

Minutes
Saint John's Arboretum Education Committee
Thursday, February 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Natural History Museum, New Science 150, SJU

Present: Tom Kroll, Steve Saupe, Bruce Dickau, Sarah Gainey, Erica Manternach, Richelle Caya, Joel Stanek, Rosalie Leiner, Andy Elton, Kari Dombrowski-Dresow, Scott Daninger, Jenny Kutter

Adventure Programming

- As part of budget cuts and restructuring, Adventure Programming has been cut from the University budget starting this May. This includes the Outdoor Leadership Center, Peer Resource Program, challenge course, climbing wall, Collegebound trips, and the swimming beach (lifeguards).
- Budget savings are a little unclear, since the bulk of the budgets for these programs is for student salaries
- Current staff for Adventure programming is 50% for career services and would be moved to 100% career services, which may be an important move in trying to put more energy in helping students find internships and post-college work.
- Arboretum is exploring the possibility of taking on Adventure Programming.
 - o Decisions need to be made soon – students, programs, requests for challenge course, etc. are being put on hold until we know more.
 - o Data shows that the natural setting is very important in students decisions to come to CSB/SJU; Regents are constantly asking how to attract more young men to SJU
 - o Would/should this cause a shift away from K-12?
 - If we stop, we'll never get it back.
 - We've worked hard to become an important part of ISD 742 curriculum
 - K-12 programs are external money, CSB/SJU is internal
 - o In light of potential future University needs for cutting, how can we make sure the Arboretum is indispensable to the University?
 - o Exploring hiring another full-time educator, someone with qualifications similar to Sarah's
 - \$35000 + 27% benefits = \$42,000
 - We would convert one of our fellow positions (already funded by CSB/SJU) to cover half the salary (\$21,000), ask CSB/SJU to cover other half
 - Would mean having to cut \$21,000 from another department
- Is there a survey of student use to show what kind of effect losing this programming would have?
- Pros?
 - o Identity – without co-location, the addition of extra programs could make it even more ambiguous, but combining programs under the umbrella of Arb would improve Identity argument

- Update: Identity committee has worked with SJU to have building for environmental programs included in master plan
 - Could work to make Arb/Adventure programming more prominent to help recruit students – help the University focus on its unique strengths (environment!)
 - Opportunity to get higher level K-12 grades on field trips if we have the equipment and programs available to them
- Cons?
 - Risky? Especially if it doesn't work – would the Arb go down with it?
 - Don't want to spread ourselves too thin – new hire would be essential
 - Would learning curve for new programming force us to limit programming elsewhere while we learn?
 - How to maintain different identities/cultures of the different groups while housing them under the Arb

Community Ed Work Plan

FY2010	YTD	FY2011 Goals
2500 participate in programs	1984	2500
75 presented off-site programs	44	75
#__ presented internal programs	21	
10% increase in family memberships	342/Dec09; 357/Dec08	
10 guest instructors offer programs	8	10

Comments:

- Goals are on target for now.
- Are external programs effective in reaching our outcomes/impacts?
 - Comes back to environmental literacy – not necessarily building connection to Arb
 - Perhaps make a lower priority if funding requires making cuts
 - Current library program prices cover our costs – including salary,
 - Where is the cost breaking point - some libraries willing to pay more, others experiencing their own cuts
 - Can we get library program flyers in the schools?
- Memberships
 - What should we be measuring – numbers of memberships vs \$ from memberships?
 - Goal should be to increase the renewal rate – means we're making a longer connection that is more likely to continue the more times members renew
 - WHAT IS OUR CURRENT RENEWAL RATE?
 - We reach far more people with our education than just members – membership output might be more appropriate for the Admin committee's work plan
- For this year, don't change the goals for numbers of programs offered, but aim to advertise more to bring more people to current programs

CSB/SJU Work Plan

FY2010 Outputs	YTD	FY2011
1000 CSB/SJU students participate in programs	>2000	
50% FYS classes participate in Arb program	2 (3%)	Change/combine
10% all other classes participate in Arb program	4	Change/combine
10% professors bring class to Arb independently	Don't track	Can't measure
30 students employed, interns, service learning, etc	52 employees	
25% events collaborate with other campus groups	YES	
___% of student memberships are recurring	?	
200 total student members	80	

