Robert		1							
Elton, John	2015								1
Harris, Anita				1					
Herbst, Cassie				1					
Huls, Susan		1							
Kaluza, Anne							1		
Kampa, Kathy		1							
Kelly OSB, Mark	2015								1
Kieffer OSB, Walter	2014								1
Kleespie OSB, Nicholas	2014								1
Larson, Derek			1					1	
Leuthner OSB, Benedict	2015							1	1
Lang David Paul	2015								1
Marin, Linda & Dan							1		
Mitchell, Luke		1							
Mock, Linda							1		
Petters, Colleen					1	1	1		
Pflueger, Gary	2014								1
Restani, marco	2015		1	1		1			1
Scoon, Jean					1				
Stark, Dan	2014								1
Taylor, John					1				
Theisen OSB, Wilfred	2015								1
Thomsen, Bob	2015				1				1
Wienhold, Ron									
Wilcox, Irene		1							
Wurm OSB, Margaret	2014								1
TOTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS		6	5	3	4	3	4	4	13
Current Staff									
Kroll, Thomas						1	1	1	1
Gainey, Sarah		1		1				1	
O'Reilly, John			1	1		1			
Kutter, Jenny					1	1	1		1
Vogel, Dan									1
TOTAL STAFF MEMBERS		1	1	2	1	3	3	1	3
Brown = on Abbey Arb Lands committee									
TOTAL MEMBERS		9	9	9	6	8	9	6	21