

Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes Dec. 4th, 2018

Present: Nancy Brundage, Stacey Sahli, Advisor Carol Vigorito, Dr. Lauren Schroeder, Kat Paull, Josh Boyle

Old business:

Pat motioned to approve last month's meeting minutes. It was seconded by Nancy, all say aye.

Josh asked if anyone wanted to add anything to new business. Negative.

We discussed the SMART Goals we drafted at last month's meeting.

Goal 1: Monitor and evaluate programs the park is offering, education and public alike, that deal with local environmental issues.

Goal 2: Monitor and evaluate nature education audiences and make recommendations where more opportunity exists by exploring collaboration with outside organizations.

We established some criteria or data we would like to see for Goal 1. Among these are records of attendance and demand, (keeping track of people who are turned away and which program they wished to attend; justification for asking for more naturalists), documenting successful full programs, collecting, analyzing and applying feedback from attendees, zip codes and age groups, looking for environmental content/impact of those programs/assessing. Nancy asked how these programs could be monitored. In short, this data is not easy to analyze due to the multitude of factors. There is already a matrix that is used to analyze this data depending on these factors.

Criteria/Data for Goal 2 include age groups, zip codes, how did they hear about program/why are they attending, attendance and demand. We discussed that our goals should lead to recommendations

Mrs. Paull mentioned that we should recommend the park explore the possibility of being involved the City Nature Challenge BioBlitz and get involvement from different groups. It was decided that we should research this and create a better recommendation at our next meeting to present at a future meeting in February. Carol said we should avoid planning a program and expecting the park to adopt the program. She suggested that we do the legwork and then present that to the board.

Dr. Schroeder asked if we had a BioBlitz's before. Mrs. Vigorito said yes but not this same program. Dr. Schroeder asked about attendance at the previous BioBlitz, to which Mrs. Vigorito replied that it was mostly staff.

Mr. Boyle made a motion to add these goals to the presentation for the commissioners at the board meeting next week and asked if the committee had any other information that he would like us to include in his presentation.

We discussed whether we wanted to make a recommendation regarding employment and salary of employees through the park. We determined there is a need based on our experiences, but before we make this recommendation, we need to do more research.

Commissioners meeting on January 14th at 6 pm.

Report due Dec 17th

New business:

Committee Time/Comments: none

Public comments to Committee: none

Next meeting: Wednesday Dec. 12th at 4:15 pm in Classroom A at Metroparks Farms to vote on the presentation content to the board.

Doodle Pool will be out to schedule our January meeting.

Adjournment: Mrs. Sahli motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mrs. Brundage. All say aye.