

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A GREEN CITY
MINUTES
August 20, 2008
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Attendance:

Mary Ellen Baker, Jerry Durall, Kaki Robinsin, Robin Lipey, Betsy Ruhe, Kathleen Johnson, Emily Conn, Angela Page, Keith Mountain, Rachel Connolly, Joan Lindop, Christi Hawk Hart, Brent Fryrear, Rachel Davis, Theresa Valguardson, Debbie Goldstein, Emily Goldstein, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Layne Greenwell, Rachel Davis, Christy Reuter

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Teddie Phillipson-Mower. Introductions were made.

I. New Business:

1. JCPS and the EE Committee will be presenting a grant-writing professional development with Rosalind Scott, JCPS Grants and Awards Department. If we can all come together and learn how to write the grants in unity, it will be beneficial. It was determined that the best day of the week for the PD would be on a Monday. Rosalind is available October 6th. This is not an official date, but keep the day open if possible. The exact date will be set soon. Feel free to invite other members of the partnership that did not attend the EEC meeting.

2. Raising Awareness of Plastics Pollution: Emily Goldstein lead a discussion on her experiences involving plastics pollution. She also informed the group of several of her accomplishments involving environmental education. Last fall the Louisville Zoo chose her to be their first Arctic Ambassador, and she went with 15 other teens from around the world to study polar bears and climate change in Canada. Once home, she has been giving talks to groups around the city on her experience. Then in December, she was chosen by the Weather Channel to go to an environmental summit in D.C. She has been asked to come back to D.C. this December to deliver environmental messages from around the country to congress. Emily presented to the group her idea to plan a Plastics Awareness Day. This would be an event to raise awareness about the scourge of plastics and the problems they are causing to our environment. Ideally, we would schedule this event at the same time as a planned river sweep, to help maximize public awareness and involvement. In addition, involving people from all three branches of the Partnership would be idealistic (JCPS, U of L, and the City of Louisville). Dr. Marcus Eriksen of the Algalita Research Center in California has offered to fly in to help us build a boat out of recycled materials and sail it on the Ohio

River. Emily met Dr. Eriksen at an environmental summit in Washington, D.C. last year when he built a similar boat and sailed it on the Potomac.

ACTION: If anyone is interested in assisting in the planning and development of this project, contact Layne Greenwell at wlgree03@louisville.edu. Members present were asked to give their name and contact information if they were interested in creating a working group around this theme. Layne will work with Emily to support this group. A working group for the Plastics Pollution Awareness Day project was created. They decided to meet on Thursday, September 4 at 4:00 p.m. at Indian Trail Elementary School.

In addition to the discussion on plastics pollution, Rachel Connolly suggested looking into purchasing products that are environmentally friendly for the Planetarium. Also, ways in which Jefferson County schools could become more environment friendly in their school cafeterias were discussed. Styrofoam trays were once again discussed. Brent mentioned that work from last year on the project fell through, but that other options are being discussed. We will hear more from Brent in the future as ideas are discussed at the steering committee level.

3. Brightside Youth Summit is October 14, 2008: The Youth Summit is going to be even more hands-on this year than it has been in the past. The goals for this years' Summit is to provide the skills necessary to carry out inventory action projects at school. We will emphasize creativity in taking what was learned at the Summit and how it could meet the needs of the schools. Also, we will be holding a mentor training and teacher professional development prior to the Summit. Both will emphasize Earth Force and KGHS, as well as skill development. David Wicks has written the teacher PD for October 6. Teachers present at today's meeting mentioned that there may be difficulties with getting teachers there because it is a GOLD day. Many principals require teachers to be at their schools. Teddie will ask David and Donna what the past experience was with this day. Also, it was suggested that maybe David could send a letter to the principals requesting that the teachers be included in the PD.

ACTION: Mentors are needed for the Youth Summit. If you would like to volunteer to be a mentor email the Center for Environmental Education at cenvired@louisville.edu. Teachers will receive the flyer for the Youth Summit shortly so that they can begin registration.

II. Old Business:

1. Review of last year and discussion of annual report: Everyone was okay with the format of the annual report. The annual report is now on the U of L Center for Environmental Education website:

(<http://louisville.edu/education/research/centers/environmental-ed/environmental-education-committee.html>)

2. Goals and objectives for the year were discussed. The steering committee of the Partnership used recommendations from all committees last year to determine the Partnership's focus. We should be cognizant of these as we determine our objectives and goals.

- All working groups, including the plastics pollution working group, should determine their goals and objectives for this coming year. We will share these at next month's meeting.
- One goal that was suggested was to develop an Environmental Education manual of tips to integration that could be used in the curriculum.
- Another was to develop teacher environmental literacy and skills through preservice and inservice training

ACTION: Over the next couple of weeks think about what we want to see happen as an outcome of the group working together. Contact Layne Greenwell at wlgree03@louisville.edu with any ideas for the goals or objectives for the year.

III. Working Groups:

1. A working group for the Plastics Pollution Awareness Day project was created. They decided to meet on Thursday, September 4 at 4:00 p.m. at Indian Trail Elementary School.

IV. Announcements:

1. Pledge for the Polar Bears - Emily has written a website that will be up and running by 9/1. It will have info about climate change and will ask people to make a pledge to reduce carbon emissions. The zoo is also sending out 300,000 booklets to elementary schools with a letter from Emily in them talking about the pledge. We want to ask the group if they have suggestions on how to get the word out about the pledge to middle and high school students, and also if the City, U of L, or JCPS would be interested in making a group pledge.

-Plastic Awareness Day - Emily wants to plan an event in the spring to raise awareness of plastic pollution. She has been in touch with Dr. Marcus Erikson from the Algalita Research Center in California - he will fly in to help us build a boat out of 2-liter bottles and sail it on the river. Emily wants to organize an art contest inviting students to make art from trash. She also has other ideas for this event. We want to run it by the group, and we need help! We're going to need funding, and have already applied for one grant, but got turned down. So we need ideas on where to try to get the funding to fly Dr. Erikson in, etc. We also need your guidance on how to spread the word about the day, get the art contest

organized, etc. We will certainly take the helm on this project and can do the work - but we do need the group's help.

-Emily wants to briefly discuss her work with NEEF - the National Environmental Education Foundation - and let everyone know that this group and website will be a valuable resource for students and teachers.(Emily Goldstein)

2. Introduction to Blackacre (session # 08-0916885): August 27, 2008, from 4:30 - 7:30. We will explore the resources at Blackacre and make connections with classroom instruction and authentic learning onsite at Blackacre. Even if you are not planning to visit Blackacre, we will be discussing methods of using outdoor sites in your school community to bring real-world learning to your class. Dress for the outdoors and wear comfortable walking shoes. We will meet in the Nature Center. Register on PD Central. If you are not a JCPS employee, email Donna.Griffin@jefferson.kyschools.us to register. (Donna Griffin)

3. We are hosting the Mayor's Hike Event on Sat. Oct. 18 from 10 AM to 1:00 PM. It is going to be a "GO GREEN Louisville" Event. We would like for all of the Green City Partners to come out and set up a booth to inform citizens about all of the environmental groups that are out there and how they can help citizens get involved and support them in their own green efforts. Tents, tables and chairs will be free. We want this event to be BIG! (Tonya Swan)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Teddie Phillipson-Mower. The next meeting is September 17, 2008 from 4:30-5:30 at Gheens Academy in Flex Room A.