

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting
June 29th 4:00 PM
Room 150 “New Science Natural History Museum” Saint John’s University

Avon Hills Executive Committee Members Present: Steve Plantenberg, Sister Phyllis Plantenberg, Ernie Diedrich, Mark Conway, Allan Davisson, Cliff Borgerding

Avon Hills Staff Members Present: Tom Kroll, Emily Franklin

Old Business:

1.3 Conference Community Feedback: Members concurred feed back was positive with suggestions for next year conference to include a longer welcome, longer sessions, more political representation at the round table, hold the conference earlier in February (Note: February Landowner Conference potential scheduling conflicts), Tighten up the morning schedule and hold a social hour/entertainment after the round table.

2.1.3 A financial update was provided for review by the committee

3.1.3 There was much discussion regarding the AHI Conference for next year including goals and focus. Possible topics include conservation overlay districts and the fostering of dialogue between stakeholders. Tom Kroll will check the schedule for tentative dates in March. The discussion focused on the need to either hold a conference, or a specific workout session on the development of a conservation overlay district. Executive committee members will take the next month to brainstorm ideas. The focus of conference or workshop event will be determined at next month’s meeting.

1.5 Members discussed the importance in becoming active in exploring creative ways to secure sponsors/in kind/donations/grants and 501 (c) 3 possibilities for AHI.

2.1.5 Steve Plantenberg to explore Avon Townships 501 (c) Account Status and if this currently inactive program is transferable.

3.1.5 Steve noted that the account in Avon Township is active. However he has not approached the Township to date regarding future plans for its use. It was suggested that legal counsel be consulted regarding the development of 501(c)3 status, either through a voluntary transfer by Avon Township, or by starting a new 501(c)3 account.

1.6 The Committee concurred within the next 30-45 Days we will need to identify co chairs for next year’s conference and establish task force assignments for its planning.

2.1.6 No progress to report

3.1.6 Co-chairs will be designated at next months meeting. Ernie Diedrich volunteered to be one of the co-chairs, or at least help with planning? Melissa Holm (new AHI intern), Sarah Gainey, and Emily Franklin can also be relied on to help organize and plan the event.

1.9 Committee Report Education/PR (Mark Conway chair): Plans are to formulate a conference wrap-up press release and work with the Government Committee to draft a position paper on Cluster Developments.

2.1.9 No progress to report

3.1.9 Mark Conway has resigned from his position as Education/PR chair. A new chair is needed.

1.10 Committee Report Government (Alan Davisson chair): Plans are to draft of position paper on the merits of Cluster Developments.

2.1.10 no progress to report

3.1.10. It was suggested that Alan may wish to postpone work on the position paper and focus on the merits of an environmental overlay districts.

1.11 Committee Report Administration (Cliff Borgerding chair-replaces Mike Brown): Cliff will draft a preliminary planning outline for the organization and formulate a structure so we may focus our future efforts.

2.1.11 No progress to report

3.1.11. No progress to report at this time.

1.12 Committee Report Cultural/Sense of Place (Chris Schellinger chair): Fall social event planning is a priority. Chris will determine scope of Bouja and possible coordination with Colleeville Colors on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Mark Conway mentioned Scott Russell Sanders-writer will be here 1st week in October also North Dakota singer/song writer Chuck Suchy may be available.

2.1.12 It was discussed to give greater identity to the AHI event may be to hold the Bouja off Campus. Suggestions include the Pelican Lake Ballroom, the Leroy Ritter farm inclusive of kitchen and indoor meeting facilities and possibly the county park on Upper Spunk Lake.

3.1.12 Discussion relative to location of the Bouja continued. Chris Schellinger will be making contacts to firm up possible sites.

1.13 Committee Report Fundraising (Ernie Diedrich chair): No tasks identified.

2.1.3 No progress to report

3.1.13 Ernie will be meeting with Catherine Stoch in Institutional Advancement to discuss funding possibilities for AHI. Grant applications will most likely be pursued through Saint John's Arboretum or the University until AHI achieves 501(c)3 status.

1.14 Committee Report Non Governmental (We need a Chair!) No Tasks identified

2.1.14 Phyllis Plantenberg has volunteered to fill the position

3.1.14 No Activity to report at this time

2.0 Phyllis Plantenbeg reported on the City of St. Joseph's plan to develop road systems south of the College of Saint Benedict and across Monastery property. The road would connect Collage Avenue to County Road 2 to facilitate access to the interstate. Phyllis, Tom, Ernie and Steve attended an informational meeting earlier in the month held at St. Joseph City Hall. In addition, a fine article appeared in the St. Cloud paper submitted by Fred and Rosemary Petters.

3.2.0 Phyllis provided a brief update on the St. Ben's road issue. Letter writing to editors is being conducted by concerned citizens. An ice cream social is planned for July 14th in honor of Sister Nancy, as well as to get community members to participate in a walk through the St. Ben's woods.

2.3 Minnesota Rural Summit to be held at St. Johns July, 2005. We have been contacted by Denise Pfeifer Rural Summit Planning Coordinator and asked to participate as a connection station presenter. Check out <http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/2005> If you have interest in attending the workshop or being a presenter please contact Steve.

3.2.3 Steve, Phyllis, and Tom are planning on participating in the Connection Stations portion of the conference.

New Business June 29th, 2005

3.0 DNR Land Acquisition-Avon Township: DNR has entered into an agreement with property owners to acquire 250 acres of oak/maple/basswood forest in Avon Township. The parcel is adjacent to property owned by St. Cloud State University. The land would be kept by the State in its natural state as a nature reserve.

3.1 Avon Township and City of Avon Orderly Growth Agreement update. It is understood the two governing bodies have come to an agreement regarding growth in areas adjacent to the City of Avon. A final copy of the agreement is expected to be signed shortly.

3.2 Meeting with Margie Evans (Mayor of Avon) to discuss programming events with AHI and Saint John's Arboretum. Tom Kroll will plan to meet with the Mayor in the coming weeks.

Next Meeting 4:00 PM July 27th, 2005 in Room 150 "New Science and Natural History Museum SJU"