

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN CITY  
MINUTES FROM MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2007  
Gheens, Room 202  
4:30-5:30 p.m.**

Attendance:

Teddie Phillipson-Mower (UofL), Donna Griffin (JCPS), Matthew Martin (Meyzeek), Tim Baker (Meyzeek), Angela Page (Male), Julie Fried (Brightside), Johnny Brinkworth (UofL), Marcelle Gianelloni (Louisville Zoo), David Wicks (JCPS), Stephanie Darst (KY State Fair Board), Darleen Horton (JCPS), Matt Edlin (UofL), Daniel Bright (UofL), Cheryl Bersaglia (SWCD), Kaki Robinson (Kennedy), Angelique Perez (UofL), Carol Gundersen (Food Literacy Project), Jerry Durall (Lassiter), Laura LaPradd (UofL), Amy Lowen (Louisville Science Center)

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Teddie Phillipson-Mower and Donna Griffin. Introductions were made.

I. Presentations

1. Matthew Martin, a sixth-grader at Meyzeek Middle School, provided an overview of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Youth Summit plans from the Youth Summit Steering Committee. The Summit will be held at the Mellwood Arts & Entertainment Center with a clean-up of Eva Bandman Park immediately following. During the Summit, the attending youth will create a traveling educational display from a pop-out camper donated by Bernheim Forest. For more information visit Brightside's website, [www.brightsideinc.org](http://www.brightsideinc.org)

II. Working Group Reports and News

1. Outdoor Classroom Committee:

- A. Johnny Brinkworth (UofL) is collaborating with Brightside to create a comprehensive database of outdoor classrooms in Jefferson County. The purpose of the database is to provide a resource for educators who are interested in starting an outdoor classroom or adding to an existing one. The registry will be accessible through Brightside's website.

**ACTION:** The list of outdoor classrooms that are currently registered through Brightside is attached to this email. If your school's outdoor classroom is not listed, contact Johnny Brinkworth at [Johnny.brinkworth@gmail.com](mailto:Johnny.brinkworth@gmail.com)

- B. Outdoor classroom materials backpack – Currently King Elementary has 60 backpacks filled with supplies for investigating the school yard. The backpacks have proven to be a very useful resource and are a

great way to get teachers and students outside. The committee briefly discussed the possibility of funding opportunities to purchase a set of backpacks that could be shared between schools.

**ACTION:** The current supply list for the backpacks is attached. If you have any suggestions on additional materials that would be useful to include in the backpacks, or if you are interested in purchasing backpacks for your school, contact Donna Griffin, [donna.griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:donna.griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us)

- C. Kentucky State Fair Exhibit – *The Mosaic of Life: Why Biodiversity Is Key to Our Survival on Earth*. The purpose of the exhibit is to increase visitors’ understanding of biodiversity by illustrating ways that local, state and federal governments are protecting biodiversity.

**ACTION:** If there are any schools or organizations that are protecting biodiversity and would like to be part of the State Fair exhibit, contact Stephanie Darst, Kentucky State Fair Board at [steph.darst@insightbb.com](mailto:steph.darst@insightbb.com) or (502) 386-6736. She would like photographs that feature biodiversity; ideas, suggestions, or resources concerning the exhibit; as well as anyone who would like to participate or volunteer during the fair.

2. Jefferson Memorial Forest Proposal Update: Lassiter Middle School has offered the use of their greenhouse to grow native Kentucky plants which will eventually be transplanted to Jefferson Memorial Forest. Besides caring for the greenhouse plants, students will document and collect data as well as watch a prescribed burn.

No committee action needed at this time.

3. Energy Fair Update: Donna Griffin and Brian Thompson, naturalist at Blackacre, are currently sorting through the equipment used in last year’s energy fair. Their focus this year is not to introduce students to energy use concepts but to firm up and assess their content knowledge.

**ACTION:** The next energy fair will be at U of L on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone is interested in helping out contact Greta from the Greenthumb Environmental Club [?@louisville.edu](mailto:greta@louisville.edu). If there are any organizations interested in putting on an energy fair, contact Donna Griffin at [donna.griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:donna.griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us)

4. Food Committee: Wrote a Professional Development for teachers on how to infuse urban agriculture into the curriculum that has been approved through JCPS. This PD will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>. There is another food, farming, and development PD that will be held at Sunnycres Farm during the summer. Specific details on this PD are still in progress.

No committee action needed at this time.

5. Research Committee: As part of her thesis, Angelique Perez (U of L) has developed the Food Diary Project that has been approved for use in JCPS. The project requires students to record everything that they eat for a period of three days. The purpose of the project is to teach students about nutrition as a way to combat the rampant increase in obesity in young people.