Comments

- Some things done really well, some obvious areas for improvement
- First year seminar (FYS) is going to range from year to year, depending on topics offered, professors teaching, etc.
 - o Do more focused advertising – topic or professor specific
- Every student takes intro theology course – reach out to those professors?
- FY2011, don't distinguish *which* classes are participating in Arb programs, just aim for 20 total classes and target our energy
 - o Advertise several times/year to faculty
 - Contact all new faculty every year
 - Brochure in August faculty workshop materials
 - Contact again in Dec and May
 - o Arb teaches a program once, encourages faculty to repeat on their own?
 - o Set a goal for number of *new* faculty contacts each year
- Student memberships
 - o Move goals to admin committee
 - Have a separate member party for students (besides the Dec Open House)
 - Change way we offer student memberships?

K-12 Work Plan

TIME! Postponed to next committee meeting.

Minutes
Saint John's Arboretum Lands Committee
Friday, February 19, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Natural History Museum, New Science 150, SJU

Present: Tom Kroll, John Geissler, John Elton, Dan Vogel, Sr. Margaret Wurm, Andy Elton, Rosalie Leiner, Jenny Kutter, Steve Saupe, Glenn Miller, Sarah Gainey, Fr. Alberic Culhane, Tom Haeg, Br. Walter Kieffer

FY10 Projects YTD

- Number one good news on the land in FY10: summer student initiative
 - o Prescribed fires on approx 60 acres
 - o Buckthorn/honeysuckle control
 - o Chapel bridge construction
 - o Tree planting
 - o Sugar shack addition – using leftover wood from refectory renovation, recycled concrete
 - o New trails – by football overflow parking lot
 - o Erosion control on Pickerel Point
 - o General trail maintenance and wood cutting
 - o Boardwalk float repair
 - o Cleaning up old garbage dump areas

 - o As of today, no commitment for new funding for this summer. See the handout on the Benedictine Conservation Corps proposal

- Chapel Trailhead – approved
 - o May hire out to get started on the project this summer if student crews can't be hired again

- Beavers on Wimmer Pond
 - o Cutting down oak tree buffer between prairie trail and freeway around Wimmer Pond
 - o Manufacturer donated bitrix spray to try to prevent beavers from chewing more trees
 - o Trapping?
 - Has to be approved by DNR since land is state game refuge.
 - Will look into possibility

FY11 Projects

- Oak Management – We currently have about 700 acres oak forest including four species: bur, northern red, pin, and white oak
 - o Nationally, oak harvest exceeds regeneration
 - o Oak regeneration is big part of forest management plan
 - Shelterwood method – ensure 10-20% light reaches ground so seedlings can grow
 - Lots of acorns (400,000/acre)

- Heavy shade (ironwood) in understory – have used burning to effectively control understory
 - Deer exclosures: see LOTS of successful oak regeneration
 - Outside exclosure: essentially NO oak regeneration
 - DEER CONTROL
 - Tree tubes installed approximately every 10 feet
 - Find funding for installing temporary deer exclosures (netting 3-4 acres at a time) to keep deer out
 - Ground netting – deer avoid walking on
 - Increase hunting
 - Bow hunting option?
 - Life safety question – keeping hunters/community apart for one weekend vs an entire season
 - DNR snipers – Christmas vacation?
 - Pressure from neighbors (SJU ruins local hunting) – misconception
 - Political pressure
 - Current plan:
 - Flail cut ironwood, put up deer fence
 - Bailing 7 acres of wood biomass
 - At what point is oak forest too expensive to maintain? Allow a maple/basswood transition?
 - Important to protect and increase an already dwindling ecosystem
- Frisbee Golf Course at SJU – Tom Joyce, SJ Student Senate
- Frisbee golf basics: throw Frisbee toward number of baskets (“holes”), complete each “hole” with least number of throws
 - Economical sport easy to get into for just the cost of a frisbee
 - Student survey
 - 300 responses to survey sent to full student body, no incentive to respond
 - High level of interest in a course at SJU
 - Why at SJU?
 - Geographical convenience for students – easy access
 - Attractive to prospective students
 - Not many other schools have courses, not many have the space to have courses – could be unique to SJU
 - Safety concerns are minimal – no different than walking on the trails
 - Use natural environment (trees, slopes, etc) as a challenge for the game – obstacles to overcome while playing
 - Costs
 - Senate has \$10,000 to put toward installation plus \$500/year for upkeep
 - Maintenance of course:

