

Avon Hills Initiative Executive Board Meeting
October 29, 2008, 4:45 p.m.
Room 150, New Science Center, Saint John's University

Board members present: Lowell Rushmeyer, Karen Bobeldyk, Mike Leedah, Jackie Leedah

Staff members present: Jenny Kutter, Bill Fahrney, Jim DiGiovanni

Guests: John Biasi, SJU Institutional Advancement

1. AHI Logo Design

John Biasi presented 4 logo design ideas to the board. All designs were various black and white representations of the Avon Hills name. The board and staff discussed the options, narrowed the choices to 2 designs and offered a few suggestions for changes/improvements to the 2 designs.

John will update the 2 chosen designs and email them to Jenny within 1-2 weeks. Jenny will forward the 2 options to the board for a final vote on the official Avon Hills logo. The intent is that the new design shall be incorporated in brochures, advertisements, etc. for the Annual Meeting and Conference so a vote should occur via email in order to meet publication deadlines.

2. Update on Annual Meeting & Conference—Jim D.

Jim gave a brief update on conference planning—17 confirmed speakers, 1 tentative. Jim created a work plan to help the committee finalize conference details on a reasonable schedule. The speaker schedule is tentatively set and the brochure design with the final schedule should be complete in mid-November.

In discussing ways to entice conference attendees to stay for the annual meeting, the board was generally supportive of offering door prizes using local goods from around the Avon Hills. If prizes cannot be donated, could some of the exhibitor fees be used to cover the cost of door prizes and/or speaker thank-you gifts? We could pursue more sponsors to cover the costs of door prizes.

It was suggested to look into holding the annual meeting during lunch, or at another time earlier in the day to encourage people to attend. The conference committee will discuss options and finalize the schedule in mid-November.

Jenny reminded the board members of the **deadline for the Initiative Awards: November 29**. Board members should be actively encouraging nominations so that the board can vote on a high-quality pool of candidates at the December meeting.

3. Report on Growing Green Conference—Bill F. and Jenny

The conference went well, with a final attendance of about 50 for Monday and 30 on Tuesday. Conference attendees were very satisfied overall, enjoyed the variety of speakers and facilities. Bill was especially impressed with Tuesday's session and the way the speakers offered concrete

language to be added to the St. Joseph Comp. Plan in order to better promote conservation and preservation in the city. The hope is that the planning commission will take this new information into account and delay the final vote on the new comprehensive plan so as to better incorporate some essential ideas into the plan.

4. Landowner visits—Bill F.

A few landowners have expressed interest, but the conversations have been slow in starting. Bill recommended tabling further discussion of the easements to a later meeting.

5. Alexander Subdivision on Big Fish Lake—Bill F.

Bill reported on a large 21 plot subdivision proposed on the shores of Big Fish Lake. Due to the number of wetland areas, the number of plots will likely be decreased. Bill thought this kind of subdivision would be a prime place for cluster development and conservation design. The AHI board will not take a stance on the development, but will monitor the progress and outcomes.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 4:45 in SJU New Science 150.