

Sustainability Committee Meeting

July 16, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1 p.m. Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

About the Committee & Committee Business

- Sandy Bauman, Sustainability Coordinator, called the meeting to order.
 - Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were sent prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Derek Schreihofner to approve the minutes, and Denise Inman seconded the motion. The vote carried and the minutes were approved.
 - Margarit Delaney, PA Student Representative, introduced herself since she is new to the committee.
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Announcements

- Virtual Earth Day Summary– Sandy summarized the Virtual Earth Day results. We had 50 submissions, 10 recycling quiz completions, designed new resources (Eco-Activities with Kids, History of Earth Day & Connection to Health, Supporting Local Food), had 6 upcycle submissions with 125 votes, collected 1,657 lbs and raised \$165.70 for student group Environmental Conservation Interest Group, harvested 25 lbs of food from the garden (with other pantry items), had 8 new likes on Facebook, 11 new Instagram followers, and 10 new subscribers to the newsletter. We discussed why we think participation was low and our best answer is that it was at the beginning of lockdown when things were so uncertain.
 - Torched Apron/Four Star Café Update – We are continuing to work with the cafes on campus to switch the over to eco-friendly service ware. However, they are not operating normal hours nor are they seeing much business. We will purchase some items for them temporarily until we can make a full transition.
 - Freezer Replacement/Monitoring: The freezer replacement program was temporarily put on hold but will be done in the fall. In addition, Facilities will be purchasing campus-wide freezer monitoring program. The committee discussed options and gave feedback including how a program would be good to potentially attract more companies to HSC to rent our space as well as be beneficial to our campus users. Feedback was given on different programs and caution expressed with annual costs on labs.
 - Student/Employee Sustainability Guide: We redesigned the student and employee sustainability guides. They can be found here: [Student Guide](#), [Employee Guide](#)
 - Monthly Challenges: In order to engage people virtually, we started a new initiative of Monthly Sustainability Challenges. We had 58 people sign up in June and 78 in July. The August Challenge will center on air quality and other ideas include climate impacts of COVID-19, energy savings, fast fashion/secondhand clothing, paper reduction, conscious consumer, raising kids the eco-way, climate change, sustainable eating, food waste, and gardening. If you'd like to help with these challenges, let Sandy know. During the meeting we discussed solar panels, renewable energy credits, Green Mountain energy, etc. Members suggested we have some emphasis on home energy use with options.
 - Clean Air Action Day (CAAD): CAAD is on August 5th this year (usually it's in June), and it is a day North Texans are called to take action for cleaner air. The August Monthly Challenge will feature CAAD.
 - America Recycles Day/E-Waste Event: Due to the pandemic, we postponed the e-waste event. The committee discussed the possibility of having the event in November around America Recycles Day (November 15). We decided to do it even though many are not on campus. We'll open it up to the community and give people plenty of notice.
 - KFWB Litter Supplies: If you're looking for a service opportunity that you can do socially distant and outside, Keep Fort Worth Beautiful provides litter clean-up supplies. Request supplies by clicking <http://fortworthtexas.gov/kfwb/litter/>
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Subcommittee Updates

- Community Garden: Celina gave an update on the garden. The brochure was updated, the garden is still full with a waiting list, and we continue to do food donations. She also mentioned Tarrant Area Food Bank's Dig Deep Conference

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- which is a local conference for growers. Celina has a talk on Food as Activism.
 - Lab Efficiency Action Program (LEAP): We have not met recently but LEAP is still able to award funds. Sandy is looking at updating the program, and she is working on a draft of best practices.
 - RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Subcommittee – This subcommittee is still focusing on what we can do remotely. A Sustainability Tip of the Week is going up on social media and will be in the Daily News soon. Derek mentioned using apps to track what you recycle, reuse, etc. Perhaps we can look at apps and have a competition. Let Sandy know if you are aware of any apps.
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Committee Business

- We reviewed our 2019-2020 accomplishments which includes awarding 8 labs in the LEAP program, engaging 300 people at the Service Expo and tripling our Instagram followers, selling 15 e-passes, hosting Global Entrepreneurship Week event on Sustainability in Health Care with 48 attendees, making recycling program changes, HSC Community Garden 5 year anniversary celebration, hosting Virtual Earth Day, supporting FW Bike Share financially, advertising The Dash, Monthly Challenges, and working with the cafes to get to compostable service ware.
 - If you would like to renew for the next term and even if you are not renewing, please let Sandy know by August 15th.
 - Sustainability has a role to play in pursuing racial justice. Sandy encouraged all members to think about ideas on our role. The committee discussed addressing some of the roots of the issues such as food insecurity and economics, and we talked about making sure these issues are addressed in our programming.
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Suggestions/Comments

- Bikes were brought up, and Sandy explained the FW Bike Share program.
 - Bruce mentioned making sure people are better aware of sustainability opportunities.
 - After the meeting, Brittney spoke with Sandy about making people aware of opportunities to be more sustainable when shopping such as buying from Farmer Markets, purchasing less attractive produce, etc. Perhaps we can do a video or have a buddy challenge where people keep each other accountable for trying these things in the grocery store.
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Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 1pm. The first meeting of the next term will be in September (date TBD).