

Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Committee

Meeting minutes, Feb. 25, 2010

Jeff Weiss called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Present were

Jill Stites	Jeff Spitz
Cathy Verscheiden	Linda Spitz
Nadine Pomilia	Steve White
Joan Karnauskas	Mary White
Debi Moritz	Susan Levy
Jeff Weiss	Sarah Schultz
Martha Weiss	

Future activities

We discussed and scheduled future projects, based on preference voting from the November meeting. Committees gave progress reports on Habitat Restoration, Clean Water, Adopt-a-Highway, Recycling and Buffalo Grove Days.

Habitat restoration and Buffalo Creek Clean Water – Joan reported out on a meeting she had with several officials from the Village. They discussed several areas in the Village where the team could contribute. These include

- Buffalo Creek Nature Preserve and Aspen Ditch. The Village officials shared two consultant's reports and have scheduled a public meeting on June 10.
- White Pine Trail, where shoreline stabilization and native plants were recently installed. Plant species monitoring and invasive plant removal needed at this site.
- Mariel marsh, a high quality wetland behind the Fiore Nursery on Route 22.

Prior to the TEAM meeting, Joan, Jeff and Mary prepared a position paper supporting the consultants' recommendations to improve the Preserve and Aspen Creek (Ditch). This paper recommended projects that Team could undertake in conjunction with residents

- Habitat restoration, especially removal of invasive plants such as buckthorn and planting with natives
- Working with neighbors to improve hydrology and water quality. This includes pet waste, chemicals and stream bank work
- Replacing and monitoring nesting boxes

The TEAM was supportive of these ideas. Joan will relay the Position Paper and our interest to the Village.

Some members also wanted to learn more about the White Pine Trail and wetland site, and perhaps develop future additional projects.

Several members want to continue project work at Busch Grove Park, and workdays will be scheduled or held informally throughout 2010.

Recycling – The meeting with the Village also disclosed their plans for recycling electronics. They plan two events in 2010 and would like our help. Cathy reminded us about Siemen's interest in participating. Joan will follow up for dates and details. Joan also suggested a drive for materials for Habitat for Humanity Restore.

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Adopt-a-highway road cleanup – Linda Spitz LINDASU4@aol.com reported our decision to adopt a stretch of Busch Road from Weiland to Barclay. Due to space limitations on the sign, it will read “Environmental Action Team – BG.” We decided to hold show the video at our next meeting and scheduled our first cleanup on Saturday, April 24 from 10 AM to noon.

Greener BG Days – September. Debi, as a member of the BG Days committee, will introduce the idea of a greener community festival and offer Team involvement to assist in reducing trash, encouraging use of bicycles, implementing recycling and other “green” ideas. The BG Days Committee has not met yet.

Solar/wind demo project. Steve White reported on the presentation he and Jeff made to the Park District board in January. The reception there was very favorable. Next step is to get cost estimates, identify a location and establish a strategy for bringing Village officials on board.

Other topics include

Rain gardens – Mary White reported out about a meeting that she and Joan had with the Park District and a consulting firm about a demo rain garden next to the Willow Stream pool. Due to the need to excavate four feet of soil and high cost, it was not seen as a model for rain gardens that many residents would want to install. The TEAM would be more interested in bio-swales between the road/parking areas and Willow Stream. Jeff Weiss will follow up with Dan Schimmel.

Articles in local papers/web sites. Jill offered her collection of environmental articles that could be shared with local media, perhaps in a column format. We discussed past challenges to get publicity for Team events. We also discussed forums that could get messages to the public, including Village and Park District web sites, brochures and newsletters. Martha suggested that Mike Terson could help. We will pursue this discussion at the next meeting.

Health/wellness fair. Jill suggested possible participation as exhibitors. Our recycling event was the same time and location as last year’s BG Health and Wellness Fair. It was moved from March to Feb 27 this year, so it will not be possible for us to participate.

BG Farmers Market. A new BG farmers market is planned for Sundays near the Spray and Play parking lot on Route 83. There will be an opportunity for the Team to have a booth at one of the sessions and pitch in to make this a success. No update at the meeting.

BG Garden Club. Jeff Weiss proposed joint activity to the president of the Garden Club. He has been invited to the next Board meeting. No update at this meeting.

Next meeting will be April 1 at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.