

**Centre Regional Recreation Authority
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee**

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Wed., 19 SEPT 07, 4:00 PM at the MMNC Barn

Please advise Molly Hetrick (mhetrick@crcog.net) if you will be unable to attend this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: (10 of 16 Appointed Members)

Jennifer Shuey	Kathy Matason	Alan Sam	Jean Aron
Dr. Rick Marboe	Mary Alice Graetzer	Jackie Melander	Holly Fritchman
Diane Kerly	MJ Kitt (<i>pending appointment</i>)		
CRPR Staff: Ron Woodhead, Molly Hetrick		Friends: Bryce Boyer	
Ex Officio: Alan Popovich w/ Claudia Albertin			

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING SUMMARY from 15 AUG 07
Motion by Holly Fritchman, Second by Jackie Melander

4. OPERATIONAL REPORTS:

- **10th Birthday Celebration & Fall Program Report: Molly Hetrick**
Molly reported the Birthday Celebration was a success, including displays, photos, campaign information, banners, cake and coffee. Fall family programs for September are under attended but still being held. Molly expressed concern about the low number of Group Programs scheduled for Fall. Efforts are being made to advertise these and flyers were sent to local schools. Jennifer will send a Connections announcement soon to encourage other groups to schedule programs.
- **2007 & 2008 Budget Update: Molly Hetrick**
Molly explained the issues for the 2008 budget, including a growing list of expenses that are not offset by Revenue. A \$5,000 increase has been asked from the municipalities and dollars have been added in the donations category to balance the budget. This will need the efforts of all Committee members and staff to apply for and solicit donations and grants to support this line item. Also, Corporate donations and sponsors were discussed and will be considered.
- **CRRA Meeting Highlights from 13 Sept 07: Kathy Matason**
Kathy reported on five action items from the CRRA meeting, three issues related to the Nature Center were 1) approval to write a letter to the Governor for the release of the Capital Funds, 2) approval of extending the lease on the nature center, and 3) waiving the fees for the Spring Creek Day event.
- **Thompson Woods Subcommittee Update: Ron Woodhead**
Ron Woodhead reported for Greg Roth regarding the bridge constructed in the preserve and water bars added to stabilize the stream bank as part of an Eagle Scout Project. Trail trimming and chipping will be done on Day of Caring on October 4. Jennifer Shuey reported her staff is communicating with the Smith Partnership and continuing to discuss alternatives to the fence near the Oakwood Development. Ron reported the lower half of the preserve is scheduled for Gypsy Moth spraying next year.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- **Capital Campaign Update: Rick Marboe**

- a) **CRRA Letter to the Governor regarding State Capital Budget (2004 HB #1634)**

- The committee discussed the 19 Sep CDT article regarding the County donation of \$200K to the campaign. The CRRA authorized a letter to the Governor to encourage release of these funds. The committee brainstormed ideas to strengthen this request, including letters of support from each of the Advisory Committee partner groups and teachers who value the services provided by the center.

- b) **MMNC Lease extension request**

- Penn State has indicated a willingness to extend the lease and will discuss it at the November Board of Trustees Meeting. CRRA approved at the September meeting to officially request this extension.

- **Request for Letter of Support and in-kind and/or cash assistance to the PSU Center for Sustainability for Grant Application to PA DCNR: Molly Hetrick**

- The Committee discussed the issue of support for this project and ways the development of the Center for Sustainability will impact operations and revenue at the nature center. The decision was made to provide an endorsement that also expressed concerns about the project and encouraged the planners to avoid duplication of services. Also, Molly Hetrick's time to be involved in the development of the project and represent CRPR/MMNC concerns was approved on a limited basis. No cash assistance will be provided to Cfs.

A motion was made by Dr. Marboe for CRPR to respond to the request by granting in-kind services on a limited basis and include a letter of support while stating concerns and requesting the group not duplicate educational services currently provided by MMNC, as agreed upon by them in previous discussions. Second by Diane Kerly, Unanimously approved.

- **Update from HP Architects: Alan Popovich**

- Alan Popovich and Claudia Albertin provided two cost estimates and floor plans for the Committee to Review: a "Lower Cost Estimate" at \$1,024,300 that removed one bay from the building and offered reduced amenities, and a "Upgraded Alternative" at \$1,657,300 that included both building bays and upgraded amenities. Discussion focused on the heat source, permits required, and when a final decision on dollars should be made. Dr. Marboe suggested combining the two designs to a single bay construction yet keeping the upgraded amenities and keeping the extra bay as a construction option as time and funding progress. HP Architects will continue to complete the feasibility study.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Wed., 17 Oct 07, 4:00 PM at the MMNC Barn