

Agenda

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, October 8, 2007

Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

- 10:00 Morning walk to the Stella Maris Chapel to see the renovations
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (Meet at the Reef or at our offices)
- 1:15 Full Council Meeting (Sarah)
Welcome & Introductions- We continue our 10th Anniversary this year!
- 1:30 Review of Homecoming and Collegeville Colors (Sarah)
- 1:45 CSB/SJU
Orientation Participation (Rachel and Cassie)
Welcome new CSB/SJU Representative Erin and Sean
- 2:15 PreK-12th grade EE
Meeting with Avon teachers (Sarah and Scott)
Lincoln Elementary Project
Energy Educators workshop
- 2:45 FY 07 Annual Report (Rachel)
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Institutional Advancement updates (Jim Dwyer)
- 3:30 FY 07 Goals and Accomplishments to date (Sarah)
- 3:45 Budget and goals for FY 2008 (Sarah)
- 4:15 Dec 2007 Open House Update and your thoughts (Sarah)
- 4:30 Other Business
- 5:00 Meeting closes

Our next council meeting is scheduled for the morning and early afternoon of Friday, December 7, 2007. The Annual Open House will take place that evening.

Committee Updates - for October 8, 2007

PreK-12 Education

- The orienteering course is now set in the oak savanna and our first high school class came out to try it out in early September.
- Our annual two day teacher training took place in late August. The first day was a session entitled 'Incorporating Environmental Education into Education Everyday' and the second day was Orienteering. Thanks to ISD 742 who allowed teachers to put their training hours on their time cards.
- Through a partnership with Lincoln Elementary, we are bringing their students out to the Arboretum three times this year (instead of their usual one). The fall class will be their grade specific session, they will chose either a winter class or maple syruping class, then during the spring they will do some service learning and help us to plant plants in different parts of the Arboretum.

CSB/SJU Education

- The Environmental Studies Department has moved their department offices down the hall from the Arboretum offices. This move has allowed the Environmental Studies Department to obtain offices which are more centralized on the SJU campus.
- During the summer of 2007, the Arboretum hosted a viewing of several Planet Earth episodes followed by a discussion with Professors from the Biology Department. Summer students really enjoyed these events and the Arboretum is planning to show more episodes during the academic year.
- First year students took part in an orientation service day (new this academic year) in which they were responsible for reporting to various spots on campus to volunteer in needed areas. The Arboretum had the help of 217 students for trash/litter pickup, buckthorn removal and trail maintenance. This was very successful and the Arboretum is looking forward to being a part of this again next year.
- The Arboretum's annual Timberdash 5K race had 146 participants this year! The trail winded in and out of the prairie, coniferous forest, deciduous forest and over the wetlands via the floating boardwalk.

Community Education

- The Arboretum put on six presentations entitled Minnesota's Amazing Animals at libraries in the surrounding area. The presentations were geared toward children 3-12 years of age and there was a variety of activities, stories and crafts for the children to engage in.
- This year the Arboretum took part in the Lower Sauk River Water Festival putting on seven presentations about the frogs and toads of Minnesota for 4th grade school groups which participated in this event.
- In June Randall Arendt presented during the Conservation-Based Development Conference to over 200 participants. The conference focused on preserving natural spaces in rural areas while allowing development for home sites as well as maintaining green space and outdoor recreation areas in urban developments.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- We have announced our first photo contest. Everyone is welcome to enter photos, and judging will be done at the Open House in December.
- The Arboretum was mentioned in an article on the Minnesota Private College's website. The article, entitled *Going Green*, highlighted various ways private colleges are working sustainability onto their campuses and Derek Larson, chair of the environmental studies program at CSB/SJU mentioned the work the Arboretum does with preK-12th grade students. View the story at this link:
http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/publications/stories/2007_09/green.php
- We have 463 member families to date.

Fundraising

- The Arboretum had a small windfall when the Business office designated the Arboretum as a "stand-alone" entity for the funds we raise ourselves. (Basically everything except salaries which SJU funds.) As such we had a \$25,000 roll-forward to start the 08 fiscal year.
- 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 filled that position for \$2,000 through June 30, 2007. Since July 1, she is working as a volunteer.
- Following discussions with Institutional Advancement, the Arboretum modified the annual renewal letters to include a request for an extra \$10 to \$150 based on our 10th anniversary and SJU's 150th anniversary. This is moderately successful.
- We have received \$5,000 from the Initiative Foundation which was matched by President Dietrich Reinhart for a total of \$10,000 for the Avon Hills. The money will be used to hire a part-time coordinator. Update – 7 people applied and 4 are being interviewed. All excellent candidates.
- We received \$15,000 from the Xcel Foundation related to teaching about energy.
- We were denied our grant from the Gannet Foundation. However the reason was that the Foundations source for information mistakenly listed Saint John's as a 501c4 corp. instead of a 501c3. That is being fixed and we are asked to resubmit in January 2008.
- We have applied for a \$457,431 grant from the Legislative Citizens Commission of Minnesota's Resources.
- We have applied for \$10,000 from the G&M Bailey Foundation for Environmental education.
- Both of our endowments have grown significantly this year.
 - L&M Schwietz is up \$25,000 to \$199,695 after we used \$ 8,372 for field work.
 - Fr. Paul EEE is up \$10,000 to \$46,000 after we used \$1,000 for education.

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. The cost is \$20,000 for the bridge and \$20,000 to install. At this time we are doing soil borings to see if we can reduce installation costs.
- The renovations of the Stella Maris chapel are nearly complete. We also did some significant work on the Chapel trail near the Chapel.
- Dan Vogel and several volunteer students upgraded the Boardwalk Loop trail to make it accessible for handicap visitors the entire circle.

- The floating boardwalk repairs will run into the \$40,000 range using pontoons. We have not done anything yet.
- A pair of eagles built a significant nest in the white pines near the chapel. No nesting this year.
- Tree planting was terribly affected by the drought. The seedlings all looked wonderful until July 4th when the rain stopped till the end of August. 80% of the newly planted conifers died. The new oak seedlings lost their leaves, but releafed in late August.
- 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.) We commemorated our 10th anniversary with an open house ice cream social on the prairie on July 24th.
- The Environmental Educator and Office Coordinator Fellowships for 2007-2008 have been filled by Cassie Herbst and Rachel Peterson, respectively.
- The following Council members terms will expire on Dec. 2007:
 - Alison Binsfeld - agreed to another term
 - Tom Haeg - contacted
 - Stephanie O'Keefe - agreed to another term
 - Steve Saupe - contacted
 - Larry Schwietz - agreed to another term