

**RIEEA Board Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

Board Members Present: Samantha Polon, Denise Poyer, Nicole Souza, Elisabeth Bux, Rachel Holbert, Rupa Datta, Paul Dolan, Molly Allard, April Alex, Andrea Stein

Other Participants: Jeanine Silversmith (RIEEA Coordinator), Lauren Parmelee, Jen Karow (Zoo), Jackie Selvitschka (NESSA), Kassi Archambault (WRWC), Grania Connolly (STB), Meghan Kelly (STB)

Site: Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Minutes from September 8, 2015 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$7,007.67 are currently in the account. Expenses for the past month include \$840 which were for Jeanine and scholarships. Also two checks recently came in for \$262 from b-Good fundraiser and \$1000 from Westerly Land Trust for Jeanine's work.

Membership Report: Northern RI Conservation District and GEMS-Net are two new organizational members.

Website & Social Media update: (Chair – April Alix)

- April is picking an organization every month to highlight them on our Facebook. Please send any interesting events to April.
- Jeanine had the web developer shutdown database expiration notices to organizations. Jeanine will keep track of when organizations are expiring and have them update.

Professional Development Committee update: (Chair – Andrea Stein)

- All scholarship money has been used for 2015. Six scholarships were awarded for the NEEEA conference.
- Nov. 12 workshop will be put on by DownCity Design for the Flower Show competition for outdoor classrooms.

ELP: (Chair – Shareen Knowlton)

- Still working on RIF proposal. NAAEE just received an NSF grant to do a similar project. We will work with them to coordinate and dovetail our projects.
- Green Ribbon School awards are coming up. Jeanine will start reaching out to RIDE to start the application process.
 - Discussion for another meeting about introducing these awards to other schools to use as a guideline to move towards the criteria.

NEEEA Update:

- Conference in November, focus on climate change
- Need items for RI state basket. Can be dropped off at Prov Children Museum or NBS, ideally next week.

- 2016 Conference will be in CT at Wisdom House
- Awarded a NAAEE grant of \$19,000 capacity grant to develop youth leaders in EE. The idea is to look for already established teams and adult leaders who are doing programs which introduce EE to urban and low income youth. NEEEA will conduct a retreat to gather the team leaders to share their ideas about what they are doing.
- EPA grant, \$81,000, focusing on advancing climate change education:
 - RI will do a spring one day workshop: Building Climate Change Education building off the work we've done with RIDE.
 - RI's sub-grantee is US Green Building Council, RI chapter. They will work on a summary of best practices for climate change education
 - NEEEA conferences in 2015 and 2016 will be bookends to this project
 - Each state will hold different workshops around the region. 1 or 2 from each state org are encouraged to attend.
 - Jeanine will be the project coordinator

2016 Flower Show (Feb 18 to 21, 2016)

- Will give RIEEA \$2500 to do Kids Adventure Zone near the rotunda
- Nicky and Emily George (Zoo) will be in charge of coordinating the 30 minute programs put on by RIEEA organizations for the Kids Adventure Zone
- Sam will be in charge of organizing the mailboxes
 - \$100 charge to RIEEA organizations to display one
 - The Flower Show will contribute \$800
- April will be in charge of play vignettes
 - Lots of activities that are basically hands off (no need to reset)
 - Nothing with dirt or water allowed
- Andrea is working on the Outdoor Classroom contest. Designs will be featured on the main floor.
- Jeanine sent requirements for MOU's from Flower Show. Still waiting to hear.

Organizational

- 2016 Annual Meeting
 - Have it RIC again at January 12 or 19
 - Have a panel of 3 formal teachers and a GEMS-Net rep to discuss how they successfully incorporate EE into their classrooms.
 - Loren created a checklist for Annual Meeting details
 - Molly and Elisabeth will coordinate

Announcements:

- ASRI is offering a Growing Up Wild on Oct. 24
- Jeanine raised over \$100 for RIEEA with an Ava products party
- Partnership for Providence Parks is looking for volunteers who will do workshops on various skill learning

Next meeting – Tuesday, November 10th at The Empowerment Factory (Hope Artiste Village, Pawtucket)