- Outdoor Leadership Center
 - Trash pick-up, regular maintenance of “tees” and baskets
- Arboretum
 - Mowing wider trails in area
- Other Questions/Considerations
 - Current proposal locates course near sledding hill and oak savannah, SE of East Gemini Lake – worked with Tom Kroll and Br. Benedict on location selection
 - Why not Watab Picnic Grounds – already a student recreation area?
 - Life Safety doesn’t regularly patrol picnic ground and would prefer a different location
 - Life Safety regularly patrols by intramural fields near proposed site
 - If so many people are playing, why are they not playing at Millstream in Saint Joseph (based on survey responses)?
 - Millstream is inconvenient to get to from campus – either drive or have to walk/bike across 4-lane highway
 - Poison ivy may be a deterrent
 - Could poison ivy get established easily on this course, would it require regular maintenance?
 - Course/baskets can be designed in such a way to have minimal impact on natural space – not be visual eyesore
 - Baskets small, can be colored to blend in, can be easily removed within 30-60 minutes
 - Use granite slabs installed flat along the trail to mark start or course, start of each hole, etc. (similar granite slabs are installed for the Arboretum orienteering course), would not interfere with mowing
 - Litter control
 - Trash/recycling at beginning of course, course is proposed as a loop, so trash also available at end of course
 - OLC staff have committed to monitoring and controlling trash
 - Public use?
 - Senate is proposing this course specifically for CSB/SJU students – funding from activity fees, etc.
 - Does not exclude the public – public would be welcome just as they currently are welcome on campus and trails
 - Alcohol policy?
 - Post policy at beginning of course to ensure visitors know and understand campus policy
 - Impact pattern
 - Likely see dirt, heavy matting of vegetation around each hole, other disturbance would be minimal

- Summer maintenance – would this revert to Arboretum? Does OLC have student staff in the summer to continue their maintenance obligations?
- Tom Haeg proposes the committee draft a position paper to give to the Abbey with assenting and dissenting remarks from the committee to help in decision process. Include committee's vote on the merits of the proposal (below)
- Steve moves that the Arboretum lands committee recommend approval of the Frisbee golf course, in consultation with the Arboretum staff and that permission for the course be reviewed on a regular basis.
 - Second by John Elton
 - Discussion
 - Does this vote pass the position paper, etc on to full Arb council or to the Abbey?
 - Lands committee is an advisory committee to the Abbey – wouldn't necessarily have to go through the entire council; can report the discussion/decision to the full council at a later date
 - Vote: All in favor, no abstentions, motion carried.

Minutes
Saint John's Arboretum Administration Committee
Friday, February 19, 12:45-3:30 p.m.
Natural History Museum, New Science 150, SJU

Present: Tom Kroll, John Geissler, Terri Barreiro, Sarah Gainey, Jenny Kutter, Andy Elton, Rosalie Leiner

Education Committee Update (refer to 2/18/2010 Ed committee minutes)

- Adventure programming summary
 - o Need to evaluate full budget
- Community, CSB/SJU Education – focus for 2011
 - o Focus on increasing numbers of participants in current programs rather than increasing numbers of programs offered – goal to get participants more engaged.
 - o Concentrate on promotion and advertising of current events – improve attendance at smaller (non-festival/conference) events
 - o If we bring in a new full-time staff, focus on continuing the same programming for a year – don't expect new programs/initiatives – give the person time to get settled
 - o College classes: focus on total number of classes participating in Arb programs, target our efforts to classes of particular topics or faculty with particular interest, rather than aiming for XX number of FYS or bio or theology, etc. This focus could make our energy more effective in getting faculty to use the Arb as a resource.
- K12 – committee will discuss at next meeting, ran out of time at end of meeting

