



Education Work Group Report September 26, 2016

TO: Susan Summers, Chair

FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Peter G. Conrad, Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Progress Report

DATE: September 26, 2016

Since the last workgroup report in July 2016, the Education Work Group held two regular meetings on August 2 and September 6th and is working on the following projects:

1. Reinvest Maryland

The Education Work Group has completed its Phase I outreach to organizations with existing, relevant educational programs. Phase I Interviews have been completed with 18 organizations being reached. Several organizations have expressed interest in collaborating with this effort. Following our meeting with adult education experts from CCBC Catonsville to discuss possible collaboration, Planning staff met with the Penny Yung of CCBC to better understand the process of developing adult education curriculum.

2. Children in Nature Initiative

DNR and Planning staff have continued a series of meetings on this initiative. The program takes a holistic approach to looking at ways to encourage, support and program increased outdoor experiences for children. DNR will be looking to engage state agencies as partners in this initiative. DNR submitted a proposal to the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association to host a facilitated discussion about incorporating nature access into local planning efforts.

3. Sustainable Growth Challenge

With the 2015 -2016 SGC now completed we are preparing for the Fall. Planning prepared and distributed a second announcement for the 2016-2017 Challenge on September 7th to our mailing list. We will follow up this recent blast with calls to the various professors.

The timeframe for the 2016-2017 SGC is:

1. Summer 2016 – Outreach to professors (through normal channels, as well as more targeted, personal outreach)
2. September 2016 – Deadline for commitments to participate in the challenge
3. October – November 2016 – Work Group members visit classes to discuss Reinvest Maryland and provide early feedback on proposed projects
4. December 2016 – Deadline for submissions
5. December - January 2016 – Review of submissions and invitations to present
6. January 2016 – Presentations to panel
7. To Be Determined – Awards ceremony