

Sustainability Committee Meeting

June 26, 2014

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 524

Welcome & Minutes

- Dr. Liu, Co-Chairman of the committee called the meeting to order.
 - Minutes from the previous meeting on April 4, 2014 were made available electronically before this meeting. There was a minor grammatical error that needed correction in the Welcome section. Betsy Friauf motioned to approve the minutes, and Sallie Spotanski seconded that motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously with that change.
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Announcements from the Office of Sustainability

- Dysons and water stations Installed in Library Restrooms: All the Library restrooms that are being renovated will have new Dyson Hand Dryers and water stations on each floor. The Dysons are environmentally friendly and use HEPA filters.
- RO Filter Stations: For those departments that still order bottled water or the large jugs from a service, we are recommending that they try using a service that filters the water (reverse osmosis filtration) and would eliminate the jugs and water bottles. The cost for an office starts at \$40 per month and goes up from there, and it needs a water source and an outlet nearby. If you need information for your department or know of a department that would like information please email sandy.bauman@unthsc.edu.
- Green Cleaning: Facilities Management is doing a pilot program in the MET with green cleaning products. They are Green Seal Certified meaning they are environmentally friendly, use biodegradable ingredients, and are effective cleaners. The cleaners are safe for our custodial staff and healthier for our building inhabitants.
- Vanpools: We have our first vanpool! This van drives from Denton to the campus. We are very close to having a couple of more from N Richland Hills area and the Burleson 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.
- Student Orientation: Student Orientations have changed for the Office of Sustainability from giving a presentation to having a table at a fair for the students. The first one went very well. Thank you to the volunteers for helping out. Sandy will be asking for more volunteers for the July 21st orientation.
- Clean Air Action Day: We partnered with [Air North Texas](#) for a regional air quality awareness day. There was a lunch and learn on Tuesday, June 24 and it very well. We had speakers from the School of Public Health and Cook Children's. The Clean Air Action Day is the first day of the summer every year. This year it was Friday, June 27. We asked our campus to do one thing to improve air quality for the health of our communities. People pledged online their action item.
- CleanMed Conference – Sandy reported on her recent trip to the [CleanMed](#) conference which is a national conference for sustainability leaders in healthcare. The focus was on environmentally preferable products, nutritious and sustainable food, recycling in hospitals including the ER, and getting patients, doctors and staff involved in sustainability efforts. Top Lessons Learned:
 - Talking about climate change/extreme weather events widen the conversation of sustainability. For example with Hurricane Katrina, the hospitals were shut down and hard to get to. How does healthcare prepare for such events?
 - “People are in denial, horrified or apathetic at the environmental issues around us that affect human health. We don't share the same attitude. We can and we must do something!” Joe Flower.
 - “First do no harm.” This is the creed of healthcare. In terms of sustainability, it means we should have healthier food options, environmentally responsible products, indoor air quality, etc.
 - YOU have the power. YOU can influence. YOU can make things better and healthier. Never think that your individual actions don't matter. Our actions really add up and make a difference.
- Sustainability Tracking: We are considering doing STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System or GRI (Global Reporting Initiative). Sandy will meet with a person at VHA in Irving to assess the best system for our

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campus.

- **Earth Day Summary:** Earth Day was a success for the second year in a row. The summary is as follows:
 - 625 attendees; 425 people turned in their passport cards
 - 80 volunteers
 - 30 booths
 - 400 lbs. of documents donated to be shredded
 - 18 donations to the Drug Take Back Program
 - 30 new organ/tissue donors

Community Garden Update & Request for Funds

- 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 6 people on the waiting list.
- The garden has donated 30 lbs. of produce to Northside Inter-community Agency, a local food bank, so far.
- We have done 2 education tours with children so far and looking in to other opportunities. We are also taking opportunities to train new gardeners.
- There is a new video being done about the garden and we will send it to everyone once it is completed.
- The garden used the original \$8000 to build the foundation of the garden and received donations from 7 organizations.
- The Community Garden Steering Committee has asked that the Sustainability Committee give us another \$6000 (the remainder of the committee's funds) to expand the garden next spring. Patricia Dossey made a motion to allocate the money to the community garden and Dr. Liu seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

New Business

- Brent Shell suggested we post signs on the custodial closets about the green cleaning move. When we decide to switch over completely, Sandy will speak with Jason Hartley, Executive Director of Facilities, to see if signs are possible.
- Since the committee voted to fund the Community Garden another \$6000, the committee has spent its \$30,000 for the term.

Sustainability Committee 2013-2014 Budget

Category	Description	Total
Tools		
<i>Bike Share</i>	We have a 3 yr commitment; this is the 2nd yr	\$ 5,000.00
<i>2014 E-Pass Subsidy</i>	We voted and approved in October.	\$ 4,000.00
<i>Community Garden</i>	We voted and approved in December.	\$ 8,000.00
<i>Earth Day</i>	We voted and approved in April.	\$ 7,000.00
<i>Community Garden</i>	We voted and approved in June.	\$ 6,000.00
SUBTOTAL Tools		\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL 2014 BUDGET		\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL LEFT FOR 2013-2014		\$ -

Housekeeping

Meeting Adjourned at 1 pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at noon in EAD 524.