

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, December 5, 2008, 12:30 – 2:00
Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse

Present: Chuck Wocken, Tom Haeg, Jim Tingerthal, Terri Barreiro, Bob Russell, Alison Binsfeld, Larry Schwietz, Greg Miller, Scott Daninger, Bruce Wollmering, Tom Kroll, Sarah Gainey, Jenny Kutter, Jenni Polisen, Cassie Herbst

Opening prayer – F. Bruce Wollmering

Council Chair Nominations – Bruce Wollmering

- The nomination committee appointed at the previous meeting, composed of Terri and Bruce, devised a list of criteria for the position which included: nearness to St. John's for easy and ready consultation with the Arboretum staff (Tom & Sarah); organizational talents, skills, and abilities, considerable experience with the mission and work of the Arboretum; somewhat 'flexible' schedule allowing ability to "make extra time"; passion about the Arboretum; relates easily with members of the council; highly respected by current council members, etc. Five persons were nominated for the position of chair based on these criteria. In our ensuing discussions it was agreed upon that Terri fit all the criteria very well and she agreed to accept the nomination.
- Bruce moved to accept Terri Barreiro's nomination as council chair, Larry seconded.
- Vote passed with no further discussion. Terri took over leading the meeting at this point.

Three committees met before lunch: education, lands, and communication. Terri requested reports from each committee discussion.

Lands – Tom Haeg

- The committee spent most of the time discussing the trail system network including Arboretum responsibilities for erosion, bench installations, trail upkeep, etc.
- A bigger or greater overview or map of trails with data about the trails would be helpful for visitors, thinking about public safety, having signs or structures to indicate beginning or end of trails
- Most of the discussion centered around the Chapel Trail and the installation of a trailhead near the beach of Lake Sagatagan:
 - Laura Lyndgaard, landscape architect, has agreed to help with the design
 - Envision 3 arches with fieldstone bases and iron arches on which alpha-grape vines will grow. Benches will be placed between the arches
 - Would like to have maps, info about the Chapel and Arboretum available.

- Estimate installation in spring 2009 if approved by Abbey lands & design committees
- Discussed installation of a floating boardwalk-type bridge to replace the washed out bridge on the Chapel Trail – a cost-effective option using a system that can work well for maintenance.
- Discussed with Laura to design something to help fix erosion by the lake on Pickering point (a popular fishing spot) along the Chapel Trail

Education – Sarah Gaaney

- Spent time discussing the new goals for the education committee as decided at the previous education committees
 - Drive to quality wish list
 - Long-term and short-term goals
- Need to firm up the Arboretum relationship with St. Cloud district 742 schools, especially in times of budget shortfalls
- Arboretum received an \$8000 ELM grant to implement and “Environmental Issues Investigation” curriculum for grades 6-8
 - Will help develop environmental literacy as students progress from elementary to middle school
 - Increase numbers of middle school students able to come to Arboretum with funding for buses and substitute teachers
- Still getting grants for bussing – essential for helping schools schedule field trips
- Would like to research the connection of grade-school field trips with incoming college students – how many first-year college students had visited the Arboretum when younger, and how might that have influenced their decisions to attend CSB/SJU?

Communication – Jenny Kutter

- Spent most of the time discussing ways to update and improve *Sagatagan Seasons*
- Readability – the newsletter is quite dense, not much white space or other ways to break up the text
 - Shorter articles with side-bars or pull-out quotes?
- Utilize CSB/SJU communication & marketing department to get help with graphic design and layout
- Visit printer and get ideas about options for paper, color printing, other services
 - Digital printing should be the same cost for b/w or color
- Sponsorships: would like to keep advertising out of the newsletter, but what about the option of having a “Sponsored by” box that gives credit to local businesses or organizations that might sponsor individual issues of the newsletter – might help cover cost of providing color photos
 - Would like to be careful to get sponsors who are “green” or otherwise share the ethics of stewardship and sustainability

- Survey members about satisfaction with newsletter
 - Offer an electronic option?
- Board generally supports including Arboretum mission and vision in each newsletter
- Board would like to see a message from the director in each issue, or regularly each year
- Think about a 1-page kid-friendly section to engage whole families in expecting and reading each issue
- Other communication/member-service related issues discussed:
 - Membership cards: have benefits listed on back with member expiry date or “member since xx”
 - Board discussed that cards might be costly and time-consuming and it isn’t clear what members would use them for
 - Might enclose an Arboretum brochure in all issues of newsletter that aren’t mailed
 - Might try to increase awareness of “natural Arboretum” on publications and documents
- Do we/should we do an annual fund drive?

Recruiting boardmembers as terms expire

- Invited boardmembers whose terms expire in 2008 to another term: Mike Brown, Janette Monear and Bruce Wollmering have declined, Kari Dombrovski accepted
- Need to make sure to try to have a balanced skill set among boardmembers
- Board filled out a “skills” form based on the current subcommittees of the board to give a clear idea of what skills will be needed in the coming year (see attached page)
- It was determined that the board should recruit new members with skills in public relations, fundraising and administration

Format of meeting

- Board was generally supportive of holding individual committee meetings before lunch followed by a full board meeting in the afternoon as an effective way to discuss more topics more thoroughly.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 to set up for the Open House in the evening.

NAME	TERM ENDS	ARBORETUM FOCUS AREAS							Lands	Program Admin & Volunteers
		K-12 Ed	CSB/SJU Ed	Comm Ed	PR & Member Benefits	Fund-raising				
		Rate your skills for those areas where you have a high interest.								
		Your skills include your ability to bring vision, time, and/or expertise to the focus area.								
		3 = high skills; 2 = medium skills; 1 = lower skills; 0 = no interest/skills								
Binsfeld, Alison	2010	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Barreiro, Terri	2009	0	3	1	2	3	0	0	3	
Brown, Mike	2008									
Daninger, Scott	2009	3	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	
Dickau, Bruce	2009									
Dombrowski, Kari	2008	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	
Haeg, Tom	2010	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	
Miller OSB, Greg	2011									
Monear, Janette	2008									
Russell, Bob	2010	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	
Saupe, Steve	2010									
Schwietz, Larry	2010	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	0	
Tingertal OSB, Jim	2010	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	
Wicks, Tom	2009									
Wocken, Chuck	2009	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	
Wollmering OSB, Bruce	2008									
Kroll, Thomas	----	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	
Gainey, Sarah	----	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	3	
Kutter, Jenny	----	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	
Herbst, Cassie	2009									
Poliseno, Jenni	2009									
TOTAL SKILL POINTS		16	17	16	15	13	23	15	15	