



## **River des Peres Watershed Coalition Planning Forum**

May 27, 2008; 6:30-8:30 pm

University City Community Center at Heman Park

### **Meeting Summary:**

Danelle Haake, interim chair of the River des Peres Watershed Coalition, called the meeting to order and made several announcements:

#### **Announcements**

**CLEAN-UPS** – This Spring we held two clean-up events, one in U. City along the Upper River des Peres near the intersection of Mona and Groby and the other in Lorraine Davis Park along Deer Creek in Webster Groves. Between the two events, we probably cleared 20 cubic yards of trash from the two streams.

**GRANTS** – We submitted applications for two grants in April, but both were awarded to other organizations. For at least one of them, there were over 200 applications submitted. We believe that both applications were strong, so we will likely submit those projects for future opportunities, and in fact, one has already been re-submitted to another program by one of our partners, MO Coalition for the Environment. And there are several other opportunities that we may be able to apply for.

**ATTENDANCE PRIZES** – We have several lovely attendance prizes today. A pair of binoculars and several varieties of native plants. In order to be eligible, please put your name on a slip of paper and place that in the prize basket on the table.

**RAIN GARDENS DVD** – If anyone is interested in putting in a rain garden or in learning more about rain gardens, I have a video that I am willing to share.

#### **Bylaws Changes**

In summary, changes consist of the following:

Coalition will be run by a Steering Committee and managed by an Executive Committee of 5 officers who are also part of the Steering Committee. Membership on the Steering Committee is open, though in order to vote, the member must have attended at least one Steering Committee Meeting or two Coalition events in the previous year.

Previously, the Bylaws had a more rigid structure which included a large Board of Directors, a Steering Committee, an Executive Committee, and more standing committees. They were not being followed properly. The changes in the Bylaws more accurately reflect how the organization has been run for the past two years or more and should be more manageable.

An amendment was made and seconded that we retain the non-discrimination statement in the bylaws rather than moving it to the Policies and Procedures Manual. This was accepted. The changes were then held up for a vote and were accepted unanimously.

### **Officer Nominations**

The following were nominated as officers of the Coalition

Chairperson – Danelle Haake

Secretary – Vince Currao

Vice Chairperson – Suzanne Loui

Membership Coordinator – Dan Sherburne

Treasurer – Susan Mintz

As there were no other nominations, these individuals were elected unanimously.

### **Group Work**

The following Committees met to begin setting goals, formulating plans, and determining costs and timelines (group leader in parenthesis):

Signage Committee (Joshua Drake)

Advocacy Committee

Invasive Species Removal Committee

Partners Database Committee (Suzanne Loui)

Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Committee (Jennifer Brown)

Group Name (for example, Signage Committee): \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Potential Partners and their Contributions/Roles: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Discussion Items:

- Goals and Tasks
- Costs and Funding Sources
- Timeline

Notes from the Discussion: