

**Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows  
Steering Committee  
April 14, 2009  
Approved 5/19/09**

Present: David White, Sandra Ruggiero, John Bartenstein, Don Miller.  
Guests: Sandy Vorce, Felipe Ortiz, Sarah Kinne

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meetings were not dealt with.

Next Meeting: A tentative meeting date was selected, *but subsequently changed to adjust to members' schedules.*

**Sculpture Proposal:** Felipe Ortiz and Sarah Kinne, both current students at Mass Art, attended the meeting to describe their proposed three-dimensional, bio-degradable art project which they would like to place for a period of time (one to two months) in an upland location of Arlington's Great Meadows. Preparation for it would begin in September. Felipe is from Colombia, and he has a long association with both the United States and Waldorf schools. He attended one Waldorf elementary school in Colombia, another in Pennsylvania, and Waldorf High School in Lexington. He is a former student of Sandra's.

Felipe and Sarah have applied (to other sources) for a grant to create a bio-degradable sculpture depicting seven species of birds which migrate from his native land to our area and back each year. Having attended high school next to AGM, he is very fond of it and would like the sculpture to be placed there. In addition, an identical work of art will be placed in Valle del Cauca, Colombia. The art will recognize seven endangered species of birds which migrate from Colombia to Massachusetts and back each year.

The work of art will be in the form of a "yurt", a type of movable residential structure used by nomadic peoples in Asia. It will be about 18 feet in diameter and about six feet high. The structural poles will be installed a foot into the ground, and the shape of the yurt will help to prevent wind damage. Persons visiting the work of art will walk through it to see paintings of the seven bird species done by school children ages three through eight years up through high school. Felipe and Sarah would work with the students to help them with painting. Felipe has met with Waldorf school faculty and received a positive response. Sarah has contacted a Montessori School. Working with public schools would take longer to receive approval.

The greatest concern of Steering Committee members was the significant risk of vandalism to the art work. An SC member suggested having it up for only one week in the fall to reduce the risk of vandalism. Sarah suggested perhaps a week in the fall, then bring it back for two weeks in the spring. Vandalism would be heartbreaking to the children whose paintings were in the project, the students said.

The possibility was raised of locating the art structure at Mass Audubon's visual arts sanctuary in Canton, MA. The Mass Audubon properties of Drumlin Farm and Habitat were also suggested. Placing it at any of these sites could bring people to the sanctuaries and greatly reduce the risk of vandalism.

Felipe and Sarah left a copy of each of two project synopses for the committee. They expressed their thanks for the opportunity to present their proposal. No final conclusion was reached at this meeting.

**Nature Programs for Children.** Various ideas were suggested, including non-gathering scavenger hunts and more traditional nature walks. Meg Muckenhoupt. was suggested as a source of ideas. Sandra R. and Sandy V. might both be able to lead programs, but not in the near future because of busy schedules. **Don** will contact Lollie Bennett as a potential leader. The age of children to be invited was discussed. Four-to-nine years was the consensus, with the thought that nine-year-olds could help the younger children and have fun themselves. It was agreed that FoAGM should plan one children's activity as a pilot project.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Miller