

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

February, 2011

Members Present: Noted at 19

The minutes from the January 21, 2011 meeting were acknowledged as complete

George Tangeman could not be present at the meeting to discuss Earth Day, 2011. The event will be held on April 20, 2011. Taken from the agenda is the list of the anticipated activities. Members of the council are encouraged to contact George to assist in the program. The theme will be energy conservation. The event will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Activities Include

- A Bike Play Day that Deb Fortina is developing.
- Lectures in Skutt 104
 - a) Cindy Smilley from Keep Omaha Beautiful
 - b) OPPD from 9:00 to 10:00
 - c) Ray Madej to present the Rainbird irrigation controller
 - d) Robert Byrnes Nebraska Renewable Energy Systems
- Recycling updates by Peter Maas
 - a) Recycle pen drop off
 - b) Photo display of recycle commodities.
 - c) Display a campus map hi-lighting the buildings with single stream recycling
- Arbor Day celebration by Jessica Heller
 - a) Vote for Campus Tree of the year
 - b) Info about treeCampus USA
 - c) Info about steps to becoming an arboretum
- Electronic Waste disposal; program for residential waste by Mary Duda
- Prayer time around the fountain
- OPPD display of the electric vehicles
- Facilities Management to display the electric truck
- Mike Cherney to help with a display/tour/ conversation about alternative energy
- Use of the keep Omaha Beautiful recycling trailer.
- Announce winner of Residence Hall energy conservation contest.
- MUD, Mike Corrigan, will be on site part of the day.
- Hand out information about Metro Rideshare program
- Possible food waste audit by Sodexo

Lennis Pederson has learned that applying for permits from the city and county for a farmers market are reasonably easy to accomplish. There does not appear to be a fee required for the permits because of Creighton's tax exempt status. The next and probably hardest task will be to identify the produce vendors.

Jessica Heller could not attend the meeting. In the absence, Lennis reported that the planning for the Ignation Garden at 18th & Burt was complete and ready for implementation. The Ignation Garden will be coordinated by John Schwede.

The Educational Garden is in the planning stages. Andy Waltke is leaving the University over the summer. The task at hand is to find that person or group of people that can continue the program after Andy leaves.

Lennis Pederson reported that the Alternative Energy project is nearing completion with the installation of the wind turbines. The turbines are not connected to the electrical grid. There are other punch list items that would suggest completion by mid-April.

Peter Maas reported that he is recording tonnage recycle commodity for the RecycleMania! program. The first two weeks were practice and went okay. Two weeks were practice and went okay. The first week of actual contest yielded about 19,000 pounds of commodity.

Peter informed the group that the single stream recycle program will be expanded to Rigge on February 21, 2011.

Jay Leighter explained how his course in Deliberation of Sustainability will assist with the climate action plan that stems from signing the President's Climate Commitment. The conversation gave an open invitation to the Council to attend the meetings about reducing the carbon foot print. It is recommended that the initiative by Jay's class use the Sustainability Council be the noted convener of the deliberation program.

Elizabeth Fairbairn joined in Jay's presentation to elaborate on the process.

Ed DuPree reiterated his invitation to attend the Sourcing, 2011 which is scheduled for March 8, 2011. George Tangeman is leading this for the Sustainability Council.

Joe Zaborowski is working with Ken Reed-Bouley and Cindy Workman on the audit of the activity of the Sustainability Council. His report is expected at the April meeting of the Council.

Creighton could be noted as a Fair Trade University. Ken Reed-Bouley talked about the program and how it might be instituted. A motion to develop a sub-committee of the Sustainability Council to administer the planning process to become designated a Fair Trade University was Cheri Annan and seconded by Teresa Bohnet. The motion past unanimously. Ed DuPree was asked to chair the sub-committee. Wes Muncie from Sodexo was asked to be part of the sub-committee. Ed will select others to help him on the committee.

Wes Muncy spoke about Sodexo's review of the compost vessels for food waste. His review is on-going and he is encouraged by the potential of the new technology in the market place.

Fran Reid reported on three governmental actions that impact activity of climate actions:

- 1) EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, was very critical of the bill proposed by Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) and Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) to strip EPA of its authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Jackson was addressing House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- 2) EPA Assistant Administrator, Gina McCarthy, indicated the agencies forthcoming New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for power plants and refineries will not include cap and trade system to regulate emissions.
- 3) The Supreme Court has set a date of April 19, 2011 to hear oral arguments in Connecticut v. AEP, a case brought by eight states, the City of New York and three land-trusses alleging that greenhouse gas emissions from four investor owned utilities and the Tennessee Valley Authority constitute a public nuisance under federal common law.

Mary Duda indicated there had been no action rolling out the sustainability pledge over the past month.

The Council was informed that the forms to apply for small grants to enhance awareness of sustainability on campus are about to be issued. Lennis reminded the Council that these grants will be for \$500 or less and funding will come from save or scrape metals initially. If the program works as anticipated, a more reliable fund source will be requested. The grants program is being administered by Rose Hill and her sub-committee of Richard Jehlik, Frank Reid and Joe Zaborowski.

Ken Juhl reported that the sum-committee working on promoting car pooling had not convened in the past month.

Chris Boitano indicated that the GreenJays were re-energizing the effort to ban the use of plastic/disposable water bottles on campus. He was encouraged to visit with Ed Dupree about the recently signed pouring rights contract language. Cheri Annan volunteered to help Chris and the GreenJays if desired.

Ryan Lahne engaged the Council in a discussion about recycling batteries and personal electronic devices. It was learned that a program administered by Mary Duda was in place across campus. Ryan raised the subject in response to an IRGH request to have a third party help with the program. After discussion it was agreed that Ryan would return to IRGH with comments to solicit IRGH's assistance in promoting the existing program.

Elizabeth Fairbairn reported on GreenJays activities:

- 1) The long term, indoor bike storage program was well underway and more students are taking advantage of the facility.
- 2) Earth Week, under the leadership of Sydney Hyatt was focusing on a possible film series and lectures.
- 3) The Community Garden on campus is of interest.

Ken Reed-Bouley told the group to plan on attending three green-bag lunches in the next few months. Subjects being considered are - an update on activities by the GreenJays; a presentation by MAT to explain bus use to encourage ridership; and a presentation by Jay Leighter on his senior level sustainability deliberation class activities.

Ryan Layne said he and Wes Muncy will be attending the first of two corporate Sodexo training sessions designed to enhance sustainability efforts. The first session is in February followed by a summer session. Ryan will report back to the Council about the Sodexo initiatives. The Sodexo corporate is Commitment for a Better Tomorrow.

The meeting ended at 3:20 pm.

The next meeting is March 18, 2011 at 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room in the Alumni Library.