

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, December 3, 2010
Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse

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| 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. | Discuss expansion/role of council <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recommendations from John O'Reilly about advisory needs for new programs- Recommendations for more student representation- What does the Arb staff need from the council in coming years? Chair nominations
Committee Updates

Arb/OLC/PRP Merger Update |
| 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Set up for Open House celebration. Thanks ahead of time to whoever is available to help! |
| 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. | Annual Open House Celebration |

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Council Meetings:

Thursday & Friday, February 17 & 18: Committee meetings to plan for FY2012.

Monday, June 13: FY2011 year-end evaluation

Monday, October 3: Long-range planning, 2-3 years out

Friday, December 2: Short meeting, committee updates, unfinished business, set up for Open House celebration

Committee Updates – for December 3, 2010

PreK-12 Education

- Taking advantage of a beautiful fall, just over 2300 students participated in Arboretum field trips. Topics for fall classes include insects, tree identification, the solar farm, MN biomes, and habitat exploration.
- The Arboretum hosted the 2nd annual Project Earth conference on Thursday, October 7th for area 7th and 8th graders. This daylong conference is designed to give students hands-on experiences outdoors in a variety of areas, such as prairie insects, edible plants, tree planting, birding, nature journaling, and voyageur canoeing. Naturalist Stan Tekiela started the day by presenting a key note presentations about common loons. The Arboretum partners with Resource Training and Solutions and Sauk River Watershed District on this event.
- The Arboretum is now a kit site for the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature project. Teachers who participated in a workshop this August are eligible to check out digital cameras for use by their students from our office. A group of honors art students from North Jr High in St Cloud came out to the Arboretum with their cameras to take photographs. Another workshop for teachers will be offered as part of the Avon Hills Conference in February 2011.

CSB/SJU Education

- 19 FYS Classes have participated in Arboretum programs this semester. Of these 7 were challenge courses through PRP, 12 were Hikes/talks. (320 students, 5 new instructors-10 new classes)
- We participated in “cultural orientation” for 75 foreign exchange students; discussing what the Arboretum is and opportunities available through Arboretum, PRP and OLC programs
- We have had direct contact with about 65 students through campfire programs this semester and we are working on developing more meaningful offerings for “night programs” including more substantial bonfire talks.
- 27 Students participated in PRP “Long-weekend” trips to Lake Superior hiking trail and the north shore
- PRP facilitated 502 people through the challenge course this semester.
- OLC held a successful Eco-Challenge in the Arboretum (Run/Orienteer/Canoe/Climb/Nature Trivia) with 50 people participating.
- Timberdash had another successful year with 78 people participating.
- Outdoor week is in full swing! This year’s events include the ever popular Polar Plunge, Run/Bike /Blade to class, an inaugural disk-golf tournament, climbing competition, bonfires and the Arboretum’s first year organizing the Banff film festival with 311 participants.
- ~2,113 CSBSJU Students have been served through official Arboretum, OLC or PRP events this semester.

Community Education

- Collegetown Colors had perfect weather this year right at the peak of color! 403 registered participants, with many more estimated to have “stumbled” in. Next year is looking great as the Arboretum will be managing the “chapel loop” and so we hope to offer a lot more diversity in events and education.

- We are offering a new Library program this year on MN Wolves created by the Arboretum's Environmental Education Fellow, Bryan Sieh. To date 15 programs signed up.
- As mention earlier, Banff took place on Nov. 18th and included 60 community members.
- PRP Challenge courses included 4 new off campus groups (250 participants).
- We are gearing up for another great Avon Hill Conference in February. We've confirmed this year's keynote speaker: Jim Brandonburg, famed National Geographic photographer and author.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Our student employees have been helping us use Facebook more effectively to get the word out about the Arboretum and our events.
- We've had 24 new community members and 47 new CSB/SJU student members join the Arboretum since July 1. All our membership numbers are on track with previous years.
- 140 people have submitted their RSVPs for the Christmas party on December 3 - it's looking to be another big event for members!

Fundraising

- We've partnered with a CSB/SJU grant-writing class to help give students experience writing grants. A group of college students helped research and draft a letter of inquiry to the Buuck Foundation to fund the fellowship, and helped write and submit a grant for \$7000 to the SuperValu Foundation to fund preK-12 bussing.
- We submitted a \$9000 grant to the Gordon & Margaret Bailey Foundation to fund preK-12 bussing in 2011-2012.
- We're looking at applying for several other grants this winter to fund bussing, the fellowship, and publication of brochures, field guides, and/or trail maps.
- Proceeds from the raffle at the Christmas party will once again go toward funding the bus campaign. We've raised nearly \$7000 so far in the campaign and would like to keep building on that progress.

Lands

- 25 hunters participated in the antlerless deer hunt on Nov 6-7; 20 deer were harvested.
- Tom Kroll has been very busy working on the CapX2020 powerline proposals, so no further committee updates are available for now.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- Arboretum staff and students continue to meet to discuss needs and opportunities that develop as we merge with the Outdoor Leadership Center and Peer Resource Program.
- We will post the job opening for the 2011-2012 EE Fellow in February.