

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, June 14, 2010
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the summer meeting is to evaluate the work of the past year. The evaluation will help identify areas in need of work and provide direction for the upcoming fiscal year.

9:45 – 11:30 a.m. Lands committee meeting - New Science 150 (Natural History Museum)

Agenda:

General items:

- Committee restructuring. (See attached) Discuss and recommend a position to Senior Council
- Land Use, Water Access, and Pet Policies (see attached) Discuss and recommend a position to Senior Council.

Grounds items:

- TBA

Abbey Lands items:

- Canoe storage area (Discussion - Decision)
- Future boat landing for Life Safety (Discussion)
- Abbey Energy Road stone gates (Discussion – recommendation to Senior Council?)
- Abbey Energy Wind Turbine proposal (Discussion – see attached)
- “Abbey Run” Frisbee golf proposal (Recommend a position to the Senior Council – see attached)

Attached items to be sent separately to Land Committee Members.

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch at the refectory
1:00 p.m.	Welcome and brief introductions/updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mike Connolly - new council member- Bryan Sieh - new EE Fellow- John O'Reilly - new educator (will be here in July)
1:05 – 1:20 p.m.	Fundraising – Tom/Jenny
1:20 – 1:30 p.m.	Identity – Tom
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	CSB/SJU Education – Sarah
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Administration – Tom/Sarah/Jenny
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	PR & Membership – Jenny
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Community Education – Sarah
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	BREAK
3:15 – 3:45 p.m.	Lands – Tom
3:45 – 4:15 p.m.	preK-12 Education – Sarah
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	General discussion and wrap-up

Each committee will lead a discussion addressing the following questions regarding that committee's work during FY10:

1. In what ways have we been effective or successful in our work? In what ways have we made progress toward our desired outcomes and impacts?
2. What challenges or concerns need to be addressed? What can we do to improve and enhance our work?
3. What have we learned this year?

Mark your calendars for the 2010 Council Meetings!

Monday, October 4: longer-range planning (looking 12-36 months into the future)

Friday, December 3: short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration

Thursday/Friday, February 18/19, 2011: committee meetings to plan for FY2012

Monday, June 13, 2011: FY2011 year-end review

Committee Updates – for June 14, 2010

PreK-12 Education

- We are still busy with spring field trips but the schedule has been nothing but busy as we try to make up for a wet and cold fall.
- Thanks to the ELM grant we received, field trips that focused on invasive species and water quality with middle schoolers continued this spring. Determining water quality with chemical tests and extracting invasive earthworms from the forest floor prove to be hands on experiences of great interest to these students.
- The new Minnesota Academic Standards in Science must be implemented by school districts for the 2010-11 school year and we will be working over the summer to adapt our curriculum to fit the changes.

CSB/SJU Education

- A marked increase of CSB/SJU students involved in maple syruping this year was due to an innovative marketing campaign by Student Naturalist Richelle Caya. During February 'It's Coming' peaked their interest and in March we proclaimed 'It's Here!' with a variety of events that featured maple syruping, such as maple syrup sundaes in the dining halls, serving maple syrup 'shots' at Brother Willy's pub, and syrup at Coffee Mondays at the SJU library.
- Earth Week was another success this year with a variety of events for both CSB/SJU students and community members. Events included a talk by Julia 'Butterfly' Hill, Fruit at the Finish triathlon, Natural History lecture about the effect of climate change on Minnesota forests, interactive eco fair, and the Return of the Fish parade.

Community Education

- Warm weather and increased publicity helped to make this year's maple syrup festivals the largest in Arboretum history! More than 1600 people attended the two festivals and participated in tapping trees, sap collection, syrup cooking, and maple syrup sundaes.
- The general public were invited to a Solar Farm Kickoff on Sunday, April 18th and given the opportunity to get an up close look at the solar panels. Over 250 people attended and also enjoyed a cookout and other solar demonstrations such as solar ovens.
- In conjunction with the 'Make a Splash' summer reading program at Minnesota libraries, we are offering a 'Water Wonders' program designed for kids 6-12 yrs. The program will focus on where their local water comes from and how they can help keep it clean using a combination of books, activities, and games.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Conversion to the new web site is progressing slowly but surely. We're excited about some of the reorganization of our site, as the improvements will enhance our web outreach. Hopefully it will be fully published by the middle of June.

Fundraising

- We've received over 115 donations to pay for nearly 35 buses, or \$5,544 in the "Buy a seat on the bus" campaign! We have just 9 buses remaining to reach our goal by June 30 – we could make it!
- The number and variety of plant donations was down a little for this year's plant sale, but gross income was still \$2500 to make the day a great success. People lined up at the door as usual to be able to buy plants and tools for their gardens.

- We were unable to fund a 20-person student crew again for summer 2010. Total cost for the crews, supervisors, and materials/equipment is around \$200,000. The proposal is still alive, and hopefully we'll find a funding source for future years.

Lands

- Beaver have settled into Wimmer pond and are depleting the few oaks that form a visual barrier to the freeway. A trapping permit was received and the trees were also treated with repellent.
- A Frisbee golf "run" is being proposed by the Student Senate. Proposed location is the woods between the soccer field and east Gemini Lake.
- We used a flail-mower and a "bio-baler" to reduce the ironwood competition in the oak regeneration. The flail-mower was especially effective as it was very maneuverable.
- Discussion by the Abbey regarding construction of a 2,500 kW wind turbine is moving ahead (see attached). The process to obtain conditional use permits from the township and county has begun.
- Due to statewide burning restrictions, only two burns were completed: at Tom Joyce's and on the sledding hill (Gunther's Garden).

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- We were able to convert one of the existing fellowship positions into a full-time environmental educator position with some additional funding from both CSB and SJU Student Development. The new position will be in charge of CSB/SJU education and community education. We had more than 60 people apply for the position, with a very competitive pool of top candidates. We hired John O'Reilly, who will be moving to MN from California, and will start in the position in mid-July.
- The Arboretum will be administering Adventure Programming activities for CSB/SJU with the start of our new educator. This includes the Outdoor Leadership Center, Peer Resource Program, Collegebound, and the Challenge Course. We will also coordinate more directly with Women's Expeditions and CSB Campus Recreation. These will be part of John O'Reilly's duties.
- Sarah's position has been changed to divide duties between her and the new educator position. Sarah will be in charge of K-12 education and volunteer management (we finally have an official volunteer coordinator!).
- We had another excellent pool of candidates this spring for our EE Fellowship. Bryan Sieh will fill that position starting June 1.
- With the addition of more full-time staff, and limited space in the science centers, we've had to move the fellow's office out to the Annex (across the parking lot from our offices). Bryan will be near the offices of the two Saint John's sustainability fellows, but we'll be working on ways to avoid any isolation of our fellow throughout the year.
- We welcome three summer student naturalists to our staff – Chris Morgan, Ellory Eggermont, and Stephanie Theobald. We also welcome our two land laborers – Adam Justin and Dustin Schlangen.

Arboretum Identity (temporary committee)

- The Arboretum Identity committee chaired by Gordon Bailey has achieved its goals for establishing the concept of a designated building or space that houses all environmental programs and provides an "identifiable" home for the Arboretum and other environmental programs. President Bob Koopmann has endorsed the idea. The concept is listed in the latest version of the Campus Master Plan with a specific space identified

where the "Annex" building now sits in the New Science parking lot. This temporary committee has served its purpose well and the work is now finished. Should Institutional Advancement seek help to promote the concept, the Fundraising committee or another special committee would be assigned the tasks. Thanks again and great job!