

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

February 20, 2009

Members Present: Noted at 18

Meeting Minutes: The minutes from January 16, 2008 meeting were acknowledge

The Council agreed to have a presence at the “Faith and Environment: Christian, Jewish, Muslims and Native American Ways of Addressing Environmental Issues” symposium on March 29th, 2009. After a presentation and discussion with Ron Simkins, Pam Vaughn agreed to lead the Sustainability Council effort. Pam will find volunteers to work with her in developing a presentation and in staffing the event.

Joe Zaborowski invited the group to the Purchasing 2009 Expo scheduled for March 11, 2009 in Skutt Student Center. The event will be an informational sharing experience with vendors that are contracted for goods and services with the university. This year’s program will have break out sessions with many focus topics including sustainability.

Ken Reed-Bouley told the Council that the details of the April 17th on campus event to offer a mechanism for Creighton constituents to give products to Habitat Restore. He is being assisted with the on-campus event by Mary Duda and Teresa Bohnet. The Council is encouraged to start announcing the event to others so the event can be successful.

Sydney Hiatt was present for a conversation about the National Global Warming teach-in conducted on February 5th. The event was very successful reaching an estimated 200 people through a series of panel discussions. The Council congratulates Sydney and her team for their success.

Sydney went on to say that the environmental action group she teams with on campus wants to do more. Collaboration with the Sustainability Council was agreed at the meeting. One of Sydney’s first objectives is to have an active participation in Earth Day.

Earth Day will be celebrated on campus on April 22nd; George Tangeman spoke on behalf of the Energy Awareness Committee sponsoring the event. Details are jelling for the event. The Council encouraged giving away re-usable water bottles to all the visitors.

Frank Reida recently attended the International District Energy Association annual convention. Frank told the Council that the association is actively encouraging the Obama administration to develop grants and incentives for energy conservation and sustainability programs. The recently passed stimulus package did not have a platform for such projects but opportunities exist with the Department of Energy.

Frank informed the Council that the event was held on the North Carolina state campus. While there he and Dave McAtee from Creighton toured the power plant. Frank said the new plant was very clean but he was surprised to learn the primary fuel was coal. The school has accomplished many green initiatives including a multi-million dollar project to re-use partially treated waste water for non-potable needs like irrigation.

A Leadership in Sustainability convocation of local businesses desiring to enhance their sustainability activities and procedures will be held on campus on March 31st. Teresa Bohnet and Mary Duda are coordinating the event. The program includes national presentations and local speakers that have developed successful sustainability products or business practices to share with the audience.

The first of hopefully many sessions with representatives from many regional colleges and universities to discuss and compare sustainability programs on will be convened on March 13th on campus. Mary Duda and Teresa Bohnet are spearheading the event designed to be a conversational review of successes and failed attempts at sustainability.

Single stream recycling continues to expand to more academic buildings. The BIC is a recent addition and the Boyne Building will be added on March 17th.

The NDEQ grant for expanding the recycle program is still pending. The grant will be used primarily to fund compactor modifications to make the single stream recycle program more efficient. It is expected the grant will be approved at some point.

HWS, a consulting engineer firm and Creighton University were recently awarded 2009 Honor Award Winner by the American Council of Engineering Companies-Nebraska for the Brownfield clean up accomplished at the former Moreco Plating Company site that is now a parking lot east of the Wareham building. The project was funded by the EPA and a recognition award has earlier been given to Creighton by the EPA for the administrative effort utilized to stream line the project and the grant.

Ken Reed-Bouley asked the Council to consider adding a stronger emphasis in the scope and definition of sustainability to include a stronger statement about social justice. Ken acts in a capacity of advisor to a student group, Peace and Justice Co-op. The Co-op is focusing in part on fair trade. Ed DuPree volunteered that Purchasing is engaged in business that professes to be in compliance with fair trade but it seems difficult to audit the businesses for compliance. The Council encouraged further discussion on the subject at future meetings. Lennis Pederson will have Council members work as a task force to assist Ken in his request.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.

The next meeting will be 2:00 pm on March 20, 2009 in the Union Pacific Room.