

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

June 20, 2008

Attendance: Noted at Fourteen

Meeting Minutes: From May 16, 2008 were acknowledge

John Walker talked about a program for which he and his wife provide a leadership effort at school year end by recycling the belongings that students leave behind. The items collected from students included printers, small refrigerators, clothing, and toiletry. Many of the items left behind are donations from the students rather than simply an abandoned commodity. The Open Door Mission received over 7,000 pounds of items. John estimated that perhaps 20,000 pounds in total were dispersed this past May. Eight students helped with the effort. Items came from each residence hall.

Mary Duda spoke about the developing web-site. Ray Bucko is championing the effort. There have been meetings with the University web team setting up the site. A schedule of topics has been distributed.

Lennis Pederson told the group that the single stream waste recycle program was coming together. The budget is understood and funding is being pursued. The Harper Center will start single stream recycling in early July.

George Tangeman informed the Committee that the University does recycle metal of all sizes and shapes. The items are collected for dispatch to a scrap yard.

It was pointed out that the contractors working on campus are required to recycle. A project to remodel the EMS space in Kellom Knolls expected to start in July.

The City is in agreement with the concept of positioning a recycle dumpster in the university parking lot north of Cuming. The time table for installation is still being determined.

George Tangeman told the group about the electrical curtailment program that UNO uses to shed electricity. The load shed program is needed at Creighton at times when OPPD instructs us to reduce the electrical demand. The load shedding program at UNO is established with buy in from the campus populace. The program prioritizes the areas that will be reduced per three categories; essential, non-essential and life safety.

George spoke about Facilities Management hiring a person that will work fulltime turning off lights, closing windows and checking for other energy waste items. The individual will start soon after July 1. The employee will be working Monday through Friday on the second shift.

Lennis said he is exploring the idea expressed by Vonnetta Byington regarding giving bus passes to the Creighton populace that may be interested in riding the bus to work. The pass would be given to those wanting to ride busses but are unsure. Metro Area Transit will be approached about the donation.

The council was asked to take advantage of the Metro Ride Share Program. Creighton University is a participant in the program and a few have taken advantage of the car pooling program. The Metro Area Planning Agency will provide posters and brochures to help promote the program. Council members are encouraged to promote the program.

Lennis informed the council that the grant from the Federal Transportation Agency to construct a Public Safety and Shuttle Service Facility has been approved. The facility is expected to be completed in August, '09. The facility will have a MAT transfer station incorporated into the design. The facility is also expected to provide a place to store bikes and may have showers for those bikers that are so inclined.

The council was told that the University has incorporated sustainability into the strategic plan. The University leaders have met in early April to renew and update the plan. The draft of the minutes is being reviewed by those that participated in the conversation. The draft document may be available for comment from the university at large in August.

Lennis said that planning and design of the Ryan Athletics Center is inclusive of LEED requirements. The building will not be certified but it will be certifiable.

Marc Nichols is progressing with the solar collector project that OPPD and Creighton are considering as a joint venture. Mr. Nichols will be hiring a project manager that can be directly involved in the project.

Lennis expects to meet with the Physics Department to understand if the project can be a teaching tool. The Physics Department may also be interested in other renewable energy projects.

Renewable energy like wind power is also being explored with OPPD and Johnson Control. Johnson Control has identified some small scale grants that may be available. Also helping with funding is Frank Reida and his company, Energy Systems Company, who wants to explore third party tax credits as a way of off setting some of the expense.

Lennis announced that Mary Duda will have added duties as sustainability coordinator starting July 1, '08. She will be doing this work along with her primary job as chemical coordinator for EH&S. In her role as coordinator for the sustainability program, she will work with task forces to help meet the goals of the Council and she will aid in getting presenters to the Council meetings.

Johnson Controls is searching the campus for energy saving opportunities that can be incorporated into the proposed performance contract. It is expected that after Johnson Control examines the utility billing history and completes the search of the campus, there will be a report available outlining the strategies that are most cost effective. The report is anticipated in August.

Johnson Control has a program that brings us all together in a workshop that will take about 4 hours to define the individual members goals. The individual sustainability goals will be folded into a series of Council goals to give us a forward looking direction. The goal setting program is anticipated for sometime in October.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18th at 2:00 PM in the Alumni Library UP Room.