

**Meeting Minutes**  
**COPC Environmental Justice & Health**  
**Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**  
**COPC Office 1901 Main St.**

In Attendance: Kim Congi, Pat Bradley, Frank Maietta, Fran Boltz, 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

- Close to 700 fliers have gone out into the community: Weed & Seed, Main Street Business Association, NFHA & Norma Higgs with the Niagara Falls Block Club Council.
- Frank Maietta will take fliers to the Niagara Falls High School and the Pine Avenue Business Association.
- A press release for the GreenLine went out in mid-October. Unfortunately, the timing was around that of the surprise October storm and the release did not make it into any papers.
- Pat Bradley has sent e-mails to contacts he has at the Niagara Gazette and the Buffalo News regarding doing a story about the GreenLine. Jill Shuey has followed up by phone with the two contacts but has only been able to leave phone messages. Sean Kelly offered to also e-mail a contact he has at the Niagara Gazette.
- Jill met with David Skiba assistant NU social work professor and director of field practicum regarding getting social work students involved with COPC and the GreenLine. David was going to follow up with the chair of the department and then get back to Jill. Jill will follow up with David. Jill will also follow up with Scott Nash of NU regarding his interest in having chemistry students volunteer with COPC.

B) Home Assessments

- A grant has been announced by the EPA to do lead testing and outreach to children.
- Gail Root mentioned that when they do home assessments they get the names and dates of birth for children 6 and under. This information is then given to the head nurse for Niagara County who checks the information against her database of children who have been tested for lead. The Healthy Neighborhoods program also gives out cleaning supplies. The biggest problem they see is peeling, chipping, and dusting of lead paint.
- As a part of COPC's testing component, Sean mentioned that students from NU's nursing completion program could assist with testing of children for lead.
- **Gail mentioned that half the children they have seen lately have not been screened for lead (correction).**

- Kim Congi mentioned that her Community Health Worker program with Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center could also be utilized for lead screening and outreach.
- The next step proposed was for Sean, Sheen, and Gail to sit down with Adrienne Leibowitz, NU's Director of Sponsored Programs and Research, to discuss applying for the EPA grant; the grant is do in mid- January.
- Two courses for next semester were identified to link to expanding home assessment and research; a GIS course taught by Sheen Rajmaira and an Environmental Toxicology course. Sean will follow up with the faculty member teaching the Environmental Toxicology course.
- Sean has also offered to link the home assessments and GreenLine to his American Politics course for next semester.

#### C) Urban Environment

- The Urban Environment group met on 11/2/06 with Norma Higgs from the Niagara Falls Block Club Council and Paul Lehman from Cornell University Cooperative Extension office.
- Sheen updated the group on grants for urban watershed restoration and pollution that she is looking to apply for through the Environmental Leadership Institute. The plan is for the Niagara Falls Housing Authority to donate land to pilot a rain water garden that could be an outdoor classroom for the local school children. These urban habitats would help reduce pollutions in the ground and sewer back ups.
- One goal of the pilot project could be to work the rain gardens into the landscaping for the NFHA's HOPE VI project.
- The rain gardens once piloted could also be marketed to block clubs and the city's vacant lots.
- Sheen and Jill have also touched base with city offices regarding getting an inventory of vacant lots.
- Fran Boltz asked if there was a list of what not to pick up during clean ups. Gail suggested following up with Christine Forrester with the City of Niagara Falls or Paul Dickie with the Niagara County Environmental Division.

#### D) Outreach

- The outreach group met on 10/19 and 11/9.
- Pat mentioned that he is working on a draft letter than we can send out to groups offering to speak about COPC.
- Pat also mentioned the possibility of having a table at the NU student activity fair next semester to recruit students for the GreenLine. Fran stated that a date for the fair has not been set yet but that she would let us know when it is confirmed.
- Jill mentioned that she had spoken to Dave Taylor regarding purchasing magnets for the GreenLine. He has asked Jill to get a quote. Jill was referred by Frank to Carol Hartwig with Promotion Solutions. Jill will contact Carol for a quote.

**Next Outreach Meeting: December 14<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 1:00 PM, NFMCC**

**Next EJ Green Team Meeting: January 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, 1:00 PM, COPC office, 1901 Main Street.**