

Meeting Minutes
COPC Environmental Justice & Health
Sub-Committee Meeting
April 11th, 2007
COPC Office 1901 Main St.

In Attendance: Sally Perez, Barbara Malinowski, Gail Root, Charles A. Walker, Jill Shuey, Greg Dean Jr.

I. Welcome / Introduction

Jill Shuey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jill informed the group that Sheen Rajmaira has resigned as Director of NU's Environmental Leadership Institute (ELI) and that Sean Kelly has stepped down as the COPC Environmental Justice and Health area faculty coordinator. Sheen and Sean will both be no longer involved with COPC. Jill stated that she will be meeting with David Taylor to discuss approaching faculty to take over the COPC Environmental Justice (EJ) faculty coordinator position. Jill gave an overview of EJ activities to new partners present at the meeting.

II. Outreach

- Jill will be attending the April 21st Beautify Niagara event and passing out GreenLine magnets.
- Jill met with Marge Gillis. The Niagara Beautification Commission is interested in partnering with the GreenLine to help promote both their organization and the GreenLine to the community. They are interested in promoting the adoption of certain blocks for clean ups as well as other beautification projects. Jill has been invited to attend the commissions next meeting in May.

III. Green Line

- The Green Line magnets came in and were distributed to block club leaders in a mailing.
- COPC will hire three students over the summer to assist with the GreenLine as well as home assessments.
- Jill is working with COPC intern Greg Dean to look at ways we can make the GreenLine more positive. Marge Gillis mentioned promoting beautification workshops and clean ups and assisting residents in getting recycling bins. Jill is also interested in linking callers to block clubs.
- The GreenLine was featured in a Niagara Gazette article concerning Beautification of Niagara. This publicity proved worthwhile as the line began to receive calls from individuals who had in fact seen the article.

IV. Urban Environment

- Gail Root inquired as to who would assist COPC with GIS mapping of vacant lots and illegal dumping now that Sheen Rajmaira has resigned from NU's ELI. Jill mentioned that COPC's

graduate assistant Rebecca Schicker is working on a GIS project for the COPC capacity building area and may be able to assist the Environment Justice and Health area with their GIS project. The sub-committee will need to work on collecting data from the city and the block clubs. Jill will need to look into the potential to get a student to assist with this as well as help with entering the data. Niagara University will keep the GIS lab and is in the process of trying to hire a technical assistant for this lab; this individual would be a potential aide if he/she is willing to help.

- Sr. Beth Niederpruem of Center for Joy and Zach Casale with Main Street Business & Professional Association are still in communication with the city concerning the potential lots for their playground project. However, these communications seem to have stalled as the city does not seem willing to give up this property. Zach has been in contact with officials from Abbot School who might be interested in taking up this project. The next step is for Zach and Jill to meet with Sr. Beth to see how she would like to proceed. Charles Walker mentioned that the city is in the process of re-investing in the park at North and Lockport Road. Candace Corsaro with the Niagara Falls Block Club Council is heading up this project.

V. Home Assessment

- We have received no word on the status of two EPA grants, one focusing on lead and one focusing on asthma, submitted by NU. We should be notified in June 2007. Barbara Malinowski mentioned that we might be able to test children for lead at Heart and Soul. Barbara also mentioned about contacting Fran Crosby with NU's nursing program. Jill mentioned that the use of NU nursing students was written into the EPA lead grant.
- COPC has been struggling to reach our goal of incorporating a service learning component into NU courses to fill a volunteer base for expanding home assessments with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program. Initial classes identified for this spring semester did not work out. Thus, we are essentially one year behind where we should be for this activity according to the grant. Jill will follow up with the social work department regarding their interest in assisting with home assessments. Jill, Gail Root and Dave Taylor will schedule a meeting for next week to meet with Dr. Mary McCourt chair of NU's chemistry department. Dr. McCourt teaches a non majors course "Chemistry in Society" and is interested in adding a service component to the course. The class is offered in both the fall and spring semesters.

Next EJ Green Team Meeting: May 16th, Wednesday, 2:00 PM, COPC office, 1901 Main Street. Task for the next meeting: Identify workshop topics.