

Community Meeting November 10, 2008

Facilitator: Shona Simpson

Scribe: Beth Reboussin

Timekeeper: Mark Strauss-Cohn

NLI Presentation

- Liz gave background on NLI. (Natural Learning Initiative) Introduced to NLI by parent, Suzi Morehead. NLI has given four workshops, including tonight's for the parents, to get feedback and ideas for their plans.
- Robin Moore gave presentation of Preliminary Master Plan. Anxious for feedback from parent's
- Impressed by our blueprint. "Natural curiosity of each child" was of interest to them and promotion of "global" environment. Task is to restore prior environment but with educational potential. Process included meetings with faculty, community and students for ideas and wishes.
- Robin presented preliminary schematic plan. Constraints are school classroom extension and gymnasium and easement.
- Some overall plans include:
 - ~walking trail around school boundary
 - ~playing field and shady track
 - ~garden center outside side entrance
 - ~science laboratory by retention pond
 - ~middle drive – orchard and wildlife
 - ~outdoor classroom program base, amphitheater
- Plans were presented specifically for:
 1. Toddler area
 2. Children's house
 3. Lower/Upper elementary
- Robin then talked about phasing and next steps. One first step may be the prairie outside of the side entrance and UP. El. Seed, fruit trees, garden center, labyrinth, retention pond, access to woodland area by Upper El. These are lower cost. Toddler and Children's House is more expensive up front and have to do all at once. This part can't be phased.
- Maybe there might be foundations or grants related to physical activity and obesity, eg. Playing field.
- Add score lines for paths and then start putting down wood chips and planting trees.
- Robin opened up for questions. Shona asked about storm drains, were they in the plans? Robin said they have considered these and incorporated into plans, e.g. rain garden.
- Question was asked about irrigation. General approach is water lines with spigots in regular intervals. Rain barrels would be part of plan. Key is first few years and getting things established.
- Mark asked about role of parents and children. Angela said may be able to incorporate into work/share program. A parent asked if NLI would provide list of suggested plantings. Answer was yes. Village of Clemmons has regulations that we will need to work with them on related to pond area, etc.
- Robin asked anyone with ideas to contact Liz, especially teachers, with ideas on how to connect with curriculum.
- Parent asked if school has timeline. Angela says this is a question for community to decide – how much do we want to tackle, how much can we afford. NLI will be available to consult and to move things along.
- Annual report presented by Angela. Financials available at any time for review by request to office. August 1 – July 31st is our fiscal year. We had a record year of fundraising - 6% of revenue.
- First principle payment made to bond debt – great accomplishment! Listing of capital expenses last year including new classroom, NLI, Montessori materials.