

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2009

Members: Noted at 10 present

The minutes of the November 20, 2009 meeting were acknowledged

Cindy Adams was not able to attend the meeting. She is acknowledged for her great efforts in accomplishing the Sustainable Christmas Tree Ornament Contest. She and her team did an excellent job. In advance of the meeting Cindy reported that the contest was won by Alicia Donner - 1st Place \$50 and by Sandra Leighton 2nd Place \$25. The number of contestants doubled from last year. The two obstacles to a vibrant contest as seen by Cindy are:

- 1) It takes time to construct the ornament
- 2) The contest runs concurrently with a contest in the Residence Halls

Lennis Pederson told the Council that a program to develop grants to the on campus populace was being developed. The grants would be small, maybe up to \$500 each funded from the Facilities Management budget. Maria Jerrell with Facilities Management is tasked with writing the policy for applying for and administering the grants progress. People from the Sustainability Council will be drafted to help Ms. Jerrell.

Bridget Khandalavala is championing an organic garden to be located somewhere on campus. Several members of the Sustainability Council will be involved with the planning. The first meeting is in February. The conversation will include many facets in the planning:

- Where can the garden be planted?
- What should be planted?
- How will the garden be secured or does it need to be?
- How will the garden be watered and can rain water be used?

Lennis Pederson reported that the alternative energy project is back on track. The verbal authorized approval has been received from the Department of Energy. The design can not be finalized around the budget available. The sites for the hardware remain as discussed at the November meeting.

The Council was informed that the interviews with three consultants to select the team to help identify and inventory the campus carbon foot print have slipped into January because of weather delays. There were eight responses to the RFQ sent by the University. A screening committee with representation from the Council reviewed and ranked each response to identify the three firms being interviewed.

Fr. Schlegel's signing of the President's Climate Commitment lists Creighton in an honor roll of colleges and universities across the nation. The commitment has some heavy action items for the Council to achieve. Having the inventory of the campus carbon foot print will be a significant piece of information needed to reach the commitment. Also having signed the commitment will add direction and credence to the work being done by the Council on the Universities Strategic Plan.

The council is reminded of the January 25th tour of the Morrissey Engineering Building. Attendee will see, hear about the attributes of a building that is LEED certified at the platinum level. Arrangements for car pooling are being formulated.

Ed Dupree has volunteered to present at our January 15th meeting regarding updates from the paper industry.

Jim Ducey was a guest presenter at the council meeting speaking about how migratory birds were getting killed on campus because of the building architecture and operation. Birds fly into large pieces of glass and are injured from the impact. Mr. Ducey gave examples of steps to be taken to reduce the number of impacts. The façade on the Harper Center is particularly bad because of all the glass. Turning off the interior lights to reduce hours of operation would help solve the problem. George Tangeman was asked to work with Mr. Ducey to learn more. Another area that experiences a higher rate of impact is the connector stair tower between Eppley and Rigge. Mr. Ducey recommended a window film be installed. Lennis Pederson will follow this project.

Mr. Ducey recognized the Union Pacific head quarters building and OPPD Energy Plaza as two areas in town that are proactive. His desire is to add Creighton to the list. It should be noted that Mr. Ducey is a private citizen vigorously involved as a champion in protecting migratory birds. He does not represent other agencies or groups.

Pete Maas spoke about Creighton participating in Recycle Mania! While it is a few weeks away and Creighton is not set up to measure tons of waste. Pete is working with Green Jays and Teresa Bohnet to get the program announced so the production of waste will be reduced during the time of the contest. There will be much more effort spent on Recycle Mania at the start of next semester.

Frank Reida gave a legislation and government update.

- 1) It is expected that President Obama will make a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas by 17% over time. This will be announced when the President is in Copenhagen. The announcement will not be binding.
- 2) If Congress fails to pass cap and trade legislation, the EPA is poised to issue rules that would reduce green house gas at about the same rate as the proposed legislation. The EPA will base its new rulings on recent findings that the high rate of pollutants in the atmosphere is adding to green house gas.
- 3) A Federal Court in Massachusetts has issued a stop work in junction to a contractor building a wind farm because the windmills are predicted to kill and injure endangered species of birds.

George Tangeman encouraged Council members to be leaders in saving energy through semester break. The council members were asked to tell others to follow basic energy conservation measures like shutting off lights, setting thermostats lower; and unplug appliances, computers, and equipment not used during the break.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room on January 15, 2010.