

APHA Environment Section July 20, 2006 Minutes

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Attendance: Pat Elliott, Leyla McCurdy, Rebecca Gluskin, Sarah Kotchian, Leon Vinci, Vince Radke, Allen Dearry, Taylor Anderson, Karen Stillerman, Michelle Gottlieb, Peter Ashley, Derek Shendell, Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, Rebecca Head, Jill Litt, Aditi Vaidya, Andrea Wismann, David Wallinga

I. Intra-sectional collaboration: Food & Nutrition / Environment (Michelle Gottlieb in for David Wallinga)

Michelle provided an overview on opportunities for the Environment Section to collaborate with the Food and Environment section. She identified several ideas including: 1) combine social hours with the Food & Nutrition section on Monday evening; 2) develop an APHA late-breaker session regarding food safety legislation: the 'National Uniformity of Food Act' which preempts approximately 200 state level food safety laws, and has the support of 6 food companies and industry, and was introduced to Senate in May (SB 3128); 3) develop a resolution about how the APHA annual meeting handles the packaging of foods, etc; 4) design the Section's field trip around the built environment and food and invite the Food and Nutrition section to join us on Sunday afternoon. Some ideas included visiting the Boston Food Project site and touring the neighborhood (with an eye towards studying the local food environment) and ending at one of the local hospitals for a roundtable discussion on opportunities to redesign the hospital food environment to include healthy food options. *This latter idea needs a section volunteer to take the lead; Michelle Gottlieb of Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and others have offered to help organize it but would like one person to be the designated lead. Please contact Michelle Gottlieb if you are interested (contact information below).*

The Section also underscored the need to include local food banks in the tour. Members thought that this approach would be a good way to activate this collaboration between sections and would be a great project to integrate youth, community building, local food environment, planning and so forth and re-activate built environment activities for this year's meeting.

Volunteers for the planning of this field trip include Michelle Gottlieb, Aditi Vaidya, Sarah Kotchian, Karen Stillerman, Jill Litt, Derek Shendell, Nsedu Obot-Witherspoon, and Andrea Wismann. Derek suggested we work with F&N Section to include this in their Labor Day newsletter if we decide to move forward with this idea. **Please contact Michelle Gottlieb if you are interested in taking the lead on the planning aspects of the tour or would like to be involved in other capacities.** Her contact information is Michelle Gottlieb, MEM, Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility (GBPSR) 727 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139. 617-497-7440, (617) 216-5658 (home office), 617-876-4277 (fax), psrmabo@igc.org, or mbgottlieb@comcast.net. **Aditi will let us know the available times for the Section tour on Sunday afternoon.**

II. Committee Updates

Program Planning Update (Aditi Vaidya)

1. Aditi reported on some issues with communication regarding accepted and waitlisted abstracts; August and Aditi have been working very hard to solidify the Program and confirm abstracts.

ACTION-Section moderators are needed; please let Aditi know if you are interested and able to moderate (avaidya@sph.emory.edu) by July 28.

ACTION-Jill and Andrea will send this request to the general list.

2. Student Awards and Poster Session

Discussion about which 10-12 posters will be selected as finalists.

At the conference, Jill, Nse, and Derek will review the posters, and awards will be given to the top 10-12 finalists. Also, scholarships will be awarded to all the presenters. In order to facilitate this, the Section is trying to enlist matching funds from schools as was done previously with Texas and Kentucky. Nse has the draft letter that was used and suggested that we identify contacts who could tailor the letter personally so that the schools will give this request more consideration.

ACTION-Nse will finalize letter and send notice to the general membership requesting alumni volunteers.

People on the call that volunteered: Derek: Yale, UCLA, Georgia State, Jill: Hopkins, Rebecca: NYU, Rebecca Head: Michigan, Nse: GW

Nominations/Awards (Leon Vinci)

A speaker for the Calver Lecture has not yet been identified. but several people have been suggested: Paul Epstein, Paul Farmer, Robert Kennedy, Penn Loh the Executive Director of Alternatives for Community and Environment, in Roxbury (<http://www.ace-ej.org/>), Lowell Weicker, former Connecticut Senator, Chair of the Pew Environmental Health Commission, Barry Commoner, and Ms. Chalupka (head of a HUD-funded Healthy Homes Demonstration Project at UMass Lowell).

It was suggested to pick the top three candidates and contact them about availability. **ACTION- Leon will follow up with Jill and Nse about next steps.**

Communications (Derek Shendell)

APHA will send notices to section members asking for submissions before Labor Day; the Newsletter should go out by mid-September. Rebecca Head and Derek will use their connections to gather further contacts for enlisting submissions for the newsletter. This outreach may encourage partnerships, and may in turn help enhance Section membership. **ACTION-Send submissions to Derek before the end of August.**

Policy (Jill)

At the Mid-year meeting Kate Sweeny had met with the Section, and John had requested that the section be included on their advocacy efforts. Specifically, Jill, John, Allen, Nse and Kate spoke after the mid-year meeting and identified

the National Children's Study as an important and time-sensitive issue. Kate developed an action alert targeted to sections that have a stake in this issue. It was sent out to members on July 14 :

<http://www.capwiz.com/apha/issues/alert/?alertid=8652736&type=CO>.

The section is also working with APHA on built environment issues.

Action Item: A follow-up call with the section and APHA is scheduled for July 31 at 1:00 ET. Please contact Jill Litt for call-in information.

Built Environment (Jill)

Peter is taking the lead for the rest of the year with BEI, and will be leading efforts at the conference, which has 3 full sessions. Allen encouraged Peter and Jill to contact people in the area, Polly Hoppin, Ken Geiser at the Toxics Use Reduction Institute in MA (a close contact of Polly and Dick), See discussion of Section tour for more information. Next steps include a call with APHA (Tracy Kolian – see Policy section above).

Membership (Dorothy Stephens)

Membership committee survey: Article finalized and submitted to B.Reck (7/6/06) with the suggestion that perhaps she produce a big article re: the membership efforts of all of the APHA membership committees as per the Mid-Year Meeting. Letters: We will send out an announcement to all new members over the past year, and lists of the lapsed, new and new secondary members are due in mid-July. Fliers are being developed for the New Member Orientation.

Student Involvement (Nsedu Obot Witherspoon)

The Committee hasn't had a meeting since the last call as most students are working or on internships over the summer. Becky is interested in assisting with the Section Field Trip planning and fundraising for student scholarships. Announcements regarding the student awards will be made at the end of August.

III. Other business

The Strategic Plan will be discussed on the next call.

Next Call is scheduled for 3 pm, EST, Aug 18, 2006