



eeac

NEWSLETTER

MID-SPRING EDITION/ 1988

AS POGO ONCE SAID, WE IS FACED WITH

UNSURMOUNTABLE OPPORTUNITY !!

ALL EEAC MEMBERS

SAVE JUNE 15!

For an important membership meeting
FROM 4 TO 8 PM IN ROOM 610
AT 51 CHAMBERS STREET, MANHATTAN

● See Open Space For Environmental Education, a presentation by Tom Fox, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition.

● Enjoy--free of charge--A Spring Salad and Sandwich Supper.

● Discuss EEAC's proposed objective which would encourage the preservation of environmental education sites near schools. Do you favor this as an EEAC objective? If so, how would you accomplish it?

SPACE IS LIMITED -- MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW BY LEAVING A MESSAGE FOR SAM HOLMES AT 718-259-3037.

Dear EEAC Friends,

This is your somewhat dazed chairman, Sam Holmes . . . somewhat dazed because there is so much that could be done to advance ee in NYC, and so little energy and time to do it.

For that reason, I urge you to do two things:

1) Fill out the Delphic goals questionnaire in this newsletter. (I'll try to explain Delphic a little later.)

After you've done that, take a look at the DRAFT goals and objectives that were formulated last winter by an EEAC Goals Committee. If you like some of them, see if they will change your Delphic questionnaire.

Then send in your Delphic and your comments on the DRAFT goals and objectives. This is important, because if our energy is limited, we want to focus it on our most useful goals. We'll do that most effectively if our total membership takes part in the goal-setting process. Send in by June 10.

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2) Read the "SAVE JUNE 15!" advertisement on the first page of this newsletter, and phone in your reservation.

One of the most useful things we could do, I think, is the Current Objective under Goal #7 -- "encourage preservation of sites near schools which may be used for gardening, planting of trees and plants that feed wildlife, and natural science explorations."

Every child does deserve "an opportunity to work with growing plants, just as he or she deserves a chance to draw books from the school library."

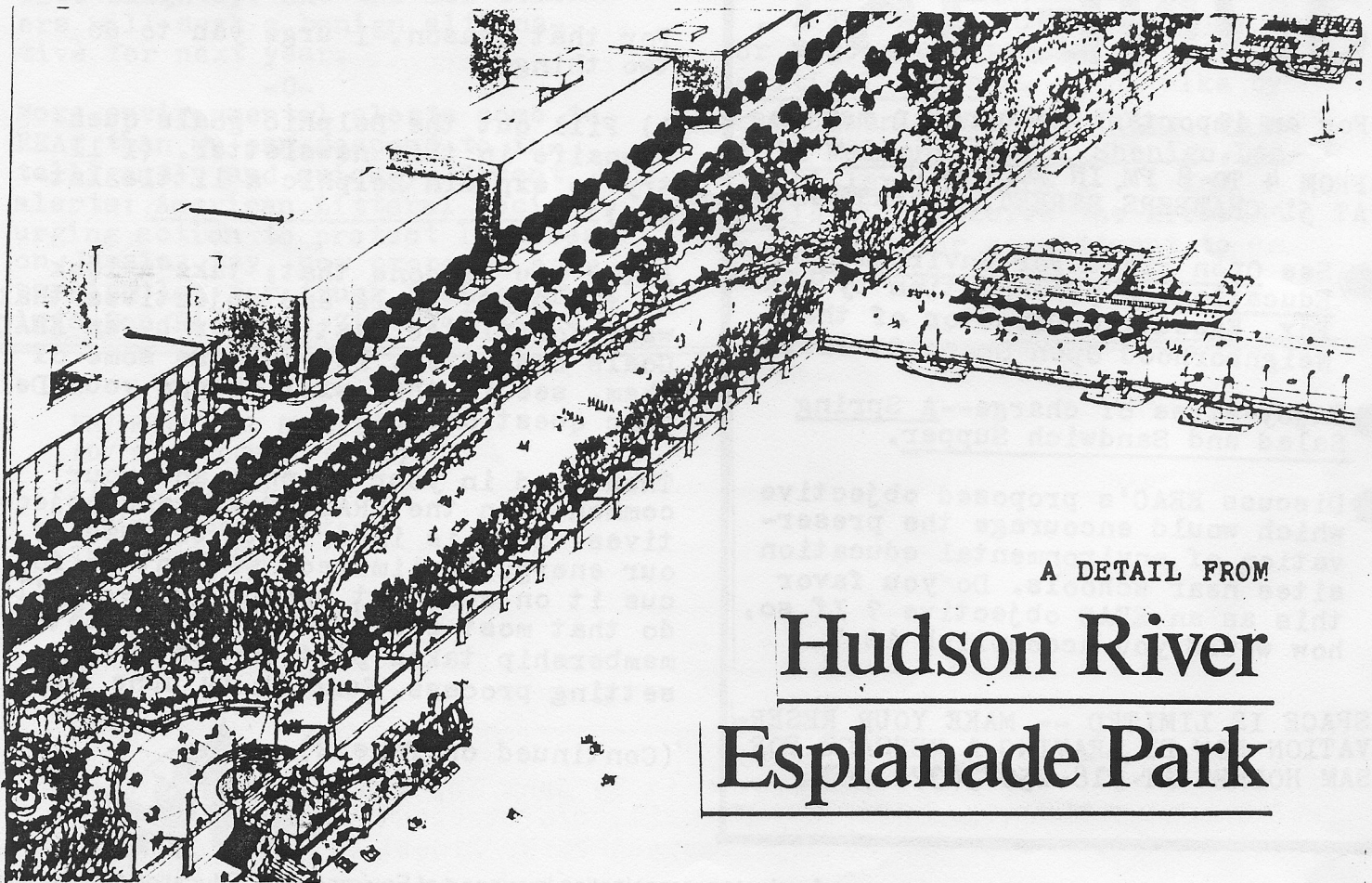
But carrying out the above objective would not be easy. On my desk right now are three proposals that might be steps toward that objective, and they illustrate some of the difficulties. Here are the proposals:

1) The Parks Council's preliminary proposal for a 65-acre Esplanade Park along the Hudson, between Battery Park City and 45th Street.

