

**River Bend Nature Center
REC Community Planning Meeting Notes
June 7, 2007**

Agenda

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Facility Walk Through
- III. Project Overview – PowerPoint Presentation
- IV. Small Group Brainstorming Session

Planning Meeting Goals

- I. Outline initial goals and a progress report
- II. Brainstorm programs and resources
- III. Identify next steps

NOTE: A list of attendees is included at the end of this document.

1. Brainstorm a list of program ideas that you (or your organization) would like to see implemented at REC.

Please include any modifications to the facility that may be necessary.

- Water quality education programs by, and for, middle school kids (i.e. Walden School's green school program)
- Green cleaning
- Work with Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee
- Appropriate planting (wetlands and residential)
- Awareness of water recreation
- Education on sustainable/renewable practices
- Supporting scout badges, etc.
- Urban issues that affect environment/water quality
- Recognize/educate about invasive species
- Riverbank erosion/control
- Energy issues
- Small boat building
- How water quality impacts wildlife
- Environment career education
- Native plant education
- Use building year-round
- Water sport lessons (canoe, kayak)
- First Aid/CPR courses
- Adult education courses
- Greener alternatives in daily lives
- Compost education
- Rain Barrels (H²O conservation)
- College Projects/thesis projects
- Water conservation
- Teen adventure race/event
- Hospice patient – opening facilities to patients
- Bird/fish identification

- Biking/hiking
- Add windows
- "Green" modifications
- Library/resources/technologies/HVAC

2. Brainstorm a list of foreseen advantages and challenges related to REC.

- Location – walking distance for many, close to Racine, close to Lake Michigan
- Building needs more work than you think
- Cost of renovation
- Broad interest
- Staffing
- Lack of windows
- Invasive species around it; landscaping
- Good parking space
- Getting inner-city kids involved
- Can offer programs on weekends and after school
- Brings people to the area
- Can learn about native plants
- River cleanup
- Central place for all environmental education
- Good way to get parents/family involved
- Open times (seasonal vs. year-round)
- How to incorporate all the possibilities (scheduling/programming)
- Monitoring/security
- Continued funding, maintenance
- Let people (children) know what careers are possible
- Hands-on learning
- Safety of waterfront
- Understanding what will happen with long-term changes (to water level, etc.)
- Advantage of using an un-used building
- Utilities
- Sustainable funding
- Cost of equipment/supplies
- Environmental education
- Teaching kids early on to reduce their environmental foot print

3. Brainstorm a list of existing community programs or organizations that might be involved in, or benefit from, the development of REC.

- Racine Unified
- Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts
- 21st Century Prep. School
- Other community centers
- Root-Pike-Win: rain garden initiative, watershed planning
- Audobon Soc.
- Sierra Club
- Jr. Women's Club
- Churches

- Racine County Conservation League
- Youth Leadership Academy
- Wild Ones
- YM-WCA – Rescyu
- Area colleges
- Bike clubs
- Canoeing clubs
- Cops-N-Kids program
- Neighborhood (West Racine?)
- Leadership Racine/RAMAC
- Day care centers
- Boater safety courses – UW Power Squadron – RYC
- San Juan Diego School
- Alpha Homes – Valerie Duffek
- Assisted living centers
- High school students – career guidance info
- Racine/Kenosha Land and Trust
- Neighborhood Watch/Weed’n Seed
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Urban League
- Local businesses – meeting place
- Rotary – Midwest Dragon Boat
- Hoy Audobon – bird hikes
- Cooper Power Systems – bird houses
- City of Racine – Storm Water Education – NR 216

4. Brainstorm a list of community organizations or individuals that can be invited to contribute to the development of REC

- Young Professionals of Racine – Dana Grueter (RAMAC)
- Sierra Club / Hoy-Audobon Nature Club (Donna Knows)
- Racine County Conservation League
- Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
- Wild-ones – Nan Calvert (Taylor Creek Nursery)
- 6th Street Margot Mazur
- Volunteer Center
- Curt Johnson and Fisk Johnson
- Local landscapers
- Local churches – St. Michel’s
- Boy/Girl Scouts
- Root Pike Win – Any Yench
- Gateway Tech. – Stephanie Sklba
- Johnson Wax Fund
- Rotary
- Kiwanis
- RESCYU – Wendy Sorenson
- RRICO Foundation
- WE Energies – Dave Ciepluh
- Nehemiah Project – Pastor Bill Tompkins

- Root River Long Beards
- Salmon Unlimited – Craig Bender
- DNR – Mike Luba
- US Fish & Wildlife
- USGS
- Youth as Resources
- SEWRPAC
- Judson College Architecture – Students/Programs (Royce Earnest)
- UW-P
- West Marine
- Yacht clubs
- Marinas
- Potawatomi
- 21st Century Prep School
- Leadership Racine
- Racine Unified School District
- The Arts Council
- Johnson Diversey's Emerging Leaders Network
- UW-Extension
- Kranz Inc.
- En-Act Racine – Melissa Taylor
- Racine Health Department
- Modine Manufacturing
- Ruud Lighting
- Trek Bicycles
- Johnson Outdoors
- Volunteer Center of Racine
- Green Roof parent from Walden

Next Steps

1. Complete MOA with City of Racine
2. Form Advisory Board
3. Plan and Implement Grants
 - a. Recruit and Train AmeriCorps*VISTA member
 - b. Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (Educational Signage)
 - c. Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant (Educational Programs)
 - d. UW-Extension EDvantage – Market Analysis and Business Plan for Rental Operation
 - e. Johnson Outdoors (Equipment)
4. Renovations
 - a. Operable Restrooms
 - b. Security Cameras/Lights
 - c. Water and Sink Installation
 - d. Electrical and HVAC Issues
5. Develop educational programs
6. Fund/Friend-Raise

ATTENDEE LIST
JUNE 7, 2007

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