

Natural Playground Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Attendees: Gabrielle Smith, Chris Catterton, Jen Spagnuolo, Jen Mitchell, Rob Conklin, Kim Bean, Beth Hammond, Casey Carmolli, Gracie Engel Peirce, Rachel Boyers, Jude Hankey, Allison Coeyman, Mary Hughes

Announcements:

- Special thanks to all who attended . . . it is very exciting to have such an interested group of parents/community members who are dedicated to making this design a reality.
- Lori Houghton left a message stating that she is unable to attend on some Tuesdays and one Monday due to prior commitments. She remains interested in supporting this project.
- Erin Kennedy-Knox is very stretched in prior commitments that prevent her from attending meetings, but she remains interested in supporting this project.
- Laura Cunningham-Firkey would like to offer involving her Girl Scout group with assisting to publicize the Natural Playground Project or design posters announcing a fund raiser for the playground. Principal Hughes will meet with the fifth graders in the group at Fleming on Friday, 1/20/12 to present an overview of the project
- Budget Status - The Natural Playground account currently totals: \$5960.19
- Phase I of the project is estimated to run less than \$25,000; overall projected cost is over \$250,000 but could vary depending on donations of materials and labor. It has always been the intent of the committee to offset cost in any way possible.
- Committee members were also informed to replace the current playground structure would cost more than \$100,000; members suggested this would be important to communicate to parents and community.
- Village granted site plan approval for Phase I (Reading Garden and Game Table areas). We have until Oct. 1, 2012 to complete the Zoning Permit or we may request in writing a 6 month extension.
- Chris Catterton announced that she is in the process of completing the 501 (c) (3); she has been communicating with an IRS representative who is answering all the questions. This is in the works. Chris was thanked for her ongoing work on this complex document.

Subcommittees:

- **Fundraising**- Gracie Engel Peirce offered a couple of suggestions including designing a cloth with student art work that could be used as a banner; she also suggested hosting an art show with student work where visitors could make a donation; this group will make a list of former fundraising events and collect new ideas as well. There was discussion about informing the entire community about this playground project as a future place/resource for all to use. Tracey Williams and Kelly Raynsford were not in attendance.
- **Grants** - Casey Carmolli and Jen Mitchell met with Gabrielle Smith to discuss completing the Lowe's Grant to cover the cost of Phase I.
- **Construction** - Rachel Boyer, Rob Conklin, Allison Coeyman and Jude Hankey studied the design and noted the sidewalk near the preschool play area does not link to the stairs in the new design. In winter, when students are dropped off in the church parking area they use that walkway to head to Fleming. This is also the stairs that children dropped off at the front of the school use to access the playground. This will be further considered in February when Property Director Bruce Murdough joins this committee.
- **PR/Communication**- Beth Hammond and Jen Spagnuolo studied a logo designed by Beth for the Natural Playground and to be added to the school web page. Three options for a logo are to be sent out to Natural Playground members for a vote. A decision will be made prior to the next meeting.
- **Administration**- Chris Catterton and Kim Bean met with each sub-committee and Chris provided documents and resources for the groups to review.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Center; all are welcome to attend.

Agenda for February 7, 2012

- Announcements
- Sub-committee work
 - o Bruce Murdough (Property Service Director will join the Construction Committee)
 - o Chris Catterton will share other documents with subcommittees and outline general direction and time line to guide work
- Sub-committee report out on next steps

Future Meetings:

- February 7
- March 20
- April 3 & April 17
- May 1st and May 15