

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

December 17, 2010

Members Present: Noted at 12

The minutes from the November 19, 2010 meeting were acknowledged.

May Duda reported that the sustainability pledge has been signed by 14 students. She expects to increase promotion of the pledge after the holiday break. Mary expects to have conversation with other Jesuit schools asking for their collaboration with the pledge at their respective campuses.

Peter Maas told the group that the single stream recycling program is expanded into the Hixson-Lied building. His next targeted building is Rigge. Peter expressed frustration over the outdoor recycling program because the users are contaminating the receptacles.

Peter is working on the Recycle Mania! program. It is still a “go” for the January event. He is trying to generate a contest among the schools in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Mary will be setting a tour of Mammel Hall at UNO to observe the practices that help make the building LEED Gold. Please contact Mary if you desire the tour.

Fran Reida circulated a copy of a letter sent to Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, signed by members of the Senate. The letter stated the Senate’s opposition to the Copenhagen Accord which it considers will be a transfer of billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to developing nations in the name of climate change. The letter went onto say that several findings of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concerning the eventual impacts of climate change in developing countries were found to be exaggerated or simply not true.

Ed DuPree informed the Council that the Pepsi cold drinking machines will all have vend-mizer technology installed by December 22, 2010. This energy conservation measure was included as part of the contract with Pepsi.

Lennis Pederson told the group that the initiative to have a Farmer’s Market on campus in 2011 was beginning, the goal being to get a lot of planning and scheduling done early in 2011. Members of the Council with comments and suggestions were asked to e-mail Lennis.

Ken Reed-Bouley was not present to comment on the Green-Bag lunch program.

Ken Juhl told the Council that the sub-committee working on enhancing car pooling to campus has been working with Tara Ryan, MAPA, to integrate more Creighton commuters into the Metro Ride Share program. The sum-committee is awaiting the results of the commuter survey by the Brendle Group.

The Council members were told that the long awaited four wind turbines are in shipment. The turbines will be installed on the lawn southwest of the Lied Education Center, depending on weather, before February, 2011.

Neither Andy Waltke nor Jessica Heller were able to attend the meeting to comment on the status of the community and educational gardens. The community garden on 18th Street between Cuming and Burt will be known as Ignatian Garden and will have raised planting beds divided into plots for people interested in having a garden. The educational garden spearheaded by Andy will be on the lawn west of Rigge 120. Andy will continue a third garden north of the Biology Greenhouse.

George Tangeman explained how the University would be cooled down over the holiday break period to save energy. He also informed the Council about the initiative to have “door hangers” printed to advance awareness of energy conservation.

Jim Dorsey told the Council that meetings about enhancing the bike program on campus will convene in January. He is planning to involve Carlos Morales, Bike Program Coordinator for the City as part of the team. Along with the remarks from Jim, Lennis reported that a plan to provide long term, inside bike storage is being developed by Laura Green and Elizabeth Fairbairn.

Lennis informed the group that the draft presentation of the greenhouse gas analysis by the Brendle Group is expected soon. Ideally it will be forwarded for review before the holiday break. An open forum about the final report will convene in January.

Cheri Annin could not be available for the meeting to discuss the Swap and Share event. Lennis asked members of the council to volunteer to assist Cheri.

Fran Reida had two governmental updates for the Council:

- 1) The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the decision of the Federal Court on appeals in New York authorizing an action plan to enjoin the emissions of greenhouse gases from certain power plants on the grounds that such emissions are a nuisance under federal common law. The complaint alleges that GHG emissions from six of the nation’s largest electrical utilities are causing climate change that harms eight states, the city of New York, and three private land trusts.
- 2) The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected motions to stay EPA’s greenhouse gas endangerment finding and other rulemakings that are an outgrowth of that finding. Had the court granted the stay, the effect would have been suspension of prevention of significant deterioration permittingobligations and or EPA’s authority to promulgate and enforce any GHG regulations until there was a ruling on the merit. Absent this relief, industry opponents of EPA GHG regulation will likely redouble their efforts to get Congress to take action.

The Council spent a few minutes discussing where to grow Creighton’s sustainability efforts. The legacy of the Council needs to be maintained to perpetuate the future efforts of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

The next meeting is January 21, 2011 at 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room in the Alumni Library.