WESTERN NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

DATE TIME: May 24, 2011 @ 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: Community Foundation

1. Call to Order Robert E. Knoer, Chair

2. Roll Call

- Anthony Armstrong (AA)
- Arthur Wheaton (AW)
- Loren Smith (LS)
- Robert E. Knoer (REK)
- David Spiering (DS)
- Judy Einach (JE)
- Julie O'Neill (JO)
- Thomas Herrera-Mishler (THM)
- Katy Duggan-Haas (KDH)

Also Present:

- Cara Matteliano
- Rebekah Williams

3. Approval of Agenda: Moved by JO. 2nd by LS. Passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2011 Meeting: Vote delayed until next meeting.

5. Organizational Issues

   a. New Secretary: Temporary note taker: REK will donate Deanne’s time to take notes at meetings, but a volunteer is needed for cleaning them up into minutes.

   b. Quarterly Event

      a. Report on Second Quarterly Event Planning (LS): Event plans are mostly complete and notice will go out to Alliance members this week. Second email will be sent from REK address to get more notice and each SC member will personally invite other members. Invite will include request to inform organizers if interested in carpooling.

      b. ECEEI approved $450 toward SWAT analysis facilitator and food.

      c. Next event:
i. 3rd Quarter: September. Need to get date, place set soon. Suggest Marcy Casino. May be good time to do urban regeneration and parks plan and tie in with upcoming historic preservation conference. Tentatively September 13 or 14.

ii. 4th Quarter (Environmental Congress): Set for November 5th at Statler with no charge for location.

c. Report of 2011 Congress Planning Committee (REK)
   a. Doodle Poll for Planning Meeting – invite all Steering Committee Members and Youth Connection

d. Status of proposed Bylaws (REK): Releasing bylaws to Working Groups now; email will be sent by June 1 with bylaws draft requesting feedback by July 10.

e. Report on Advocacy Piece for Bylaws (AA): Nothing to report yet. No chair yet. AA will chair for one more meeting and asked for recommendations of people to serve as chair. Next meeting will be week of June 6th.

f. Report of Water Affinity Committee (LS):

g. Proposal for Transportation Affinity Committee (AA)

6. Report of Committees:
   (PLEASE NOTE written minutes or a report should be submitted to REK and circulated to all steering committee members prior to the meeting if possible)

   a. Membership Committee (LS, JE, AA)

      i. New Applications: Recommend the following as Affiliates:
         1. Nardin Academy
         2. Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
         3. Designing to Live Sustainably
         4. Passed unanimously


7. Report of Working Groups:

   a. Working Groups—Privileges and responsibilities of Chairs

      i. Habitat and Natural Resources (DS)

         1. Will schedule meeting to discuss bylaws in June
         2. Seeking new chair as DS will be resigning by fall. Message was sent to over 50 people but only 9 responded.

      ii. Parks and Recreation (THM)
1. Met and discussed forming a planning process. Had about 8-9 people in attendance.

iii. Energy and Climate Change (REK)
   1. Met bimonthly. Invited member organizations to do meetings around the E&C meetings. Getting about 12 people regularly.
   2. Education sub-committee developing plans and want to submit proposal to larger group.
   3. Next meeting is June 2nd

iv. Pollution and Hazardous Waste (JE)
   1. Suffer from same attendance issues that many others do.
   2. Had conversation about how to make meetings more appealing. Can’t do projects.
   3. Will use the group to develop a group of experts ad leaders who are familiar with member groups’ issues so can go as a team when need to advocate for policy/regulatory change.
   4. Will be presentation on recycling at future meeting and want someone to come in to talk about public health.

v. Urban Regeneration (AA)
   1. Met just prior to last Standing Committee meeting, so notes include in last month minutes.
   2. Much work on vacant land. Developing process that folks on the ground can agree on so will have common voice in going to City Hall.
   3. Meeting again in early June

vi. Environmental Justice (EH)
   1. Meeting later this week.
   2. Working toward common voice on environmental justice.

vii. Food, Gardens, Agriculture (CHAIR)
   1. No liaison yet.
2. Rebekah attended last meeting. They discussed transition from Buffalo Growing to being a Working Group of the Alliance. Three nominations for chair.

viii. Report of Liaisons to Process Groups (LIASON)

1. Issues & Advocacy (IA)

2. Education & Outreach (EO): Youth Connection group introduced REK what they are doing. Ten students from UB, Fredonia, Niagara University. Discussing how to integrate them more into the Alliance. Excited about being involved in Congress planning.

3. Organizational Capacity (OC): Peer group has been continuing.
   a. Executive Directors’ listserv currently has only three individuals on it.
   b. Other list serv is for Urban Regeneration WG.
   c. Would be helpful to have content from WG’s to include in email messages.
   d. Need to get WG’s to use the GrowWNY website for communicating.

8. Old Business
   a. “Branding” of Alliance and Steering Committee
      1. Letterhead
   b. Meeting with Governor Cuomo / Joe Martens / Mark Grisanti
   c. CFGB Green and Health Homes Grant: Had a retreat a two weeks ago. Had 70 in attendance. Moving forward very quickly. Came up with leadership team to manage the process. Working with Attorney General’s office that will be stepping up prosecution of landlords who don’t meet requirements. Matching funding coming in more quickly than expected. NYSERDA is making significant matches. Several Erie County people were at the meeting, showing there was support from leadership. Working to get community compact signed within next three weeks to support the County’s application for additional funds.

9. New Business

10. Adjournment: REK moved to adjourn. 2nd by LS. Meeting adjourned 1:33 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:
June 28, 2011 @ 12 noon

Standing Committee Remaining Scheduled Meeting Dates:

July 26; Aug 23; Sept 27; Oct 27; Nov 22; Dec (No meeting)

Working Group Meetings:

Energy & Climate                      June 2, 2011  4:30 PM
Habitat & Natural Resources
Parks & Recreation
Urban Regeneration
Waste & Pollution
Environmental Justice
Food Gardens and Agriculture