

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Committee and Staff Meeting Agenda
May 30th, 2007 4:45p.m.
Room 150 New Science Center, Saint John's University

Present: Steve Plantenberg, Bill Fahrney, Mike Leedahl, Cliff Borgerding, Allan Davisson. Melissa Holm, Rachel Peterson and Tom Kroll were present as non-voting staff.

1. Introduction of new Arboretum Office Coordinator Fellow - Rachel Peterson
 - Adieu to Melissa Holm
2. Nomination of new member to Executive Committee - Mike Leedahl
Steve Plantenberg nominates Mike Leedahl to Funding Committee Chair. Bill Fahrney seconds.
3. Update on Stearns County Comp Plan – Steve P. and Allan D
No meeting was held this month. Open forum meetings held with local officials attending – discussion of conservation overlay district – like being able to define by region to be more specific to local land use and geography – meetings, feedback, etc. posted on county website.
4. Results of our Property Tax resolutions - Kroll
 - County Board
Didn't pass in a 3/2 vote. Tom didn't get to present – Cliff voiced his objections to the resolutions.
 - State Legislature / Governor
Passed – is in omnibus tax bill and will likely be included in the next bill (highest and next use addition struck) – likely to be vetoed by governor.
5. Update on Initiative Foundation Grant – Kroll
Sitting on President's desk – no check in mail yet. Should advertise in newsletter for position. Should meet with people, newsletters, research, be present –a source of information. Salary to be negotiated. Chose to cut areas 5,6,7 of job description, and add something on expanding general knowledge and appreciation of the Hills to local citizens, add requirement of residency in Avon Hills, remove required degree, add passion and knowledge of Hills. Should coordinate events, no need to be housed in Paynesville.
6. June 28th Conference on Conservation design with Randall Arendt. – Kroll
Volunteers for questions: Allan Davisson, Matt Glazeman, Mark ?, Jennifer Buckentine. Allan Davisson will create question for Randall Arendt.
7. Avon Hills Initiative Newsletter - Melissa Holm
Stet.
8. The Nature Conservancy – Conservation Action Plan - John M
John has hired two students from SCSU
9. Proposal for LCCMR Avon Hills grant – Kroll
Arboretum has submitted grant to LCCMR – is/does include \$ for AHI; doesn't do bricks and stoves; conferences, field days, Steve “water days” – has AHI endorsement.