

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

June 17, 2011

Members Present: Noted at 11 members

The minutes from the May 20, 2011 meeting were announced as accurate.

Ed Dupree introduced Scott Schultz from Host Coffee. Mr. Schultz presented on the Rainforest Alliance Program. His talk included discussion about social responsibility and how the definition of social responsibility varies from country to country. He stated that less than 3% of all coffees are certified by an outside organization as “sustainable”. Further included was conversation about the definition of organic coffee and how not all fair-trade coffee is organic.

The Rainforest Alliance is a 20 year old non-profit organization that certifies individual farms. Mr. Schultz contended that certified farms are good for social development of the works; good for the environment; and it is good for the growers.

Lennis Pederson informed the group that the next meeting about parking electric powered vehicles would happen in July. The subcommittee will learn about methods to dispatch electricity with a card swipe recorder processor.

Frank Reida said that the presentation to SAC about sustainability was well received. People asked good questions and seemed engaged. As a comment, the discussion with SAC included topics on bike program, energy conservation, and carbon footprint.

Frank talked about the controversy of using shale fracturing as a method of mining natural gas. There are documented cases of environmental damage to include water contamination.

Frank also talked about the EPA comments of the proposed Keystone pipeline. The EPA ruled that not enough information was presented for the EPA to move forward with approval of the pipeline.

MIT and the International Agency stated that natural gas is readily available in large quantities into the distant future. Use of natural gas will soon be overtaking the coal, renewable and nuclear power. The use of natural gas will not help substantially reduce the carbon footprints.

Amber Bruyer gave a review of Loffredo Foods Purchasing Techniques. There may be a way to have foods produced locally. This will help us put together a food market of locally grown foods. It is understood that using Loffredo as a source of food stuffs may not, by definition, be a true farmer’s market.

Ken Reed-Bouley and Chris Boitano presented an updated resolution to claim fair trade status for the University. The revised language in the resolution was accepted. It was agreed by the Council that the Council should accept responsibility as the oversight agency for the University insuring the resolution, when signed, will be followed.

Do to media malfunctions, Ken Reed-Bouley was not able to show his video presentation by Paul Rice talking about Fair Trade USA.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:12 pm.

The next meeting is at 2:00 pm on July 15, 2011 in the Union Pacific Room.