

Sustainability Committee Meeting

July 22, 2021

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Business

- Sandy called the meeting to order. Helen Nguyen and Dipti Debnath, new student representatives from TCOM and GSBS respectively, introduced themselves.
 - For the minutes for the previous meeting, Ellie Knutson motioned to accept them and Dr. Raghu Krishnamoorthy seconded. The minutes were accepted by all present members.
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Announcements

- HSC Block Party: HSC Sustainability participated in the Block Party for students on July 15 and will participate in another one on August 18th.
 - Recycling Efforts: We updated the committee on recycling efforts. Here is a summary:
 - HSC Telephones – 3908 lbs.
 - Batteries – 3948 lbs.
 - Lamps/Ballast/Radios – 6220 lbs.
 - Lamps/Ballasts– 3948 units
 - Campus Composting Update: Before COVID we were getting ready to incorporate composting for both pre-consumer (kitchen prep) and post-consumer composting in the café areas (and possibly the library). We even had a waste audit scheduled and were gathering data on the cost of converting all of the dinnerware consumables to compostable materials. That was all put on hold until now. Sandy met with Troy (owner of the cafes) last week, and we're going to start the process again. Note, we do have composting at the garden, and there is a program for composting in the city for residents.
 - Possible LIB Project: After considering a solar project and realizing it's not feasible at this time because of our budget, we are looking at a sustainability project in the library 2nd floor outdoor space. It would possibly include solar panels that supply energy for electronic charging and lighting, planters, seating, etc. We're currently working with an architect to determine feasibility. Dr. Bruce Budowle asked about how panels will do in hail, and we'll evaluate that if we continue with the project.
 - E-Waste Recycling: Our e-waste recycling event will be on November 11 from 12pm-3pm (paper shredding will be included). This will correspond with the Global Entrepreneurship Week our campus hosts which will fall November 8-14. Sandy asked for feedback on the time, and the committee agreed to keep it during this time rather than moving it to the morning or afternoon.
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Subcommittee Updates

- LEAP Subcommittee – We met in July and discussed how we will reformat the program to include more labs and get their food in the door. Sandy is working with the graphic designer to get the new documents before relaunching the program in the fall. We're also in talks with the city about Styrofoam recycling.
- HSC Community Garden – Katelyn Reeves, our new garden staff member, introduced herself and gave an update. We are making weekly updates to the Student Food Pantry every Wednesday morning (as long as the garden is producing). So far in 2021, we have donated 132 lbs. of produce. We are hosting monthly workshops open to all (email Jessica.reeves@unthsc.edu to be added to the garden newsletter).
- Education Subcommittee – Sandy gave an update from FWISD's Environmental Health Month as part of a larger partnership with them and HSC. We had provided a detailed document that they used to create lesson plans. Overall about 90% of all the students claimed to learn something new based on pre and post surveys. The results also show that further education is needed.

MINUTES

- Earth Day Event – We hosted a successful virtual event in April with 5 live events, on-demand videos (9 of which are our original content), and partnered with the Dept. of Lifestyle Medicine to host a Healthy You, Healthy Planet Food Challenge. We had a total of 116 forms turned in indicating that these participants watched at least 1 live video and 4 on-demand videos. As of July, all of our videos on the Sustainability Playlist of the HSC YouTube channel have been watched nearly 1400 times.
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Committee Business

- Accomplishments: Thank you to everyone who served on the committee this year! Here is a summary of our accomplishments:
 - Certified 2 labs in LEAP and currently redesigning the program
 - HSC Community Garden donated over 350 lbs. this term (1841 lbs. to date) diverted over 1000 lbs. of coffee grounds and continued to host volunteer opportunities and be a relaxing place for people.
 - We sold 17 E-passes
 - Hosted a successful virtual Earth Day Event
 - Collaborated with FWISD on April's Environmental Wellness month
 - Grew our social media (355 followers on Instagram and 660 likes on Facebook)
 - Renewal: Please let Sandy know by August 10th if you'd like to serve next term.
 - September Meeting Poll: We took a poll to see whether people wanted to have a virtual or in-person meeting in September. Based on those present, 75% said they want an in-person meeting and 25% preferred virtual.
 - Co-chair position: If you are interested in being a co-chair for the committee (taking on a leadership role), let Sandy know.
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Comments & Suggestions

- No comments or suggestions were made.
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Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 pm. The next meeting will be in person with lunch in September (TBD).