

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2009

Members: Noted at 16 present

The minutes of the October 16, 2009 meeting were acknowledged

Cindy Adams updated the group on the contest for the Sustainable Christmas Decoration. The contest will be advertised for about two weeks. The decorations will be judged on December 14. The prizes will \$50 for first and \$25 for second prize.

Mary Duda spoke to the group about the Midlands Educational Sustainability Forum convened in October. Attendance was good with many schools joining online. Schools discussed use of electric vehicles, smart strip electrical extension cords and plastic water bottles and energy conservation in vending machines.

The Council was informed that the University had signed a letter of commitment to join Energy Star as a partner. The commitment makes having the Purchasing procedures more valid and give credence to other efficient machine and equipment selection.

Bob Duros was not present to update the Council on his plans to make the printer fleet more efficient. It is understood that the program is working its way through the University review and approval process.

The following comments were read into the minutes by Mary Duda using remarks prepared by Ken Homan.

Friday's meeting. I will be in Georgia for the Jesuit Teach-In. I've attached my updates below.

Ø Ban the water bottle campaign

- Ken Smith and I are seeking out funding. Our schedules have conflicted quite a bit, but we're making it a goal of meeting with a faculty person in Criss with a \$900 grant for community greening projects such as this one. I'm currently working on a Local Water presentation and will try to have a day of that in December. I will attempt to get kids from the Cortina Community involved because we are studying sustainability for the month of December.

Ø Community Garden

- The Community Garden had a successful groundbreaking. We cleaned up the boxes and prepped it for a spring planting when CSU will throw us a planting party.

Ø CSU program to recycle used books

- It's a go! We'll be partnering with a few other groups on making this happen. It will also work out well because I finish exams on Tuesday morning, so I can do lots of sorting, collecting and making sure this runs smoothly.

Ø Campus Sustainability Day

- I asked Rachel Inoye of the CSU Sustainability Committee to work on this some more. Unfortunately, I could not attend last night's CSU meeting and I still need to catch up with her. We're going to sit down and chat right after Thanksgiving.

Ø Petition Campaign

Please view <http://www.repoweramerica.org/wall>

We collected over 120 videos of students telling Sen. Nelson why they support clean energy. We also collected more signatures (for those who were camera shy) to send in as well.

On Tuesday Dec. 8, GreenJays will host No Impact Man, a movie on lessening our environmental impact during the Holiday Season.

I would try contacting Ken Smith or Sydney for some more updates. There's a few more things going on and they have some of the information that I don't know about. Sorry I couldn't make it to the meeting.

I know a lot of you have expressed an interest in the community gardening portion of our group. Kelsey Wilhelm has taken the lead on this program, and has set up a great opportunity for us to get out and get started!

When: This Friday, November 20 at 1:00 pm

Where: Meet in Deglman Circle, proceed to the Seina Francis House

What: Building the raised beds

Who: Anyone and everyone! Bring friends!

Please get back to me if you are interested in going with Kelsey this Friday..

Lennis Pederson reported that the alternative energy project was on a hiatus pending written confirmation of the grant approval by the DOE. The site for the solar array south of Morison Stadium is being reconsidered and will likely be moved to the faculty parking lot east of the ROTC Bldg.

The RFQ/P to select a consultant to help identify the carbon footprint of the campus has been issued. Several Council members will be involved in reading and ranking each response. Of the 12 firms sent a request, the responding firms will be ranked so the top three firms will be interviewed. The interviews will be accomplished with other members of the Council.

Lennis Pederson reviewed the portion of the University Strategic Plan regarding sustainability with the Council. Meetings will convene in January to develop the language that sets the course for accomplishing the tasks in the plan. Members of the Council will make up the group working on the language. In addition to those already drafted to help,

- Pam Vaughan volunteered to help with the task related to increased communication.
- Joe Zaborowski volunteered to help write the task about providing internal environmental impacts to the campus community.
- Stephanie Wernig volunteered to join the team that is working on the task to develop a cost /benefit analysis.

In open discussion it was noted that;

1. The rain garden concept would be developed through the winter. Jessica Heller will be very helpful with the planning. It is hoped to have a demonstration site functioning in 2010.
2. The general conditions to contracts issued by Purchasing and Facilities Management will be augmented with more definitive language about sustainability. Joe Zaborowski is leading a team reviewing the contract documents.
3. Gifford Park Neighborhood Association is planning on a community garden on the vacant lot owned by Creighton west of 30th Street. This will be the second year for the garden.
4. Lennis Pederson informed the Council about his involvement with Omaha by Design and how the group was writing a master plan for the City that has sustainability as a platform in the building codes.
5. Mary Duda told the Council about meeting with the City's Sustainability Coordinator, Kristi Wamstead-Evans, Wamstead –Evan is working on several grant requests to help with sustainability in the City. Of note is a collaboration with the City of Lincoln to develop sites and areas that would benefit from energy conservation measures and other sustainability initiatives.
6. The Council discussed how to invigorate the MAPA program for carpooling known as RideShare. Creighton has endorsed the program but has no registered participants.
7. The Council was reminded of the fact that the University was designated as a Tree Campus USA and encouraged to participate in the programs.

8. It was noted that Creighton University received an a national award for having a well main maintained campus as recognized by the Professional Grounds Management Society.
9. Ed Dupree offered to host a paper industry consultant at a future meeting. Ed has had an opportunity to see the presentation and recommends the Council see the same.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm