

MINUTES

Sustainability Committee Meeting

February 13, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 406

Welcome & Minutes

- Sandy Bauman, Chairman of the committee called the meeting to order.
 - New members Gina Wolf, 2nd year PT student introduced herself.
 - A motion was made by Sallie Spotanski to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and Brent Shell seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
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Announcements

- Blue Zones kick off is February 21st. Blue Zones is a movement that makes healthy choices easier in Fort Worth. It encompasses 9 areas such as exercise, stress reduction, faith based activities, healthy eating, etc. Members are encouraged to attend since the Blue Zones project is directly related to sustainability.
 - Water station updates – 2 new water stations are being installed. One is in the RES building, 2nd floor (funded by Student Affairs), and the other one is in the MET building 4th floor (funded by the Sustainability Committee). Installation is underway.
 - Community Garden update – We will add 9 plots to the garden on February 21st, for a total number of 25 plots. This year, 5 plots will be managed by community members. Twenty Five percent of the yield gets donated to the community. Planting day is Saturday March 21st and Texas AgriLife Extension Tarrant County will be coming to do a presentation on how to grow tomatoes and how to maximize space. All are invited to attend. It was also clarified that for plots that are owned by groups, especially student groups, once the main contact graduates, another contact needs to be submitted to Sandy. Groups can pass down the plot to new members, but a new contact needs to be submitted so that the plot is kept in use.
 - Transportation update – Sandy presented the results of the transportation survey. The office created an infographic to present the results. One important component of the report is that sustainable suggestions were included. If anyone would like a copy of the report, email Sandy.
 - Charging station update- A charging station will be placed in lot 2. The university still has to figure out how to charge those who use the station. One possibility is by membership, such as the charging stations at Walgreens. We know of two electric vehicles on campus.
 - Vanpool update – Due to low ridership, the Denton/North Fort Worth Vanpool is in jeopardy. More marketing will be taking place so that the service is not taken away. We will continue to recruit riders.
 - Cowtown cleanup – The Cowtown cleanup is taking place March 28th. UNTHSC will again have a group this year, and student organizations are encouraged to participate. Let Sandy know by March 12 your t-shirt size if you'd like to join in.
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Subcommittee Updates

- Community Garden: See above for an update (included in announcements).
 - Campus Outreach: This group is continuing to work on the Green Labs Certification. The group has not met in a while, but will continue soon.
 - Recycling: This group is planning on engaging the custodial staff more by having a meeting/celebration with them. They will continue working on this project this semester.
 - Energy: Water usage has gone down on campus, and we are saving a considerable amount of energy that comes back as monetary savings to the university. This group met with the energy manager on campus to see what is being done.
 - Bylaws: Only meets if necessary, so they haven't met this term.
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Earth Day Event Funding Proposal

- An overview of Earth Day was given and past activities. The purpose of Earth Day is education, motivation, inspiration and exposure to new ideas. This year's Earth Day will take place April 23rd, 11-2 pm in the MET building. There will be booths, food demos, organ tissue donation, a light lunch (not strictly vegetarian), giveaways, photo contest, Nissan Leaf test drives, free e-waste, document shredding, and drug take back to name a few. The committee will meet next week to decide on passport use, food demos, and the test drive to be finalized. Another idea was to have a veggie van.
 - Budget – A motion to approve the budget for Earth Day was made by Sallie Spotanski and seconded by Debbie Murray. We accepted up to \$8000 for expenses.
 - Brent Shell and the GSBS students expressed interest in sponsoring a part of the event.
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New Business:

- Moped/Scooter parking: Gina mentioned that parking for mopeds/scooters should be given on campus in preferred spots. She also suggested that we work with a local business to provide discounts for students.
 - Parking is provided under the general motorcycle parking. We would need to identify a business to see about providing discounts for our students.
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Housekeeping

- Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next meetings will be on April 16th at noon in EAD 514.