

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday &/or Friday, March 5-6, 2009
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the spring meeting is to develop a work plan for next fiscal year. All council members are invited to attend any or all of the individual planning meetings as they are interested and able.

This will be a different format from past meetings in that we will not have a full Council meeting, but rather a series of committee meetings to focus on our FY2010 work plan.

Thursday, March 5

4:00-6:00 p.m. Education committee meeting: using this fiscal year's logic model to develop a work plan for next fiscal year

Friday, March 6

9:00-11:00 a.m. Lands committee meeting: using this fiscal year's logic model to develop a work plan for next fiscal year

11:30-1:00 p.m. Working lunch: discussing the "Identity" logic model to develop a work plan for next fiscal year

1:30-3:30 p.m. Admin/PR/Membership/Fundraising: Using the outcomes of the previous logic model discussions to develop an administrative work plan for next fiscal year.

- The model we are using is making the assumption that the "Resources" for each of the focus areas fall under the auspices of the Admin. Committee, thus the work plan for this committee is contingent on the goals set in the other focus areas.

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Council Meetings!

Monday, June 15: committee meetings followed by end-of-year evaluation among whole council

Monday, October 5: longer-range planning (looking 12-36 months into the future)

Friday, December 4: short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration

After meeting with council chair, Terri Barreiro, the Admin committee settled on a Council meeting schedule that will follow the general cycle described above. This is to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of council and committee meetings.

Committee Updates – for March 5-6, 2009

PreK-12 Education

- Work has begun on lining up classrooms to participate in the pilot phase of the ‘Environmental Issues Investigations’ this spring. This effort, designed to encourage more participation by middle school classrooms, is funded by the Minnesota ELM grant and will continue through the 2009-10 school year.
- Independent School District 742 (St Cloud) is indicating their interest in continuing their partnership with the Arboretum, despite rough economic times. Further meetings are scheduled to work out the details to enable 4000 students from the district to continue to participate in Arboretum programming.

CSB/SJU Education

- On Feb 10, the Provost’s office announced their acceptance of the “Hands’-on-the Land” proposal from the Arboretum in conjunction with the Environmental Studies Department. Over the next 18 months the Environmental Studies Dept will sponsor 4 one-credit classes that provide hands-on experience in a natural resource related topic. The Arboretum is using grant money to pay \$4,000 to Academic Affairs as seed money in this endeavor.
- A new sledding hill has proven to be a popular spot on campus for CSB/SJU students. The Arboretum hosted the inaugural run down the hill on a warm evening in January, complete with hot chocolate, a bonfire, and tiki torches to light the way down. Over 50 students attended that evening, with even more taking advantage of the new hill on their own since.
- The Arboretum is collaborating on a number of spring events in 2009. They include Campus Energy Challenge, Winter Week, and Earth Week, and involve collaboration with campus groups such as the Environmental Studies Department, ECHO, Campus Greens, Plant Science Alliance, Outdoor Leadership Center, and the Peer Resource Program.

Community Education

- In collaboration with the Avon Hills Initiative and the LCCMR grant, we put on a one-day conference: “Living in the Avon Hills” on Saturday, Jan. 24. We had 251 people in attendance, our largest Avon Hills conference to date (over 90 walk-ins and 28 kids!). Our keynote speaker, Stan Tekiela, was a highlight on many of our evaluations. The addition of the sessions for kids seemed to fill a niche for a weekend opportunity for families.
- Nature and the arts continue to be a popular topic with Arboretum members, as two classes are currently in session on this topic. Nature Journaling, taught by CSB/SJU Professor Jim Poff and Nature Photography, taught by MN Master Naturalist Volunteer Ken Bachofer, are both teaching their students to look at nature with an artistic eye.
- Dates are set for the 2009 Maple Syrup Festivals-Saturday, March 28th and April 4th.
- Spring Plant Sale and Birding Day are set for Saturday, May 9th.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events.
<http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- The spring newsletter will have an updated look based on December's committee discussions, and a meeting with a CSB/SJU graphic designer. We were congratulated on the overall quality of our current design, and offered a few suggestions to help improve readability and visibility. Coming to a mailbox near you...

Fundraising

- We are anticipating the need to secure long-term funding for our second EE Fellowship. Part of our current funding (a grant from the Edison Foundation) expires at the end of June 2009.
- 50-100% of donations to Saint John's from current students (reported by Institutional Advancement) have come in the form of donations to the Arboretum. We'd like to brainstorm ways to keep students engaged as members throughout (and beyond) their four years on campus.

Lands

- Brother Walter Kiefer is building a new bridge on floats for installation this summer on the Chapel trail.
- 15 cords of dying Basswood was harvest from the woods north of I-94. It will be cut for use as carving blocks for the CSB/SJU art classes. About 50 cords of pine are being thinned from part of the Pine Knob area. The better wood is being cut for coffins, the rest will be sold.
- We contracted with the DNR to do an aerial deer survey which will be completed in Feb.
- We worked with the county Highway department to include regulations in the bid specification that will minimize oak wilt infections from being created as a consequence of the reconstruction of County 51 this summer.
- We have invited and had lunch with 12 landowners in the adjacent townships about the potential of protecting their land with a conservation easement as part of the Avon Hills Initiative LCCMR grant.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- We've started the application process for next year's EE fellows