



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TO: John Szerlag, City Manager
John Lamerato, Asst. City Manager, Finance and Administration
Cathleen Russ, Library Director
Carol Anderson, Parks and Recreation Director
Stu Alderman, Recreation Superintendent

FROM: Loraine Campbell, Manager, Troy Museum & Historic Village
Stacey Yankee, Manager, Nature Center

SUBJECT: Organizational Structure: Museum and Nature Center

Background:

Facilities Updates:

Troy Museum & Historic Village

- 15 volunteers have been trained and scheduled to greet patrons, accept admissions, answer questions, and orient visitors. These "Ambassadors" also transact sales in the gift shop.
- Volunteers are working with Loraine Campbell and Anne Nagrant (20 hr part time employee) to develop docent training sessions.
- Troy Garden Club Walk Boutique (prior contract) was held in the Village 7-14-2010 from 9:00am-7:00 pm. 810 shoppers attended the boutique.
- Fall Troy Today copy will include program announcements for 3 afternoon teas, three preschool story hours, three Historical Society lectures, and a War of 1812 commemoration.
- The Troy Historical Society will offer school programs at the museum during public hours of operation (Tuesday-Thursday 10 am-3pm) during the 2010/11 school year. The Society will provide contracted instructor/interpreters and collect program fees following the same procedures established for public programs in 2005.

Troy Nature Center

- Two student interns from the Michigan Works program, paid for by the state, are assisting with summer camp programs and front desk operations from mid-July through mid-August.
- Nature Center staffing, along with Stacey Yankee, consists of two part time city employees that are working 38 hours each week in order to facilitate summer camp programming. One additional part time city employee will also work approximately 15 hours/ week to facilitate Junior Naturalist Club July Weeks.
- Summer camp programs are running as they were scheduled previous to the reduction of public hours of operation; as a result, camps are operating at times that the nature center is closed to the public:
- Outdoor Living Skills Camp and Preschool Earth Explorers Camp have already run at full capacity with waiting lists. (Total attendance for both camps combined is 37 children.)
- Junior Naturalist Club July Weeks running for two weeks in July. (Total attendance of 90 children with 150 parents and children for end of week activities.)
- River Camp is also at full capacity with a waiting list. It is scheduled during the last week of July. (Total attendance of 18 children.)
- Stirring-Up Science Camp will be in the first week of August and has a few remaining spots left. (Total attendance of 33 children.)
- Nine additional summer field trips, ten public programs (Birthday Parties, Yoga, Little Acorns, a Bat Program, etc.) and an Eagle Scout Project have been scheduled for this summer. (Attendance through July 30th is currently at 167 patrons for public programs/field trips and walk-in attendance for July was 468 patrons.) Other summer program offerings consist of walk-in scavenger hunts and naturalist backpack rentals.
- Programs that have been cancelled include the Flea Market at the Farm for this August and the Junior Naturalist Club Program for next school year.
- Fall Nature Center programming will consist of four public programs taught by city employees, a yoga program taught by contracted staff and numerous scout badge days also taught by contracted staff. School field trips and birthday parties will also be offered during open hours of operation. Three Field Trips have already been scheduled for Spring 2011.
- Troy Nature Society has sent their Articles of Incorporation to the state and they have been approved. Their By-Laws will be completed and submitted to the state by the end of the month/early August.

Progress Report - New Operational Structure:

- The Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan (CASEM) has provided one consultant and the Michigan Non-profit Assn. (MN) has provided two contract consultants to work

with our transition team to further explore the Oakland Heritage Alliance discussed at our last meeting. These technical assistants are funded by MN through 7-30-10.

- Our Strategic Alliance grant application is due on July 30, 2010. We will be working hard with our consultants and potential partners to develop a structure, work plan and budget for the Alliance.
- We envision the Oakland Heritage Alliance as a county-wide, public-private strategic alliance including the following partners:
 - Municipal and nonprofit organizations that are owners of heritage sites, land, and facilities and that serve as stewards of these community resources
 - Oakland County
 - An emerging, social entrepreneurial initiative that we have tentatively titled the Great Lakes Legacy Network. With the assistance of our technical consultants, we are currently beginning to explore how this transitional entity might be structured and how it might work with municipalities and nonprofits throughout Oakland County to make our heritage resources sustainable by reducing costs and increasing revenue.
- A meeting with Oakland County staff:
 - Indicated that there is support for the Oakland Heritage Coalition concept
 - Established a core team to further explore the county's potential participation in the grant
 - Indicated that support would most likely take the form of in-kind and support services.

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