

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

September 17, 2010

Members: Noted at 16 present

The minutes from the August 20, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Jay Leighter talked about the Regional Grant provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust to Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities. The grant allows for one of the day long session to be hosted on Creighton in the Harper Center on November 2nd. Members of the Council are invited to attend this community-wide event. The goal of the day long event is to raise the attention level of sustainability in the state. It is preferred that people that plan to attend be present for the full day.

Ken Reed-Bouley and Lennis Pederson will meet soon to set up the “Brown Bag” lunch program for topics related to sustainability. The early thoughts are to have 2 or 3 sessions each semester to enhance awareness of sustainability.

Jessica Heller could not be present to update on the tree planting event on campus scheduled for October 12th. Her prepared remarks are read into these minutes.

“As a Tree Campus USA, Creighton University had the opportunity to apply for a tree planting grant through the Arbor Day Foundation. The primary goal of the grant is to encourage student’s involvement in campus forestry efforts. As one of the chosen campuses, the Arbor Day Foundation will help organize and recruit student volunteers for a campus tree planting event. Other members of the community are also welcome to volunteer. There will be a press conference to kick off the event. The Arbor Day Foundation is providing the trees (up to 100, with a value of \$10,000). The University will use this grant to plant a variety of trees along the south edge of Wareham Parkway, between the curb and the fence belonging to the NDOR”.

Lennis Pederson informed the Council that the three solar sites on campus as part of the Alternative Energy Project are each producing electricity that is being consumed on Campus. The web-site is functional and is improving on a daily basis. The delivery date of the wind turbines remains elusive. Optimistically, the wind turbines will ship in October. There is an on-campus forum to talk about the program in depth set for September 24th.

Of note is that the Zip Car Program on campus is functioning. Corporately, Zip Car is pleased with the rate of enrollment and the usage.

Pete Maas said that he is moving forward with single stream recycling at Athletic venues.

Frank Reida gave a legislative review including:

- DOE has \$600,000,000 for sustainability and energy conservation programs.
- The White House Council on Environment has nearly completed final guidance for federal agencies and is expected to enact soon.
- Over 50 of the sustainability plans received per President Obama’s 2009 executive order have been made available on the White House website.
- Senator Reid urges piecemeal approach to climate legislation with a narrow energy bill introduced later this year.
- Environmental organizations call for 60 MPG fuel economy by 2025.
- Research published in Science estimated future GHG emissions from existing fossil fuel-combusting infrastructure, assuming the infrastructure will be used for its life time and not replace.

Jim Dorsey said that the Bike Program continues to evolve. The recent activity included removal of 42 abandoned bikes from bike racks on campus. Public Safety has 50 bike locks that are recommended as high quality. These locks will be sold to campus constituents.

Green Jays are active with a stream clean up on September 18th. Also they are working on a program to raise awareness with carbon dioxide. The program is relevant to the carbon dioxide level of 350ppm and the catastrophe that occurs when the level of carbon dioxide reaches 350.

The Council was reminded that the sub-committee chaired by Rose Hill to plan and implement small grants to raise the awareness of sustainability on campus would soon convene.

Evie Madvig and others on her sub-committee advancing car pooling were not available for updates. Lennis reported the Committee is actively working with the help of Tara Ryan to promote Metro Ride Share and to consider other programs and incentives.

Cheri Annin is anticipating issuing a survey to the campus populace to understand how well the swap and shop program will work. Stephanie Wernig was asked to help with the survey. The Council is asked to help Cheri with the program.

Lennis Pederson briefly discussed the green gas analysis being accomplished by the Brendle Group. The Council members working on the data gathering were thanked for their efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

The next meeting will be October 15, 2010 at 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room in the Alumni Library.