

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting
May 25th 4:00 PM Room 150 “New Science Natural History Museum”
Saint Johns University

Present: Steve Plantenberg, Phyllis Plantenberg

Old Business April 26th, 2005

- 1.1 Conference Recap Financial Review: Preliminary indications are we have covered event costs with a net income of \$107.69. A final recap to be presented at a future monthly meeting by Sarah Gainey and Cliff Borgerding.
- 1.2 Conference Recap Attendance: The conference had 112 participants and 27 speakers. Final attendance to be quantified with financial recap information.
- 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.
- 1.4 It was suggested Ernie Diedrich may wish to send out a conference conclusion and press release.
- 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.
- 2.5 Steve Plantenberg to explore Avon Townships 501 (c) Account Status and if this Currently inactive program is transferable.**
- 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.
- 1.7 The Arboretum Staff (Sarah and AHI intern) confirmed they will be active partners in planning next year’s conference. “On behalf of the Executive Committee many thanks for your hard work and contributions!”
- 1.8 It was agreed the Executive Committee will meet 4:00 PM the last Wednesday of every month in room 150 of the new Science and History Center.
- 2.8 Steve Plantenberg will generate meeting minutes and forward via E-Mail prior to the following months meeting.**
- 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.

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

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.

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 Collegeville Colors on Sunday, October 2nd, 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.

2.12 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.

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

1.14 Committee Report Non-governmental (We need a Chair!) No tasks identified

2.14 Phyllis Plantenberg has volunteered to fill the position.

1.15 General note; Committee Chairs are asked to give continued thought and suggestions on the following points:

- Establish short-term, mid-term and long-term goals and objectives for sub committees.
- Engage discussion on how to keep AHI front and center in our community:
Including the possibility of a newsletter (email vs. paper), website links, regular articles in newspaper, and consistent and continual updates from AHI to members on our contact list.
- Special Projects: Inclusive of Position Papers on Clustered Developments, The importance of Growth Plans, Development of an Environmental Overlay District, Wind Power!

New Business May 25th, 2005

2.0 Phyllis Plantenberg reported on the City of St. Joseph's plans to develop road systems South of the College of Saint Benedict and across Monastery property. The road would connect College 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 the St. Joseph City Hall. In addition a fine article appeared in the St. Cloud paper submitted by Fred and Rosemary Petters

2.1 Phyllis noted the work of Jane Bennet and Carol Wyler and the environmental awareness efforts they are focusing on along the Mississippi North of St. Cloud.

2.2 Welcome to John Maile of the Nature Conservancy. John lives in Holding Township and is interested in attending our monthly meetings. On behalf of the committee we look forward to working closely with John and the Nature Conservancy on future projects in our area.

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.

NEXT MEETING: 4:00 PM June 29th, 2005 in room 150 New Science and Natural History Museum SJU