The Proposal suggests that there might be a small botanical garden, a museum of Hudson history, an aquarium and several community gardens, as well as landscaping and dozens of recreational features.

But the words "education" and "environmental education" are not used and there is no attempt to relate the park to West Side schools.

This is not to blame the Parks Council, or to say that the main theme of the park should be environmental education. It is to say that it would be desirable if we could be in there before the final plans are made, saying something like:



A DETAIL FROM

Hudson River Esplanade Park

gardening, planting of trees and plants that feed wildlife, and for natural science exploration. Every child deserves an opportunity to work with growing plants, just as he or she deserves a chance to draw books from the school library.

Current objective: To encourage preservation of historic structures accessible to schools, and programs which interpret the historic and built environment.

8) To help schools to build effective relationships with surrounding neighborhoods.

Current objective: To provide schools which are being kept open after school hours with information about the programs of EEAC members, and to explore the possibility that our members may be

able to assist with after-school programming.

9) To increase the effectiveness of EEAC by incrementally widening the scope of membership and increasing the number of members.

Current objective: To conduct a series of membership drives aimed at former members, educational groups, open space/garden related groups, environmental groups that are not now members, historical societies, college faculties, private schools.

Current objective: To explore the idea of having several types of membership in EEAC, with the individual rate at \$15; institutional membership at \$25, and possibly a \$10 student membership.

ROUND ONE -- DELPHIC PROCESS

To set an agenda for the next two years and possibly beyond, (with thanks to Jack Padalino of PEEC for sharing the process.)

1) Complete the sentence starting with the word supplied for each of the first four items. You may supply the word for the last item if you so desire.

2) Complete the sentence in ten words or less, with a goal that you consider important to EEAC.

3) Do not state more than five goals or fewer than two goals.

4) Each statement should be specific and not a generality.

5) The statement should deal with what should be accomplished and not why or how something should be accomplished.

To improve the quality of environmental education, EEAC's effort and energy should be expended to:

- I. Increase _____
- II. Decrease _____
- III. Promote _____
- IV. Develop _____
- V. () _____

Please complete this form and return it by June 10, 1988 to Sam Holmes, Environmental Education Advisory Council, c/o Prospect Park Environmental Center, The Tennis House, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11215.

EEAC NEWS...

Thanks to all who wrote letters supporting the Museum Educational Services Aid Bill. Not funded in the State Budget, but its sponsors are not giving up. We'll hear more about prospects soon from Assembly Speaker Mel Miller.

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EEAC's Legislative Committee and other environmentalists will meet May 17 with Roy Torkelson, Dep. Commr., State Dept. of Environmental Conservation and Regional Administrator Carol Ash. We'll try to get a fairer share of DEC's forestry and environmental ed staff for NYC, and urge early acquisition of NYC camping sites under the Environmental Quality Bond Act.

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We were among many groups which expressed concern about a Natl. Science Teachers Assn. program to have students release 300,000 helium balloons to learn about air currents. Sea turtles have been swallowing them when they drop in to the ocean. Program was modified slightly, and the Sci Teachers will seek a benign alternative for next year.

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More environmental alerts come to EEAC than we can respond to intelligently and quickly. Recent alerts: American Littoral Society, urging action to protect 10 acres on Jamaica Bay, now proposed as a parking lot for truck bodies (for info: Don Riepe at 718-634-6467.)

... Staten Island Greenbelt Stewardship Cncl., opposing excessive development of the Farm Colony site (info: Dick Buegler, 718 -761-7496.) ... and PPEC received acid rain materials from the Canadian Consulate, with suggestion that "measures taken locally . . . will help" Such issues may affect -- or be useful for-- environmental education. Should be have an Issues Response Committee ?

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Good news . . . Elliott Blaustein is recovering nicely from his operation; he and Rose send thanks to all who expressed concern . . . An inspiring success story was celebrated in May when Prospect Park Environmental Center had its 10th Birthday Party at a benefit performance of the Big Apple Circus. Starting as a table in John Muir's living room, PPEC has grown to serve 26,000 children a year. . . John got an Environmental Quality Award from Federal EPA on Earth Day. . . Editorial in NY Times May 7 praised Mike Zamm's program for "training more than 5,000 students in advocacy for the environment" . . . Thanks to Mike and Nancy Wolf for a good program Apr. 30 on The Political Process, with talks by Councilman Sheldon Leffler, Patricia Mallone, Carol Shenigo, Lenore Miller and Zamm . . . Ken Kowald will receive the Kirschenbaum Award for commitment to ee May 20 . . .

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL (EEAC)

c/o Prospect Park
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