

Saint John's Abbey Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2010  
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the autumn meeting is to do some long-term planning, looking 2-3 years out.

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| <b>9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b>  | Forest and Lands Committee Meeting   |
| <b>11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.</b> | Lunch  |
| <b>1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</b>   | Welcome to John O'Reilly, new Arboretum staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- (see org chart)</li></ul> Welcome new council members <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Emily Franklin</li><li>- Troy Knight</li></ul> Welcome to this year's CSB/SJU Senate Reps on the council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Josh Smith and Madeline Hansen</li></ul>   |
| <b>1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</b>   | Abbey/University structure discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Arboretum definition</li><li>- Brainstorming descriptors of our work under the new definition</li></ul>  |
| <b>1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</b>   | Arboretum/OLC/PRP merger discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Report on progress: How are we doing? What should we watch for?</li><li>- Role of the advisory committee</li></ul>   |
| <b>2:15 p.m.</b>               | Break  |
| <b>2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</b>   | Review key directional priorities set for fall 2009 to 2013: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Expanding curriculum</li><li>2. Solve office/meeting space issues</li><li>3. Add staff to support growth (spiritual renewal, paid volunteer coordinator, CSB/SJU community outreach)</li><li>4. Add big grant fundraising</li><li>5. Protect land and Arboretum status long-term</li><li>6. Assessment/accountability</li><li>7. Strategic partnerships with more groups on campus</li></ol> Discuss new accomplishments in light of changes underway<br>Brainstorm strategies to achieve goals<br>Assign strategies to committees |

**Mark your calendars for upcoming Council Meetings:**

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

**Thursday/Friday, February 17/18, 2011:** committee meetings to plan for FY2012

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

# Committee Updates – for October 4, 2010

## PreK-12 Education

- 29 teachers attended the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature workshop in late August. They received instruction on how to use digital cameras and tips for taking quality photos, then discussed ideas on how to incorporate the cameras into their classroom. A kit of 20 cameras will be housed at Saint John's that those teachers can check out at no cost for 2 weeks for their students to use.
- ISD 742 (St Cloud) renewed their annual contract and committed to bringing at least 4000 students from their district to the Arboretum on a field trip. The Arboretum recommitted to reimbursing the district for transportation costs and providing high-quality outdoor environmental education experiences to their students!

## CSB/SJU Education

- Over 1000 first-year CSB/SJU students hiked on the trails of the Arboretum as a part of orientation. Over 50 Arboretum volunteers and staff helped to make this a successful and hopefully reoccurring part of orientation at CSB/SJU!
- CSB Senior and Summer Naturalist Ellory Eggermont shared her talent of making paper with prairie grasses with Arboretum members and guests on a summer evening. Attendees were able to participate in the process of paper-making and got to take home the paper they made.

## Community Education

- Larry and Johanna Davis again treated a group of people to an amazing dinner cooked in Dutch Ovens. This annual summer event also includes a Dutch Oven cooking demonstration and a prairie wildflower walk while the food is cooking.
- 16 adults participated in the Prairie and Potholes class this summer, working towards becoming Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteers. Students attended class twice a week and two weekend field trips, broadening their knowledge of the prairie at Saint John's and Minnesota. They are now sharing their passion with others by volunteering at a variety of places in Minnesota!
- In conjunction with the 'Make a Splash' summer reading program at Minnesota libraries, we offered a 'Water Wonders' program designed for kids 6-12 yrs. Over 550 students were reached with this program, plus other library programs the Arboretum offers such as 'Frog Symphony' and 'Minnesota's Amazing Animals.'

## Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- We've updated student memberships. A \$10 student membership from any CSB/SJU student, any time during their college career, does not expire until they graduate. We hope this will be an easier system for students to understand and will eliminate renewal paper trails for students. We have a variety of plans to remind students of their membership (and benefits) regularly, as well as to encourage them to be more actively involved.

## Fundraising

- The bus campaign has raised funds for 41 buses – only 3 buses to go for this year! We're going to keep the bus fund active and continue asking for donations to the bus fund in the coming years, although the official campaign has ended as a great success!

- We're currently looking for more grant sources to continue to fund the environmental education fellow. Our current funding source will expire in June 2011. Because the fellowship has been such a success for 5 years, it has become more like "operating expenses" which is harder to get funded.
- We are also exploring more options to continue funding our bussing reimbursement program. Transportation continues to be something that is part of a foundation's list of "things we do not fund." Any ideas for both of these funding needs would be greatly appreciated!

### **Lands**

- The CAPX2020 power line route (with 150' poles) will be determined by an Administrative Law Judge beginning in November. Saint John's is back on the list due to local citizen inputs to keep the line on I-94. We are working to provide data on the value of leaving Saint John's historic and cultural area undisturbed. (see <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/resource.html?id=29807> )
- The annual antlerless deer hunt is scheduled for Sat-Sun, November 6-7 this year.
- The Abbey Run Frisbee golf course has been installed between the soccer field and east Gemini Lake. SJ Student Senate financed the course including hiring a consultant to lay it out and for the equipment and for annual maintenance.
- Thanks to Roger and Ginger Delles for the donation of a new Bushhog Rotary mower for doing the trails.
- Student volunteers are promoting the new trail from the football overflow field to Flyntown on game days.
- Discussion by the Abbey regarding construction of a 2,500 kW wind turbine is moving slowly ahead. The process to obtain conditional use permits from the township and county has been completed.

### **Program Administration and Volunteer Management**

- John O'Reilly started in mid-July as the new environmental education coordinator for the Arboretum's CSB/SJU and community education. We welcome him as a great addition to the staff!
- Arboretum staff is meeting regularly this year to discuss how to successfully merge the Arboretum with the Outdoor Leadership Center and Peer Resource Program (and other parts of Adventure Programming taken on by the Arboretum this year). Terri Barreiro is helping facilitate these meetings with staff and student stakeholders from all groups to help ensure a smooth transition and to develop a shared vision for the future of all of our programs.
- We continue to try to find a way to make our environmental education fellowship a sustainable position for the future (see Fundraising).
- We welcome our largest student staff in history! We have 1 office assistant, 2 land laborers, 6 student naturalists, 14 Outdoor Leadership Center staff, 16 student naturalist aides, and 30 Peer Resource Program Facilitators working with us this year (to save your math efforts - that's 69 students!).