

Meeting Minutes
COPC Environmental Justice & Health
Sub-Committee Meeting
January 10th, 2007
COPC Office 1901 Main St.

In Attendance: Frank Maietta, Sheen Rajmaira, Sean Kelly, Barbara Pfohl, Gail Root, Jill Shuey

I. Welcome / Introduction

Sean Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Organization of Effort

A.) GreenLine

- The Niagara Gazette ran an article in December by Aaron Besecker on the NU Environmental Leadership Institute and the GreenLine. Jill Shuey met with Buffalo News reporter Paul Westmoore in early January. The Buffalo News will be running an article on the GreenLine in the next couple of weeks.
- 3 calls came into the GreenLine in December 2006 and there was 1 walk-in to the COPC office.
- Jill received a quote for magnets from Carol Hartwig with Promotion Solutions. The magnets will be a business card size with black text on a fluorescent green background. The next step is for Jill to get a proof from Carol and have the proof approved by NU. The group reviewed and revised text for the magnet. Text approved by group:

NU Logo GreenLine

Call (716) 205-0287

Help keep your surroundings safe and clean

Questions or concerns about your environment or health?

A service of ReNU Niagara: Niagara University's Community Outreach Partnership Center

B) Home Assessments

- NU has applied for a grant through the EPA to do lead testing and outreach. The focus of the grant will be outreach to get people into lead awareness classes, blood testing of children to be administered by nurses (NU students) and training of residents and contractors. The grant can also be used to purchase incentives and cleaning kits. The grant if awarded would complement and add support to our COPC initiatives, assisting COPC with expanding home assessments with testing and providing environmental justice and health workshops.

- COPC is still interested in having two courses next semester assist the Niagara County Healthy Neighborhood's program with home assessment. The two courses mentioned at the November meeting will not be able to link to COPC at this present time. Sean Kelly mentioned following up with the chemistry department as well as NU departments of social work, psychology and sociology. Jill agreed to follow up with the mentioned departments.
- Gail Root also mentioned the possibility to do research around tobacco smoking, second hand smoke and environmental links to asthma.

C) Urban Environment

- Sheen Rajmaira continues to follow up with her contact in the City of Niagara Falls planning department regarding getting an inventory of vacant lots.
- Jill has been invited to attend the Niagara Falls Block Club Council retreat on February 3rd. Jill will reach out to block clubs concerning working with COPC to work on a maintenance strategy to curb illegal dumping and address vacant lots.

D) Outreach

- The COPC promotional letter that Pat Bradley put together was mailed out to 150 churches and community groups/agencies the beginning of January.
- The outreach group met on 1/4/07. The group discussed putting together topics for workshops. Jill e-mailed Pat topics that had been suggested in the grant and at past sub-committee meetings. Pat suggested touching base with the Independent Health Foundation Good for the Neighborhood Program regarding their upcoming topics.
- Frank Maietta mentioned that since the 1/4/07 meeting they have come up with 5 or 6 topics including lead and food contamination. Frank mentioned that he thought there would be an opportunity to partner with the Good for the Neighborhood Program in March. Their end event is in April. Gail Root mentioned that they will be giving out bike helmets at the April event. Jill will follow up with Carrie Meyer with the Independent Health Foundation.

Next EJ Green Team Meeting: February 7th, Wednesday, 2:00 PM, COPC office, 1901 Main Street.