

# MINUTES

## Sustainability Committee Meeting

December 6, 2017

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 524

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### Welcome & Minutes Approval

- Sandy Bauman, Sustainability Coordinator, called the meeting to order.
  - Minutes Approval: Minutes from the previous meeting were sent prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Rachael Mobley to approve the minutes, and Flora Park seconded the motion. The vote carried and the minutes were approved.
  - New members: All new members introduced themselves.
  - Brief Review of Last Meeting: We briefly went over what was discussed last meeting and about the committee.
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### Announcements

- Food Day Recap: In celebration of Food Day on October 24<sup>th</sup>, we partnered with the Tarrant Area Food Bank to host a class on local food. It was a success and had about 50 people attend. We talked about how to eat locally and sustainability and what that really means.
- Transit 101 – This is a lunchtime event where we teach people to ride public transit. We did it again in October and had 10 people participate. We'll consider doing this again next year.
  - Raghu asked if public transit in Fort Worth was offering better, more frequent service. Sandy explained how they underwent a master planning process and are starting to offer more services. The TexRail, a commuter line from DFW airport to Fort Worth will be coming in 2018.
- 2018 EasyRide Pass Update – We sold 15 passes (47% students) and the committee contributed \$7,200. Users contributed \$3,600.
- Spooky Science is Fun – Best Place For All Halloween Cake Contest – We participated and did a cake talking about the impacts of pollution on our health. The cake won 1<sup>st</sup> Place People's Choice Award! A big congratulations and thanks for all the hard work to Kim Williams and Taylor Gray.
- Sustainability Awards – Facilities won the Facility Maintenance Decisions Achievement Award in Sustainability for 2017 for our energy savings and sustainability work, and Sandy traveled to Orlando to accept the award. We also were awarded the Outstanding Effort in Initiative Award from Air North Texas for 2017. Sandy accepted the award at the NCTCOG meeting in November.
- Greeting Card Upcycling: Accepting cards now through Jan. 31st – A company in Fort Worth takes products that would have been throw away or recycled and gives them new life in classrooms throughout the city. We are now accepting all types of greeting cards (both used and unused) to donate to the organization for upcycling. We had formerly donated greeting cards to St. Jude's Research but they discontinued that program.
- Transit 101 – This is a lunchtime event where we teach people to ride public transit. We'll be doing it again on October 20<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups will be in the Daily News and Sustainability newsletter soon.
- Week of Service: UNTHSC's Week of Service will be March 19-24<sup>th</sup>. We will organize the Cowtown Cleanup on that Saturday and a garden work day. If your organization or department would like to plan something, please start thinking about what you'd like to do.
- UNTHSC's Master Plan – The Master Plan is currently underway. Feedback sessions will occur in January and a website is coming soon. Please make plans to attend and show your support for sustainability on campus!
- Remote Work for Staff: The Best Place For All Committee is working on alternative work schedules and launched the flexible work schedule option earlier this year. Currently, plans for a Remote Work Policy are underway. The committee also planned and conducted informational sessions on technology to help employees work remotely. If you're interested in learning more, contact Sandy. Remote work and flexible schedules are a positive step in reducing parking burden on campus, traffic congestion, and even space issues.

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## Subcommittees

- Community Garden: The garden is completing its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and doing well! We donated just over 480lbs. to NICA and the student pantry in 2017. We recently had several mini-work days and plan to do more in February. Plots are available if people are interested.
- LEAP Program: We have taken 8 labs through the orientation process, and so far 6 labs are certified. We are also advertising financial assistance for freezer upgrades to more efficient models. The ULT Freezer is also out on campus helping labs clean up freezers. Furthermore, replaced 3 freezers on campus with a more efficient model. Our goal for the 2017-2018 year will be to certify 10 labs. We are looking to do a 2.0 version to improve the program and get more participation.
- Subcommittee Signups: Based on feedback from the last meeting, we will have 3 subcommittees this year. Please let Sandy know soon what you would like to serve on. They are as follows:
  - Earth Day Planning – We are tentatively planning the event on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Sandy is expecting and due April 24<sup>th</sup>, so we're planning the event a little early. While the co-chairs and volunteers are more than capable of putting on the big event, we've decided to scale it down a little this year. The event will be very interactive and still have lots of giveaways.
  - LEAP Subcommittee – We'll be looking at how we can monitor freezers and make the program better.
  - RRR Subcommittee – This committee will focus on reduce-reuse-recycling on campus. The committee decided to have its first project focus on reducing waste of catered lunches on campus. Ashley Ngo talked about the waste from lunches and asked what we can do. This subcommittee will look at working with Four Star and beyond to offer more eco-friendly catered lunches.

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## Comments & Suggestions

- Raghu asked about EV charging on campus. We added Level II chargers in the garage in place of the 120V outlets. In addition, users will be charged an hourly rate instead of purchasing a permit. See more here: <https://www.unthsc.edu/operations/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/Electric-Vehicle-Charging-at-UNTHSC-17-18.pdf>
- Cheryell asked about recycling bins in MET 510 and 520. Sandy will check it out and report back.

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## Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 12:45 pm. The next meeting is in February then April (times TBD).