

WSU Sustainability & the Environment Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE, TIME, & LOCATION: Monday, October 9, 2017, 9:00-10:00 p.m., Public Safety Training Room

ATTENDEES: Allyson King, Dwight Hagihara, Dan Maher, Rick Finch, Brian Shuffield, Amanda Stahl, Amy Whiteman, Trevor Alkire, Nick Prante, Patrick Robichaud, Gabby Rodriguez, Ryan Lazo, Jonathan Stahl, Karen Weathermon, Craig Cole, Gary Coyle, Jeff Lannigan, Shawn Deeds

1. Call to Order - Amy Whiteman
2. Approval of September minutes - Amy Whiteman
 - All comments of draft meeting minutes taken into account
 - Final draft approved, meeting minutes for September are now official.
3. Green Fund account update - Amy Whiteman
 - This semester, student donations totaled \$9,200
 - \$6,000 in left over funds from projects completed in 2016 have been returned to the account bringing the current total to \$32,000.
 - This does not include the \$30,000 allocated to the Greenhouse project. The project is currently on hold until Capitol Money is available.
 - Craig Cole outlined the state budget approval affecting the budget and suggested a January/February funding availability timeline.
 - Dan Maher advised following-up with the graduated student (Lee Mendez?) who initially proposed the greenhouse as he was very invested in the project.
4. Renewable Energy Organization (REO) proposal update - Amy Whiteman
 - Amy provided a brief status update on the project including the need for clarification in certain areas of the proposal prior to moving forward with a cost estimate.
 - Trevor Alkire provided a brief overview of the original proposal put forth by WSU Renewable Energy Organization was asking for \$2,111.37 to purchase, install, and provide education outreach for a solar panel display. The club is hoping to gain design and installation experience while having the display promote student involvement and learning.
 - The SEC asked Facilities Services to review proposal and provide a conceptual estimate of the project. Jeff Lannigan confirmed Facilities Services requires additional information to provide an accurate estimate. Information required includes, but is not limited to, the final location proposed and the desired outcome of the project. These details might impact the need of a connection to the power grid or permits to be submitted by an engineer which would alter the cost of the project substantially.

- Jeff offered to have a Facilities Services meeting with the REO to discuss the details and assist the group.
 - Trevor will reach out to REO and suggest the meeting.
5. Environmental Sustainability Alliance (ESA) projects updates – Trevor Alkire
- The ESA has been working with purchasing to find Styrofoam alternatives and institute a Styrofoam ban on campus.
 - ESA is working on multiple fronts to move forward with a mandatory Green Fund. The ASWSU has been supportive of the effort.
 - ESA is working with Pullman Disposal and WSU Waste Management to provide a composting option to Greek Row. Trevor presented the idea at the Solid Waste Accumulation Committee and will work with the ESA to provide outreach and education for composting. The goal is to have a representative in each house that can provide oversight, guidance, and intervene when there are issues.
 - Rick Finch described how the process will work from a waste management perspective including a tipping fee to Pullman Disposal and the legality of the drop off at the WSU compost facility as it is a registered waste collection site. This is a new and exciting partnership across the community and the university.
 - Allyson King suggested checking in with the cooks for the Greek houses about possible restrictions that could impact composting. Karen Weatherman noted that several of the houses share one cook and Ryan Lazo is interested in adding a food recovery element to the project through the CCE and will follow-up with Trevor.
 - ESA is hosting a showing of an Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power to coincide with a mass collegiate broadcast of the film followed by a Q&A with Al Gore on October 26, 2017. They will stream the movie and the Q&A on the mall outside of the CUB. The ESA will offer hot chocolate, soup, and a tented area to address potential weather issues. The club has submitted a question for the Q&A.
 - There was concern over the weather and location of the screening. Karen Weatherman suggested the Spark atrium or CUE atrium as alternative or additional venues. Trevor will follow-up.
6. Zero Waste Football Competition – Amy Whiteman
- The PAC-12 Green Sports Alliance hosts an annual Zero-Waste competition. WSU is participating during our home football game on Nov. 4. This also happens to be Dad's weekend. Athletics, EHS, Waste Management, CCE, and ESA are partnering to minimize waste stadium wide. The CCE will continue its food recovery project, taking unused food from vendors and redistributing it to the food bank. The Club area of the stadium will continue to have students at waste stations to improve composting and recycling efforts. Roving staff will assist in sorting waste across bins in other areas of the stadium. Rick Finch and Athletics will reduce the number of bins to make this more manageable. Additional sorting will be completed as needed by the collection crew.
 - The goal this year is to compete for the Innovation award associated with the competition by including Dads at some of the stations while ESA provides a fun, game oriented outreach approach in the family Cougarville Carnival area. This will reach not just college students but multiple generations of the WSU Cougar community. In preparation for the event, Athletics is working toward providing promotional materials including a new Butch video!

7. Educational Information on SRC monitors – Amy Whiteman

- Trevor Alkire showed sustainability focused educational content developed for the SRC monitor.
- Amy asked for feedback and suggestions for future content as it will change quarterly. Several members brought up concern with abbreviations and suggested writing them out would be more appropriate for a general audience.
- Rick Finch noticed the need for an informational update on the composting slide.
- Several members also suggested additional screening locations for the content including the Spark building, the CUB, the Visitor Center, and other locations on campus. Nick Prante noted that there may be software compatibility issues to consider. Trevor can potentially adapt content as needed if we move forward in other locations.
- Please contact Amy Whiteman or Jason Sampson with any future content suggestions.

8. Open Discussion

Karen Weathermon

Indicated the Common Reading book, Ready Player One, had a sustainability theme and wanted to include more sustainability focused presentations and opportunities to students. Please contact her with ideas.

Dan Maher

Inquired about reusable materials in the Dining Halls. Gary Coyle noted WSU is moving in that direction as much as possible given the 10,000 take-out meals served every week. Currently, students receive a \$0.25 discount on beverages when they bring a reusable cup and reusable plates and flatware are available in some locations. One of the challenges is the lack of dishwashing facilities included in the design of dining facilities. There is potential to address this in future designs as budget allows.

***NEXT MEETING: To be November 13, 2017
9:00-10:00 Public Safety Building Training Room***