

Agenda

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2007

Abbey Guesthouse Lakeview Room, Saint John's Abbey and University

- 10:30 - 11:45 Walking tour to the logging operation. (Near the Sugar Shack) See the logging operation in full color. (Optional, meet at office in New Science Building)
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (AT THE NEW ABBEY GUESTHOUSE)
- 1:15 Full Council Meeting (AT THE NEW ABBEY GUESTHOUSE) (Tom)
Welcome & Introductions- It is our 10th Anniversary this year!
- 1:30 Review FY 07 Goals and Accomplishments to date (Sarah and Melissa)
(including Business memberships)
- 1:45 Dec 2006 Open House Update and your thoughts (Sarah)
- 2:00 Stella Maris Chapel update - Br. Linus
- 2:30 Fundraising Update (Tom)
(including grant writer and 10th anniversary funding pitch)
- 3:00 Institutional Advancement updates (Jim Dwyer)
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 10th Anniversary Discussion (Sarah)
- 4:00 Proposed new Chapel Trail Bridge (Not covered bridge!) (Tom)
- 4:15 Budget and goals for FY 2008 (Sarah and Tom)
- 5:15 Other Business
- 5:30 Meeting closes

Committee Updates – for February 26, 2007

PreK-12 Education

- Winter classes were postponed due to the cold snap, but 12 classrooms participated in animal signs and tracking classes once the weather warmed up.
- A new collaboration between the Arboretum, the Environmental Studies Department, and Kennedy Elementary (part of St Cloud school district) is in the works. We have applied for a grant to provide a week of energy education to teachers during the summer of 2008, in conjunction with the opening of the new green Kennedy Elementary school building in St Joseph.
- As part of the Master Naturalist course (more info see below), Scott Daninger will be working on developing the orienteering curriculum for the new land navigation course in the oak savanna.

CSB/SJU Education

- Although official club status was denied for the ‘Wild Things’ club, we are now going to form a student organization, with more direct ties to the Arboretum, as an outreach to CSB/SJU students. The organization will be responsible first for organizing earth week in the spring and outdoor week in the fall.
- Steve was able to secure new environmental education curriculum from Projects WET/WILD/ and Learning Tree for the education department library. Steve, Sarah, and Alison presented the curriculum, along with other ways the Arboretum can help the education staff, at a department meeting at the start of spring semester.
- A trip is planned to Prairie Wetlands Environmental Center with members of the CSB/SJU education department, Del Brobst, coordinator of student teaching and Karen Bengston, pre-service science professor, to investigate the possibility of pre-service teachers from CSB/SJU doing their student teaching at the center.
- In conjunction with Campus Energy Wars, the Arboretum student staff hosted a full moon night hike and indoor campfire for CSB/SJU students.
- The Environmental Studies Department is discussing moving their department to the offices down the hall from the Arboretum. This would allow for greater collaboration between us and them, along with a more centralized location for their department.
- Marcus Webster, CSB/SJU Biology Professor, is organizing a group to start discussing improvements and changes to the Natural History Museum, and other display cases in the science buildings. The hope is to retain the space as a meeting place, while increasing the diversity and the educational potential of the displays.

Community Education

- The Master Naturalist class is halfway done, with 19 people participating in the class at the Arboretum. Along with being a great chance for our education staff to instruct adults, this class will also produce a number of volunteers for Arboretum projects.
- Despite cold temperatures, about 30 people came for the 8th annual Owl Hoot in early February. Due to the cold and the young age of the audience, instead of hiking outside and calling for owls after the presentation, we retreated to the Natural History Museum for stations on all things owly, including dissecting owl pellets, owl arts and crafts, and owl trivia.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Preparation has begun for our annual Maple Syrup festival. Sarah and Steve Saupe will be leading the operations this year.
- Articles are coming in for the spring edition of Sagatagan Seasons. In honor of the Arboretum's 10th anniversary, this edition is focusing on the past, present and future of the Arboretum and how it involves all members of the community.
- We received over 40 membership renewals in the month of December (our average is in the mid-twenties).

Fundraising

- The Arboretum has struck an agreement with Institutional Advancement whereby John Taylor will supervise and assist a part-time grant writer hired from Arboretum funds. Mary Kroll has agreed to an hourly position not to exceed \$2,000 between now and June 30, 2007.
- Following discussions with Institutional Advancement, the Arboretum would like to modify the annual renewal letters to include a request for an extra \$10 to \$150 based on our 10th anniversary and SJU's 150th anniversary.
- We have submitted grants to the Initiative Foundation for \$10,000 for the Avon Hills.
- We submitted 2 pre-proposals to the Xcel Foundation. Xcel asked for a full proposal on a \$20,000 grant related to teaching about energy.
- Terri Barreiro led a discussion on "wish list" ideas for funding which will lead into grantable projects.

Lands

- Br. Linus and Bill Mock and Tom Kroll met with a laminated bridge representative to get bids on a new 64 foot span to replace the failing bridge on the Chapel trail. This would be included in the pool of special projects submitted for the SJU budget. Funding is not certain.
- The Abbey Chapter has voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the renovations of the Stella Maris chapel.
- The floating boardwalk has again experienced severe upward thrusting from the forces of freezing and thawing. This despite the fact that the wetland was lowered so that the boardwalk was not in any water. Rain in December probably caused the problem. We may have to revamp the design.
- Contacts are proceeding in an orderly manner with neighbors.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- The Arboretum was officially dedicated in May of 1997. (Though Fr. Paul worked on it for many years prior to that.) What should we do for our 10th Anniversary, especially considering that it is also the 150th anniversary of SJU?
- The Environmental Educator and Office Coordinator Fellowships for 2007-2008 will be opening soon.