

XXX Project Log

3/13/07

I am excited to do this project. Today we heard all of the different project proposals. I really want to do the one about Fisher Farm Park, mainly because it is my favorite place around here and also because I think it most closely lines up ethnography and anthropology – something that really interests me. I also think that the farming bit relates to my interest in sustainable lifestyles and culture. My second choice is the church project. I think that project is cool, too, but the task seems really daunting and not as interesting. The idea of a 6 person group also seems overwhelming. A four person group is big, but not huge, so I definitely think that with good communication things can go well.

3/14/07

Today we found out which projects we have and who is in our group. I'm with XX and XX, which is really great. They both seem easy to work with and capable and I think will be a good counter to my tendency to get antsy about group projects. XX is a good balance for me, especially, since he is a big picture person and I like to make sure all of the details are squared away.

3/15/07

Today we met in class with our groups and talked a bit more about collaboration and listening and how important those are. I need to be more focused on listening to everyone in a group rather than just coming in to get a job done. I think that especially since I've been so busy this semester, I don't want to waste time in unproductive meetings so I tend to take control in order to get all of the information I need in the most effective way. After the readings for class today and meeting with our group, I've realized that's what I've been doing and I'll work on that during this project. I'm also glad that we worked out a collaboration agreement because I think that will really help us think about these issues throughout the class.

XX, XX and I met during class today to decide about some dates for us to miss. With the Costa Ricans in town next week, my schedule is pretty crazy, but luckily, XX and XX are also going to be out of town this weekend so at least I'm not the only group member who's having a hard time finding a time to meet. We blocked off 6 times for next week: 2 to work on the proposal and 4 possible meeting times with Steve Fraher. Whatever times Steve can't meet, we're going to go out to Fisher Farm to take pictures and get a lay of the land. We also agreed to meet at 8 tonight in the library. XX emailed Steve Fraher after class to see when he could meet next week. Since he's out of town until Monday, he might not get our email, but I think that our group is flexible enough to adapt.

We met at 8 for about half an hour to figure out a little bit more about what we wanted to do. We set up a rough timeline that we'll edit when we talk to Steve, and roughly divided up the job responsibilities. XX's doing the history with Jan Blodgett, XX is doing the information with the town, and I'm doing the information with the Fisher brothers. We're not totally doing the researching on our own – for instance, XX will always meet with the town officials but either XX or I will join him. We're going to try

to have two people at each interview. After what Dr. Campbell said today about the Fisher brothers being difficult to interview, I'm a little anxious about having that part of the project, but I'm sure it will work out fine.

I was so relieved by this group meeting. XX and XX are really laid back, and we're all on the same page. Everybody seems to be getting along, and I think we can communicate well together.

3/19/07

We met with Steve Fraher today for about 45 minutes to talk about our project. At first it was a little awkward, because we didn't really know what to ask him and he didn't really know what was said at the class presentation, but he gave us a good understanding of where we should be going with this project and what our final should be like. He also gave us a lot of information that we can use to study the relationship between the town and the green space. XX is in charge of that part of the project, so he's holding on to the master plan for the space and a huge binder of a project proposal that the town wrote for Fisher Farm Park. XX, XX and I started to take notes, but I decided that at least 1 of us should be keeping eye contact with him so I stopped taking notes so that he would have somebody at which to look. Today was the first day of summer camp registration, so they were slammed with questions from parents regarding their child's application process. I felt silly when we asked Mr. Fraher how to get in touch with the Fisher brothers, and he replied (and I think thought our question was really obvious) that they were in the phone book. I totally forgot that phone books exist – I haven't opened one since I've been at Davidson. That was a really telling moment about the generation gap, one that I think we have to keep in mind as we're writing this booklet.

After meeting with Steve, we decided that we would still meet tomorrow to go out and see Fisher Farm Park. I think it will be really helpful to see the park so that XX and XX can get an idea of what the space is like and how big it is. XX and I discovered that we were both juniors today – we each thought the other was a senior. It was a funny discovery.

3/20/07

Today, we met to go out to Fisher Farm Park for a while and stroll around. It was really nice to be out there and see the place. I also think that it benefited XX and XX to see what the space looked like so that we can write and interview people about it. We didn't bring the camera, because today was more like a scouting mission. We'll make another walk in the future, though, that will include photography.

After we got back from the walk and had class, we met to discuss the next stages of the project. XX and I learned the hard way after the last project that it's too difficult for three people to try to write together, so XX is going to type up the what, who, when of the project and I'm going to type up the nuts and bolts of the project. XX is going to be the editor and will also work on the timeline. We decided that we didn't actually need to meet tonight to work on the proposal, but each person is going to email their part of the proposal to the others by 9am. Then, we'll edit and consolidate and start working from a rough draft of the proposal. I wrote my part of the proposal quickly today, in about 30 minutes. I think part of the reason it's so short (1/2 page) is because I'm unsure as to