

Environmental Education Committee for the Green City Partnership

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 4:30 to 5:30 Gheens Academy

I. Old Business

Goals to connect to the Global Climate Change Document were defined.

During the previous meeting, the 7 goals that were developed were bundled into 3 goals. These are the basis for our 3 new working groups: Environmental Education as an interdisciplinary method; School Gardens; Promoting the Environmental Education Committee as a resource to partner organizations and the public.

Changing the day of the EE Committee meeting was discussed. There were no dates that really worked for all so it has been decided to stick with the third Wednesday of each month for the sake of consistency.

The Grant group is made up of 6 people (Beth Inman, Rosetta Fackler, Marcelle Gianelloni, Julie Shinton-Fried, Betsy Ruhe, and Judy Gardner). They will look into the possibility of applying for a grant from the EPA to provide funding for the EEC. The meeting will take place Tuesday, December 1st at 4:00 to 4:45 in the CEHD of UofL. This money would be used by the group for EEC projects, not by individuals' groups. The group will also look into other possibilities for funding. If you would like to be involved in this project, please come to the meeting on December 1st. Room location will be placed on Teddie's door (Room 292).

Healthy Foods – Local Farms event

The event was well received. 140 people registered; more than expected. 90 people attended. The responses were happy and positive. Sam Levin from MA was the speaker and very informative. He and a group of fellow students started a student-run gardening program in which they grow crops that provide organic fruit and vegetables to their school cafeteria. They work with the cooks to develop healthy recipes that utilize the crops.

Manual Garden update – Teddie and Kandris

The beds are prepped. They have cleaned up the spoil pile. There is a large pile of clay left over from work done on the athletic fields. This needs to be removed by hand or by machine. Help is appreciated. The first garden design will be round with only native plants. People are welcome to help on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30. Jerry Durall from Lassiter Middle volunteered to help. Landfill compost will be used to mitigate the area. The hope is to recruit Master gardeners to capitalize on the requirement that they give so many hours of community service and create opportunities and encourage U of L students to work in the gardens as well.

Next steps: develop in-service and pre-service teacher trainings utilizing the garden
 Developing a fund raising event with Manual in the Spring.

Env. Education Document Update

Scheduled to be complete no later than December 5th. Edited drafts have been sent out. If you have not received yours, contact Teddie Phillipson-Mower. Edits are due back to Teddie no later than November 30th.

II. Working Groups – Working groups for the 3 goals were formed with the task of brainstorming objectives for the upcoming year.

Environmental Education as an Interdisciplinary method for educator working group

- o Develop more awareness in the public and in the employees of partner groups
- o Create a video or power point presentation all members can use.
- o Create a video or power point that could be available on the EEC website and on other organization websites.

- Invite middle and high school ambassadors to attend the EEC meetings and take back information to their schools. Allow their passion to excite other students and teachers.

Promoting the Env. Ed. Working Group –Promote within the agencies and affect policy

- Identify and Review policies that we are qualified to make recommendations on, such as school garden policies, walking field trip policies, how air quality alerts are addressed, summer maintenance methods at school sites, etc.
- Extend Env. Education to partnership employees
- Develop resources to educate employees such as:
 - On-line power points
 - Mini PD's (lunch and learn, webinars)
 - Print campaign

School Gardens Working Group

- Create an assessment template for teachers and staff – Soil, materials, Fertilizer, landscaping to your particular site, on-going maintenance and care, activity in the a garden is purpose driven,
- Create a guide to plant types (indigenous, rare, edible) and suggested care
- Create a resource guide/clearing house for teachers and parents on materials that are needed and where and how to get materials free or at little cost
- Create an inventory of current projects
- Find ways teachers can develop or tap into some kind of network of workers for holidays and the summer.

III. New Business

The Environmental Education Committee has a new Co-facilitator, Emily Woods from Metro Facilities Management where she is an environmental programs specialist. Her e-mail is emily.woods@louisvilleky.gov. We welcome Emily and look forward to her participation and leadership in our committee.

The year-end report for 2009 needs to be created. Volunteers are needed to review minutes from past meetings, compile and summarize for the report. Emily will take the lead on this with help from Teddie. However, it will take all of our members to help add to this. Please look over the draft when it comes out and provide information that will strengthen it.

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya Swan, Jefferson Memorial Forest