Priory Gardens and Grounds Summit Part 2, May 14, 2014

Summary of the Discussion

The Agenda

What should I be doing over the summer to facilitate the planning process, with the values and vision we shared at the PGG Summit Part 1 in mind? Specifically:

1) Structure. Do we want a committee structure to help bring ideas about the Priory gardens and grounds to the decision-makers? If so, can I work with an ad hoc committee over the summer to develop a committee structure for review at a PGG Summit in the fall?

2) Process. How do we want to help people forward their ideas to the decision-makers? Do we want to develop a proposal process? If so, can I work with an ad hoc committee over the summer to create a sample proposal process so a template can be ready for consideration at a PGG Summit in the fall?

3) Timeline. Does having some ideas forwarded to decision-makers in time to put shovels in the ground by next spring make sense? If so, can I work with an ad hoc committee over the summer to learn more about intermediate deadlines we must consider for discussion at a PGG Summit in the fall?

4) When should we/should we have another meeting with all stakeholders/just those interested in continuing on with the planning process? Will early next fall work? If so, can I work with an ad hoc committee this summer to pick a date and forward an announcement?

Note: I’m willing to serve as the organizer person for now. Depending on the outcome of our discussion regarding item 1, I don’t need to continue in that role. You are not stuck with me.

Note: I am willing to put together a sample proposal process this summer if that’s what we decide we should do and report back to the committee (or whatever structure we decide on) for feedback and revision. Or not if that’s what we decide.

Note: If we like the idea of a timeline that allows us to launch some ideas by next spring (pending approval by the decision-makers of course) we’ll need to set some intermediate dates to check in. I’m willing to produce a sample timeline, identifying what those intermediate steps might be, and report out to the committee (or whatever comes of the discussion of item 1) by the end of the summer.

The Summary of the Discussion

A small (8) but mighty group participated. Katherine Rhoades, Garry Running, Woodrow White, Kate Beaton, Kate Hartsel, Creanna Cotes, Laurel Kieffer.

What We Said:

- About Agenda Item 1
  - Adopt a Committee Structure
    - Refer to it, for now, as the Priory Gardens and Grounds Steering Committee
  - Purpose of the Committee
    - Serve as “idea gatherers” to report to decision-makers (ultimately, that is the Chancellor)
    - Advocate for good ideas presented by stakeholders
    - Help stakeholder people/groups with good ideas find funding (there is no direct Priory funding so external funding, if funding is needed to implement a good idea, will have to be found)
    - Prioritize good ideas, if competing ideas come forward based on evaluation that honors
      - What we said at the Summit
      - Is consistent with the UWEC Centennial Plan
      - Is consistent with the UWEC/Ho-Chunk Partnership Initiative
    - Keep records of Priory gardens and grounds goings on
    - Be responsible for sharing the history of the Priory (reach out to UWEC Public History Program, and other resources for help)
    - Be responsible for communicating ongoing gardens and grounds activities at the Priory, outreach, open communication, opportunities for students, university community, Eau Claire community, and Ho-Chunk partners to participate (reach out to communication and journalism, UWEC News Bureau, and other resources for help)

- About Agenda Item 2
• Adopt a Request for Proposal Procedure to help those stakeholders with good ideas present their good ideas in a manner consistent with what we said at the Summit, the UWEC Centennial Plan, and the UWEC/ Ho-Chunk partnership
• Reach out to UWEC Office of Sponsored Research and Programs for models of Request for Proposal Procedures
• Reach out to resources with landscape/horticultural background to insure the Request for Proposal Procedure addresses appropriate details about the good ideas and the plans to implement them (and fund and sustain them)

• About Agenda Item 3
  o Adopt a time-line that will build in an all stakeholders meeting in mid-September
  o Adopt a time-line that will facilitate shovel-ready good ideas to begin the implementation phase for planting season, spring 2015 pending approval from the Chancellor or his designee

• About Agenda Item 4
  o Hold an all stakeholders meeting in mid-September, 2014
    • Perhaps in conjunction with the Eau Claire Sustainability Fair on Saturday, September 13, 2014
    • To include a walking tour of the Priory grounds for all stakeholders interested in such a tour
    • To include agenda items:
      • Share committee structure models and select one (how many people, who is on it, what is the charge of the committee, how will it operate)
      • Share Request for Proposal Procedure models and select one
      • Share timeline (and information about steps necessary to allow shovel-ready ideas to be implemented by spring 2015)

• About Related Items that came up in the conversation
  o Fostering Community/campus/ HO-Chunk/CVTC/ K-12 collaborations an important value to be nurtured as we move forward
  o Outreach and communication as important values to be nurtured as we move forward
  o Questions about access (who, how, inclusiveness) as an important value to be nurtured as we move forward
  o Think about/ ask stakeholders about things it would be nice to know about the Priory earlier rather than later
  o Perhaps some stakeholders would be interested in visiting the Steven’s Point Research Station where good ideas consistent with the values expressed at the Summit is working (https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/cwes/pages/mission.aspx).
  o Perhaps some stakeholders would be interested in visiting the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University to see how that partnership between a university and it’s American Indian and non-American Indian partners is working (https://www.bemidjistate.edu/airc/).

• Summer to do list to get ready for the Fall 2014 all stakeholders meeting (for Garry Running and anyone he can wrangle into helping him)
  o Prepare, from existing data, a good map of the Priory grounds (showing challenges and opportunities for gardens, eco-paths, permaculture to help people with good ideas consider where on the grounds would be suitable places to implement them
  o Investigate models for how a committee such as the Steering Committee are organized, consult with the Provost about a “charge to the committee”
  o Investigate models for the Request for Proposal Procedures that might be suitable for our purposes
  o Investigate steps that must be taken to make it possible for shovel-ready projects to begin in spring 2015
  o Reach out to UWEC Public History Program
  o Reach out to UWEC Communication and Journalism Program and News Bureau about Priory history-telling, outreach, and public relations
  o Reach out to Troy Terhark about issues of access to the Priory grounds (who can go there, when can they go there, where can they go…)
  o Reach out to local organizations with appropriate expertise to brainstorm about what things about the Priory should we know sooner rather than later like: plants and animal communities inventories (what’s currently present on the grounds), invasive species inventory, anything else stakeholders can think of.