

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

September 19, 2008

Attendance: Noted at 23

Meeting Minutes: From August 15, 2008 were acknowledge

Sustainability Day is scheduled for October 29, 2008. Bridget Keegan has elected to step down as leader of the event. Planning includes several information booths or tables for attendees to learn more about sustainability on campus.

Vonnetta Byington could not attend this meeting but it is understood she is working on a program that encourages people to use the MAT busses. The attempt to get free bus passes from MAT was not successful.

Caroline Moore is expected to e-mail the council with updates on the bike program task force she is leading. There have been several initiatives discussed with the Bike shop in Gifford Park. She is also convening meetings with campus constituents interested in biking.

Mary Duda described the "Sustainability Navigator" program on October 30 and again asked for people to come and give their input.

Some updated from Lennis -

- A community-wide recycle collection point sponsored by Creighton is anticipated to be in placed on 22nd Street just north of Cuming. Look for the dumpster later in September. The memorandum of understanding is being routed for approval, and when signed off, the dumpster will arrive.
- The people needed to staff a single stream recycle program are being hired. The needed truck has been purchased and is expected to be delivered in late September. So far, the program is implemented in Residence Halls and some other buildings on campus.
- The Intermodal Facility which will be a MAT Bus Stop, home to the Creighton Shuttle system and to Public Safety is in design. The schedule is to bid the project in early January '09. Completion is expected in late '09.
- Posters alerting people to Metro RideShare have been hung on about 50 bulletin boards across campus.
- Maria Jerrell has submitted a recycle program grant application to the State of Nebraska.

Michael McMeekin spoke to the Council about how sustainability is impacting design and construction. The impact is huge when considering how to save energy and resources when building. He mentioned how designs would consider -

- Flood control by using wet lands
- Environmental statement
- Constructing a real green space usable by the neighbors

Mr. McMeekin displayed several examples of projects that have been accomplished by his firm in the metropolitan area. These sites displayed the sustainability planning criteria used by his firm.

His talk provided an explanation of the combined sewer separation project underway in Omaha. He stated that over 700 cities in the nation are working under an unfunded federal mandate to clean up the water discharged into the river.

Mr. McMeekin listed the goals of the Sustainability Guidance Document and some of the preliminary action items. The goals have been adopted by the city and are incorporated into the combined sewer separation project being undertaken. The plan encourages the use of some seemingly simple home owner actions (as asked by several of the meeting attendees) even though the EPA does not acknowledge the actions. These kinds of projects have a huge impact on capturing storm water to reduce the run off to rivers and streams.

Mr. McMeekin talked about this involvement in Omaha By Design. The initiative is creating higher standards of design for projects in Omaha. The Omaha By Design sub committee studying sustainability is looking at options to make Omaha a green community that keeps factors of sustainability present when considering the economic growth and competitive natures of the city.

The meeting ended at 3:20.