

Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes Aug. 22, 2018

Present: Mandy Smith, Nancy Brundage, Laurel Gay, Stacey Sahli, Lauren Schroeder, Kat Paull, Nick Visingardi, Advisor Carol Vigorito

Mrs. Vigorito facilitated the meeting in Mr. Boyle's absence, called the meeting to order. We reviewed the meeting minutes for July 30th. Mrs. Brundage motioned to approve the minutes, and Dr. Schroeder seconded them. All members said aye and they were approved.

To mind Mandy Smith's time, we allowed her to present the updates of the education programs. In the evaluation process of public programs, they have been working on school programs since the end of 2017 to align with state standards. School program updates can be found under "About Us" and "education" on the MCMP website. Teacher feedback is driving their modifications, determined that some programs not aligned to state standards should be removed with standards focusing on Science, Math, SS, ELA. First: Science; the goal is to give teachers information about their programs, alternative location possibilities, outreach to school possibilities, and to be adaptive for various learning abilities. Previously, programs were split up by site locations. Now all are MCMP programs have different focuses and grade levels (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8) with work still ongoing for outdoor programs. Mrs. Paull asked if they have reviewed interest from schools/teachers/programs to see how successful the different programs were. Mrs. Smith said there is a record but no specific analysis has been performed. Dr. Schroeder asked if there are any requirements or restrictions on the programs. Ms. Smith mentioned there are seasonal constraints for on sight programs, and they can mostly accommodate the different groups, at least they have been able to in the past. Mrs. Brundage asked how many classes can be done a day. Ms. Smith said it varies on educator availability (6 possible part time educators) and what the school's constraints and class sizes are. Mrs. Paull asked if it was possible to create a tailor made education class. Ms. Smith's answer was they don't have the time and she suggests looking at what they programs offer and choose one that fits what the teacher wants the most. Dr. Schroeder asked how the school programs are budgeted. Ms. Smith said there is a line budget for the supplies and materials. Mr. Visingardi asked if there was a plan to reach out to the high schools. Ms. Smith said they are really focusing on finishing the current programs. Next will be upper elementary, then middle school, and then high school last.

Mrs. Brundage asked what would happen to the programs offered at Ford during renovations. Mrs. Vigorito mentioned that they will be held somewhere but no specific logistics have been disseminated yet.

Ms. Smith mentioned that they are still working on the alignment and it is not complete. Another addition to this process is a "School Program Request Form" on the website available to teachers. Dr. Schroeder asked if there is a set goal or vision for the program, possibly 4-5 years down the road. Ms. Smith said there are no goals related to numbers. She wants to ensure that there are programs covering and highlighting the resources of the parks. Dr. Schroeder wanted to know how they will measure success of the program. Ms. Smith said that good feedback from teachers is what she is interested in addition to getting the kids outside and visiting parts of the park that are not frequented by students. Dr. Schroeder wants to understand a baseline and to set a goal to measure success of programs. Ms. Smith mentions that they want to focus on the urban population of students that typically would not visit the park and how the park could accommodate that. Dr. Schroeder asked, as program develops, how will they be inhibited because of resources? Are the programs limited by resources of the park or interest in programs? And if there are goals and objectives for program then could there be a better focus resources? Can we instill a

“fund” or sponsorship to provide money for busing to get students here? It was mentioned that limitations are due to money, testing days of students, school schedules, time, and seasons.

Old business:

Dr. Schroeder has no update regarding his symposium.

Next, we discussed Roberts rule. Mrs. Paull motioned to adopt the set of rules, Mr. Visingardi seconded. Mrs. Brundage agrees that the Robert's Rule is good idea but would prefer a more relaxed version. Dr. Schroeder suggested the rules be more enforced when objections occur. Mrs. Paull said the general format is good with a few minutes per discussion, etc. and a set standard procedure. Mrs. Vigorito said that if we adopt it, we are bound to it completely, and it was suggested that we should probably make an abridged version. Mrs. Paull suggested that we follow the 10 basic rules. Dr. Schroeder asked that we table this motion until next meeting, and Mrs. Brundage seconded it. Mr. Boyle should volunteer to detail the rules he wishes our committee follow.

New business:

Mrs. Vigorito read the entries on the agenda. Mr. Boyle was working on information to present to the Board for our annual proposal in December, and goal setting and partnerships should be a focus.

Open dialogue: Open dialogue began with Mrs. Brundage asking if Mrs. Paull has a problem getting here by 6:30 pm to which she said yes. So, it was suggested that maybe we could begin meetings at 6:45?

Next meeting: Mrs. Vigorito will send a DoodlePoll for us to complete in order to check availability.

Mrs. Sahli Motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mrs. Gay. All say aye