Lands Committee Update (refer to 2/19/2010 Lands committee minutes)

- Did not address work plan specifically
- Emerging lands issue: oak regeneration
 - o Important part of land stewardship
 - o Currently appears that outside of deer exclosures, oak regeneration is essentially zero
 - Fundraising, research, labor on this issue – all high priority for lands
- Disc golf course at SJU
 - o Student senate initiative to install a Frisbee golf course at SJU
 - o After presentation from student senator, lands committee voted to approve recommendation of a Frisbee golf course, in consultation with Arb staff, and that permission for course is reviewed on regular basis
 - Lands committee will submit a position paper outlining support, but also including concerns regarding this issue to the Abbey

Admin FY11 Outputs

- **Web site**
 - o SJU has new web software and a redesigned site. Arboretum pages will be transferred to the new web site this spring
 - Ensure our message is clear and site is easily navigable

- Improve recurring site visits
 - Passwords to get into certain areas?
 - Sites with additional resources/support for programs to help reinforce learning
 - Connect with ISD 742 more on web
- **Volunteerism**
 - John Geissler/Boulder Ridge – relies heavily on MN Master Naturalist chapter for volunteer management. A handful of dedicated volunteers help manage others.
 - Central MN chapter of MNat program is in the stages of formation
 - Requests for more MNat classes to be offered – interest in learning and in volunteering is high
 - Look into partnering with multiple outstate facilities (i.e. Boulder Ridge) to coordinate and improve volunteerism outside twin cities
 - Have an MNat volunteer serve on Arb advisory council
 - Can also help mentor student volunteers
 - Sag Seasons article about MNat program, chapters, classes
- **Fundraising**
 - FY10 summary
 - Bus campaign: 68 donations, 2038 students, \$4076, 25 ½ buses so far
 - 18.5 buses remain
 - 8 people have given twice
 - Put bus slips in spring and summer newsletters; make bus campaign prominent at Maple Syrup Festivals
 - Do we make the campaign permanent? How do we carry it forward, if at all?
 - Research and compare to similar repeat asks from other organizations
 - Morgan Family: fully fund 1 fellow and \$8000 bussing for St Cloud schools starting in June
 - FY11 needs
 - Sales tax money for environment?
 - Continue to watch for changes and updates
 - Arb not eligible for current grant funding because of requirement of conservation easement
 - Money for oak regeneration projects
 - Fellowship for FY12-13
 - Bussing for FY12-13
 - Substitute teacher funds – how to make funding subs more compelling?
 - Use membership dollars or other funds for this and raise more money for other programs instead?
- **PR**
 - “Natural Wonders” of the Arboretum
 - Special publication of essays about the “natural wonders” of the Arboretum

- Solicit essays on science, spirituality, education, general experiences of “wonder” in the Arb
 - Perhaps a contest for entries
 - A color, “glossy” publication to promote the Arb and connection to place
 - Special edition of Sag Seasons – could do one every few years
 - Special edition brought to you by...get sponsors
 - Great idea – needs timeline and logistics worked out
- **Membership**
- Numbers are currently on target with the last few years
 - Still need to investigate who is not renewing and why that may be
 - Based on numbers of new renewals each year, we should be seeing more of an increase in membership
 - Monitor new member growth, renewal growth, student member growth and report
 - Work on engaging more people about membership at events – stronger promotion
 - Student memberships: consider making a flat fee for membership throughout student career
 - \$15 membership (includes t-shirt), good until graduation
 - Redirect current resources asking for renewals from students – response rate is low
 - Send annual letter to student members reminding them of their membership and the benefits
 - Reach out more to student members – make them feel special
 - Send letter a year after graduation asking for annual membership donations – keep connected
 - Hold a separate student member appreciation party (not necessarily in December) – perhaps at sugar shack – each year