

# MINUTES

## Sustainability Committee Meeting

April 4, 2014

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 524

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### Welcome & Minutes

- Sallie Spotanski, Co-Chairman of the committee called the meeting to order in Dr. Liu's absence.
  - Minutes from the previous meeting on February 14, 2014 were made available electronically before this meeting. Brent Shell motioned to approve the minutes, and Bruce Budowle seconded that motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously.
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### Announcements from the Office of Sustainability

- Water Station Cleaning: The custodial manager has trained staff to clean the stations and they are now on regular rotations. If you see one that needs cleaning, let Jerry Emerson, Custodial Manager, know.
  - Monthly Updates: Please look for the monthly updates in email format. They will go out within the first couple days of each month. You can forward the email to others. Please pass the information along with your department/school.
  - Cowtown Great American Cleanup Wrap-up: We had 65 people come to the Cowtown Great American Cleanup on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We picked up 46 bags of trash and 3 bags of recycling. This event was part of the City of Fort Worth's Earth Party Celebration.
  - Vanpools: We are still recruiting any interested person to be part of a UNTHSC vanpool. The first area that is closest to getting one is the Denton/North Fort Worth area. If you know anyone who would like to join, please let Sandy Bauman know. Vanpools needs to have a minimum of 5 people and get free/preferred parking on campus.
  - Proposed Circulator: We have been working with several groups throughout the city on a circulator that would connect Downtown, the Cultural District, and Southside/Hospital District. The transit would be similar to Molly the Trolley and branded differently than The T buses. Leadership FW has designed a survey to help determine the needs. Please take it and encourage others to as well: [Survey Link](#).
  - Four Star Cafe: People can get a free drink when they used their Sustainability Pledge Cup at Four Star every Monday in April with the purchase of an entrée. This also gets points in the Think Green Challenge. Cups can be purchased from the office for \$5, but they are still free for taking the pledge (one cup per person).
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### Subcommittee Updates

- Recycling: The subcommittee is has not met since last meeting but there has been progress made. There are 26 new trash/co-mingle bins going up around campus primarily in the library and in classrooms. Signs for the mini-blue bins have been put on. If you find bins without signs, please notify Sandy Bauman and she can either send you the stickers or make sure they get put on. A suggestion was made to notify conference organizers about bins.
- Think Tank: Members from the subcommittee met with Stephen to discuss ideas from the group. He decided to meet with Dr. Williams about the ideas we presented. We are waiting to hear if that discussion took place and how it went.
- Energy Conservation: Brent Shell summarized and presented data from Randall Christopher, Energy Manager. The idea is to make this information more interesting and digestible for people, so they can take ownership of saving energy on campus. Brent mentioned that part of the energy savings goes back to fund future projects. Ideas for getting people involved include computer savings suggestions, energy competitions, etc. This information will be available at a booth at Earth Day.
- Community Garden: Betsy Friauf, Garden Coordinator, spoke about the progress with the garden. The garden is governed by a steering committee which includes stewards. There are 16 plots and 9 people on the waiting list. There has been recent publicity in the Fort Worth Texas Magazine and 360 West Magazine. Donations include supplies/money from Facilities, St. Emilion Restaurant, Silver Creek, Calloways, Archies, and Harvest Supply.

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- Planting Day was on April 5<sup>th</sup> where people could plant and get advice from a master gardener. There will be 2 tours at the Earth Day Event on Thurs April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 and 12:30. The garden will also donate a prize to go in the raffles. The garden is estimated to grow about \$5600 worth of food annually and donate 25% of its yield. We plan to build more plots in the fall.
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## Earth Day Event 2014

- The Earth Day Event will be on Thursday, April 24 from 11-2pm in the MET. Its purpose is to educate, motivate and inspire, expose the campus to new ideas, and provide opportunities.
  - The website is up, so please pass it along: [unthsc.edu/earthday](http://unthsc.edu/earthday)
  - This year we are doing the Think Green Challenge where participants get points for attending events or completing tasks related to sustainability. Persons with the highest points get prizes such as a Kindle, amazon.com gift card, and more. Information can be found on the Earth Day website: [unthsc.edu/earthday](http://unthsc.edu/earthday)
    - Components of the challenge include events such as the documentary screening, healthy and sustainable actions, videos and quizzes, and participation at Earth Day.
  - There will be one more documentary screening on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in EAD 108
  - We are doing the Upcycled/Repurposed Photo Contest again this year. Submissions are due by April 15<sup>th</sup> and the winner gets a Kindle.
  - We have 29 booths coming this year (see the website for a full list)
  - There will be free document shredding at the Records Management Table
  - We encourage people to bring their old/unused drugs to dispose of properly at the Police Dept on campus. We're using Earth Day to promote this service.
  - There will be free food/drinks (for participants). You must bring your own reusable cup for a drink. We're doing the zero-waste event again so the plates/uneaten food will be composted.
  - People will get a Passport Card like last year. They have to get 3 stamps to eat and 3 additional ones to be put in the drawing for prizes.
  - We have 84 volunteers helping with the event, so there will be 3 short orientation sessions the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>.
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## AASHE - STARS

- AASHE or the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education has a sustainability tracking system call STARS or Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System.
  - It is a transparent, self reporting-framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.
  - It's designed to provide a framework for understanding sustainability in all sectors of higher education, provide meaningful comparisons, and facilitate information sharing across institutions.
  - We will be looking to begin the process this summer. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sandy.
  - We'll talk about it in more detail next meeting.
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## New Business

- No new business was brought up.
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## Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 1 pm. The next meeting will be in June TBD.