ACTION: If you are a teacher and would like your students to participate in the Food Diary Project, contact Angelique Perez at [acpere01@gwise.louisville.edu](mailto:acpere01@gwise.louisville.edu)

### **ALL EEC COMMITTEES NEED TO DEVELOP INDICATORS AND OUTCOMES . . .**

#### III. New Business

1. Tom Wessels, Professor of Ecology at Antioch New England Graduate School and author of *Reading the Forested Landscape* and *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*, will be speaking on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:45pm at the U of L University Club. Dr. Wessels is helping Dan Jones and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks in development of curriculum framework for their work.
2. Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree: Teddie Phillipson-Mower is a coordinator for Project WILD and is currently integrating this curriculum into Preservice Education at U of L. Thus far she has trained 150 pre-service teachers many of whom are fulfilling their class's service learning requirement by teaching a Project WILD activity to students at Blackacre.

ACTION: For organization and collaboration purposes there needs to be a record of Kentucky certified facilitators of Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree. If you are a certified facilitator of any of these curricula or know of anyone who is, please contact Emily Conn at [etreyn03@louisville.edu](mailto:etreyn03@louisville.edu) so that a comprehensive database can be established. There will be an opportunity this summer for a share-a-thon in which facilitators can see how others are modifying the programs to fit their classroom needs. Also, if you have any ideas for a certificate that looks professional so that trainees can include them in their portfolios, contact Teddie Phillipson-Mower at [t.phillipsonmower@louisville.edu](mailto:t.phillipsonmower@louisville.edu)

#### IV. Old Business

1. Update on Richard Louv / The Children and Nature Network (David Wicks) – Unfortunately Richard Louv will not be coming to Louisville due to expense; however, there is an interest in possibly hosting a representative from the research portion of The Children and Nature Network. At UofL, the honors

program, which is currently centered on the environment, requires an independent research component. Students who are interested in conducting research around connecting children to nature could post their work on The Children and Nature Network website, [www.cnaturenet.org](http://www.cnaturenet.org)

2. Green Spaces of Louisville curriculum for elementary schools (Donna Griffin): The education director at Churchill Downs is interested in establishing a partnership with two neighboring elementary schools, Semple and Frasier. This initiative is in the very beginning stages; however the goal is to allow students at these schools to utilize the green spaces at Churchill Downs as an “outdoor classroom”. There is hope that the success of this partnership would lead to several others around the city that would encourage schools to take their students outside without the hassle of scheduling a field trip.

#### V. Announcements

1. **The next Environmental Education Committee meeting will be held at the Center for Learning and Human Development at the University of Louisville (across from the University Club where Tom Wessels will be speaking), March 21, 2007, 4:30 - 5:30.**
2. Carol Gundersen is seeking volunteer facilitators this spring and summer with the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm. Facilitators will teach students from all different backgrounds how to grow food. The time commitment is 2-5 hours. If you are a student, intern, teacher, or engaged citizen who would like to spend time with kids and get their hands dirty, contact Carol at (502) 413-5989.
3. Living Lands & Waters ([www.livinglandsandwaters.org](http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org)):
  - A. Kristin Ellis, Riverbottom Restoration Coordinator, is seeking volunteers to help restore and enhance the Beargrass Creek Watershed. The next cleanup is this **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**. For more information click on the box “Ohio River Restoration 2007” on LL&W’s homepage.
  - B. Alternative Spring Break (**March 5-9 & 12-16**) – Work with the LL&W crew and other college students to remove garbage from the Ohio River. For more information click on the box “Ohio River Cleanup 2007” on LL&Ws homepage.
3. Nominations for The Brightside Fred Wiche Award for both the adult division and the school division has been extended to Sunday, April 1, 2007. The submission deadline for the *Consumption Puzzle* has also been extended to April 1, 2007. If you have any questions about either one of these items contact Julie Fried at [julie.shintonfried@louisville.gov](mailto:julie.shintonfried@louisville.gov)

4. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8:30 in the morning the Louisville Science Center Imax will be showing *Hurricane on the Bayou*, a film about New Orleans. For more information, contact Amy Lowen at [amy.lowen@louisville.gov](mailto:amy.lowen@louisville.gov)
5. Earth Day at the Zoo, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Highlight projects and highlight what you are doing for Earth Day. Invite anyone who would like to participate. For details, contact Marcelle Gianelloni at [marcelle.gianelloni@louisville.gov](mailto:marcelle.gianelloni@louisville.gov)

VI. Agenda for the next meeting

1. Update on ACTIVE Louisville by Jennifer Clark
2. Debrief of April 22<sup>nd</sup> Youth Summit plans from a representative of the Youth Summit Steering Committee

The meeting concluded at 5:37 p.m.