

Sustainability Committee Meeting

January 28, 2021

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Business

- Sandy called the meeting to order. Since no new members were present, we didn't have any introductions.
 - For the minutes for the previous meeting, Dr. Derek Schreihofer motioned to accept them and Dr. Bruce Budowle seconded. The minutes were accepted by all present members.
 - Social Media: Just a reminder to like/follow us on Facebook and Instagram @sustainable_UNTHSC. Please tell others in your work and school circles as well. Also remember our website address is unthsc.edu/sustainability
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Announcements

- Subsidized Transit Pass Update: Fourteen passes have been sold as of January with 50% of the persons being students. Subsidized passes can be purchased throughout the year.
 - Possible Solar Project: Sandy gave an update to the committee that we are considering a solar project on a small scale. We have a surplus in the sustainability budget that we are wanting to use. We are evaluating the feasibility and cost in a surface parking lot (Lot 7 or 19) or on top of the East Parking Garage. We discussed the benefits of options such as the parking garage being perhaps a better option since nothing else will be built on top of it. However, the garage is a more expensive option with longer payback time. Derek brought up the possibility of vertical green walls or living roofs and those are options as well with these funds.
 - Sustainability in the Campus Labs Update: Freezer monitors were installed in December but we're waiting on a final PO to go through before the monitoring is turned over to the PIs. We also still plan to put out the Best Practice Brochure by this spring.
 - Coffee Cup Signs Up in Library: Sandy installed the coffee cup signs in the Library landfill receptacles to help with coffee cup contamination per Brittney Handoko's idea. If other signs are needed around campus, let Sandy know.
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Subcommittee Updates

- HSC Community Garden – Celina gave a garden update. We had a great year in 2020, and are looking to up the donations in 2021. We have a few plots open if anyone is interested.
 - LEAP Subcommittee – No update. We'll meet in February.
 - Education Subcommittee –Lorraine, Ellie and Sandy met in early January to discuss options and the direction of the subcommittee. Our purpose is to provide sustainability education to our HSC community as well as the larger Fort Worth Community such as in K-12 classrooms. We provided focus areas and topics for FWISD's Environmental Awareness campaign as part of a larger partnership with them and HSC. Raghu brought up efforts on our own campus and we had a discussion about getting people to care about sustainability. We talked about peer to peer influence, meeting people with common goals, and continuing to educate people about issues with the environment and as it relates to human health.
 - Earth Day Planning – See below.
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Virtual Earth Day – Budget Vote

- About the Event: We'll be doing a virtual platform April 12th through 30th. There will be a giveaway for completing steps (committee still working on the specifics). We'll have 4 live sessions, on-demand videos, and a plant-based eating challenge. No in person events including the e-waste recycling will be allowed at this time.
- Giveaway: The giveaway will be a Klean Kanteen water bottle with the new logo and sustainability design. Klean Kanteen is a Certified B Corporation, donates profits to fighting climate change, is Climate Neutral Certified and a Family

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- owned business. Our goal is that this would be a lifetime product for the participants.
 - Live Sessions: The 4 live sessions are as follows:
 1. Sustainable periods – The Dot (<https://dotforall.com/>) and Dr. Raines Milenkov from Healthy Start will help us do a session on sustainable menstruation. We hope to offer menstrual cups in the student pantry as well.
 2. Cooking – basic cooking skills (reduced packaged food, healthier, cheaper) tied in with plant-based eating and its benefit for our health, the environment and our wallets.
 3. Healthcare Without Harm or Practice GreenHealth
 4. Sustainable Pets or Greening Your Closet
 - On Demand Videos: We'll have 4 categories with 4 videos in each category. They include:
 1. Food & Gardening
 2. Lifestyle, Health & Kids
 3. Reduce – Reuse – Recycle
 4. At HSC
 - Budget: We discussed the proposed budget of \$8000 for water bottles, graphic design needs, and Dot Cups. There was no discussion and all members present approved.
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Comments & Suggestions

- Celina asked if the content for Earth Day can be shared outside our own campus. Yes, the material will be free access. The giveaway will only be for current employees and students though.
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Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next meeting will Thursday, April 1st at noon via Zoom.