

**Minutes**  
**Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council**  
**Friday, December 3, 2010 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Abbey Guesthouse, SJU**

Present: Emily Franklin, Sarah Gainey, Terri Barreiro, John Benschoter, Tom Kroll, Greg Miller, Jenny Kutter, John O'Reilly, Troy Knight, Bryan Sieh

**CapX2020 Update**

- Hearings are being held around the region to determine the route of the powerline. Saint John's is attending the hearings as interveners in the process. Anybody in the public can give testimony in the process, but interveners can also be cross-examined. Tom Kroll has been attending the hearings representing the Abbey.
- Testimony will be given to the judge through December.
- Decision on the location of the powerline will be made this spring. Wherever the powerline is located, the landscape will be dramatically affected.

**Interactive Web Project**

- A pair of student computer science majors are working on a project to improve functionality and interactivity of the Arboretum map online.
  - o Make it easier to track use of Arboretum land and give approval for uses
  - o May develop a cell phone app along with other interactive functions
  - o Students are being paid through the McLeod grant for the year of sustainability

**PRP/OLC – report from John O on what's needed to fully support these new programs at the Arb**

- PRP: Peer Resource Program – facilitators of wilderness trips, challenge course, Collegebound (trips for incoming first-years), and other campus activities for students
- OLC: Outdoor Leadership Center – outfitting center on campus providing gear for outdoor recreation, as well as offering training and other recreational programs (Triathlon, Ecochallenge, etc)
- Need 1: Assessment
  - o What are we assessing and why? We need to evaluate the new programs to ensure effectiveness
  - o Assessment is needed for ALL Arb education programs for long-term development
    - Need a longer-term study of program effectiveness
    - Long-term assessment is valuable in pursuing grants
    - Can we connect with alums – through Jon McGee and the annual alum surveys?
    - Test knowledge, self-confidence/application of knowledge, attitudes
  - o Ask David Hartwell (Afton) for advice and ideas
  - o Ask Amy Rager or Nate Meyer (UMN Extension) – have done extensive assessment for the MN Master Naturalist Program
  - o Invite several assessment experts to meeting to educate council
  - o CAUTION: pick 3 or 4 things to study, don't get too big
    - Scoping issue – bring a group together to help scope

- Phil Kremer – director of assessment for CSB/SJU Academic Affairs – good resource, potential council member?
  - John O is participating in the CSB Campus Recreation program review – he hopes to learn about their evaluation tools to see how they might apply to our programs
- Need2: Professional Development/Career Development
  - Arboretum needs to ensure we continue to meet the needs of the students in the OLC/PRP, most of whom join to specifically gain professional skills
  - Assessment will help us make sure we address this need

### **Role of Council/Arb needs from council**

- Council should be advisory to all programs, including the new OLC/PRP programs
  - Adding programs under advisement could change the structure/function of the council
  - Are we far enough in the merger to make these decisions?
  - Consider adding student representatives on the council from the OLC, PRP, and Naturalist staff
    - Would give students leadership experience
    - Give voice to their ideas/thoughts
    - Make serving on AAC part of the job description for the PRP Co-coordinators, OLC managers, Lead Naturalist **(AAC voted, all in favor, approved)**
- Who does the advisory council advise? What is the role of the AAC?
  - Send out council founding/role documents to council as a reminder
- Council meeting attendance is down – what can we do to improve?
  - Do agendas come out late?
  - Fewer decisions to be made on lands projects?
  - Do we need to have more conversations with those that can't come to meetings?
  - Should we add more council members to ensure greater attendance?
- How can we further engage council members that do come to meetings?
  - Are we utilizing your expertise?
    - It's hard to engage when meetings revert to being more informational than decision-making
    - Schedule meetings evenings or weekends so it conflicts less with work?
    - Meet sometimes in the cities (have council development coincide)?
    - Look into video conferencing capabilities on campus
    - Sarah/Terri – put together council survey
  - It is nice to have more council members at Arboretum events – to help staff Arb info table, etc.
  - Could use more help brainstorming, researching, executing fundraising ideas
    - YouTube videos?
    - Talk with Janette Monear about technology/fundraising
  - Pass along information, articles, etc that you see that sound interesting/helpful/valuable to staff

### **AAC Chair Nominations/Election**

- Terri Barreiro has agreed to be chair for one more year (but need to plan on somebody else for next year). **(AAC voted, all in favor, approved.)**

**Next Meeting: Committee meetings, Thurs-Fri, February 17-18**