

## Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team

Meeting minutes, February 19, 2009

The first meeting of the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (Team) was called to order at 7 PM. Present were

Jeff Weiss  
Martha Weiss  
Jerry Simon  
Steph Simon  
Steve White  
Mary White  
Debi Moritz  
Sarah Schultz  
Erica Strojinc and Dan Schimmel, representing the Park District

During introductions, a number of common interests were stated.

- Natural areas, including management of invasive plants, planting natives and water quality
- Trying to influence other people to take an interest in environmental causes
- Green buildings and development, including the Cool Cities initiative
- Gardening
- Recycling and composting

Jeff Weiss proposed a Team approach of being action-oriented and taking on one or a few projects with minimal structure. Meetings are only to plan projects and celebrate successes. The idea was expressed that the group's goals should drive the approach. That is, if we decide to take on bigger issues, more structure and meetings may be required. The Team was comfortable that the mission could evolve over time. Starting small and creating some success and community interest would be the best way to get underway.

Other discussions included

- Dan described the efforts of the Park District to be a green organization, including recycling and energy conservation. Erika Strojinc, the leader of the Buffalo Grove Park District Green Team, will be Team liaison.
- Publicity. We want to grow the Team and attract participation. We can use the Park District web site and seasonal brochure. Also, the local papers covered the launch of the floating island last year and carry regular columns about our community.
- Liaison with the Village. Martha has discussed the team with Elliott Hartstein, Village president, who was open to working with us. Possible connections include Buffalo Grove Days and the Village website. We should get a summary of plans for greening the Village.
- Involving young people in environmental causes and our local projects.

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- Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of over 300 governmental and conservation organizations. CW membership is a Team goal aspiration.
- Models for our new Team include Liberty Prairie Conservancy in Libertyville and Citizens for Conservation in Barrington (CFC's annual meeting is scheduled for March 5). Jeff will try to get a speaker from one of these groups.
- Financial benefits of green projects should be emphasized.
- The Center for Green Technology is decentralizing so that all meetings with them do not need to occur in the city.
- Several other people have expressed interest in the Team but were unable to attend. We will get their input via these minutes and email distribution.

The floor was opened for proposals for an initial project to work on together. The following ideas were discussed and preferences were voted. Names in parentheses will own the next steps for the top three vote getters which are in bold:

- 1. Habitat restoration at a local park or natural area (Sarah and Jeff)**
- 2. Special collection for hard-to-recycle items and other educational activities in conjunction with Earth Day (Debi and Erika)**
- 3. Form a group to arrange membership and a pick up location for food grown locally by a farm coop (Jerry and Steph)**
4. Rain barrels/compost bins
5. Seed exchange/other activities for Buffalo Grove Days
6. Install rain gardens/bioswales
7. Publicize local green businesses and products
8. Permeable asphalt for parking lot surfaces
9. Preservation of local farms and open spaces
10. Community gardening
11. Recycle plastic bags
12. Road salt/phosphate in fertilizers

Project owners will develop the ideas, make preliminary plans and schedules and communicate back to the team via email. We hope they will be in a position to be approved and finalized at the time of our next meeting, which was scheduled for 7 PM March 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.