

# MINUTES

## Sustainability Committee Meeting

December 12, 2014

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EAD 514

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### Welcome & Minutes

- Sandy Bauman, Chairman of the committee called the meeting to order.
  - New members Dr. Myles Quiben and Alexandra Johnson introduced themselves to the committee and explained why they want to serve on it.
  - A motion was made by Sallie Spotanski to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and Debbie Murray second the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
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### Announcements

- Transportation and E Pass Update – E-passes are the annual bus and or train passes that The T's Fort Worth Transportation Authority gives us for a discounted price. They are available to all students and employees, and they run from January to December every year. This year we sold 23 of them which is down 30% from last year. However, students are eligible to use the reduced fare pricing, and we believe this accounts for some of the drop. The money for the subsidy broke out as follows: \$1500 from the Employee Benefits Action Committee (EBAC), \$1,580 from Facilities Management, and \$4,000 from the Sustainability Committee. There was discussion about perhaps doing a Dump the Pump later in the year to promote more interest in riding the trains and buses.
  - Vanpool Update: We have one van currently coming from Denton/North Fort Worth. The vanpool has lost a member, so we are trying to find more people to ride the van. Interested persons can try the van for one week for free. Vanpool membership has many benefits for the participants: The van is supplied, it reduces the wear and tear on your vehicle, less stress since you do not have to drive, free close parking, and you have a guaranteed ride home in case of emergencies. We are still close to forming vanpools in other areas of the metroplex, and anyone can email Sandy if they're interested in learning more.
  - Green Office Supplies: Office Depot has a catalog called The Green Book which has office supplies that meet one or more sustainable criteria. Sandy asked that we encourage the person responsible for ordering supplies to consider using this book. The catalog is free from Office Depot. [See this link to order a free copy.](#)
  - Documentaries: The Sustainability Office in partnership with Student Affairs sponsored the showing of Flow: For Love Of Water in November. There was a turnout of 30 people, and we had panelists answer questions after the movie. We also showed Growing Cities as part of the Food Day activities in October, and it was attended by around 30 people as well. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension was there giving information along with the UNTHSC Community Garden.
  - Recycle/Reuse Greeting Cards – The Office of Sustainability will be collecting new and used greeting cards of all sentiments. You can interoffice mail them to FMB 110 or put them in the cell phone slot of the Recycling 2.0 bins in the Library and MET. We cannot accept Disney, Hallmark, and American Greeting, and we'll be collecting until January 31<sup>st</sup>.
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### Subcommittee Updates

- Community Garden: Sandy Bauman gave an update on the garden. We plan to add 9 plots in February, and we'll have a Build Day on February 21<sup>st</sup>. If you're interested in volunteering, let Sandy know. Twenty percent of the garden will be reserved for community members. Composting will be started for the garden this spring in cooperation with 4 Star Café as they will give us their food scraps for the composting. A new video is available, and [here is the link.](#)
- Earth Day: April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am to 2pm in the MET is the date for the 2015 Earth Day Event. There will changes made to the format and e-waste recycling will be back this year! The committee is working on quotes for tote bags and for someone to sponsor a booth on green cleaning and personnel care products. We will have the Nissan LEAF electric car at the Earth Day event. Next meeting we'll vote on the budget for the event.

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- Campus Outreach: This subcommittee is currently working on a green lab certification program to get the labs involved in energy savings, sustainable purchasing, waste reduction, etc. The committee is working on different areas such as recycling, waste, purchasing, healthy eating, and innovation. The program will launch next spring.
  - Recycling, Energy, and ByLaws: These committees are meeting soon, so no reports at this time.
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## **Water Station Discussion**

- From the last meeting in October, suggestions were made to install additional water stations.
  - Seven stations were originally installed in 2012 with the idea to promote both health and sustainability. At the time, they helped launch the Sustainability Program along with the Sustainability Pledge.
  - There are currently 23 stations on campus, but Dr. Moorman's department will be purchasing an additional water station for RES 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. There have been requests for a water station on MET 4<sup>th</sup> floor and an additional water station in the FAC. We also opened up the discussion for other locations on campus although none were brought up.
  - Discussions followed and a vote was taken as to adding in these locations. The committee voted unanimously to add a water station in the MET 4<sup>th</sup> floor but not to add an additional water station at the FAC.
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## **New Business:**

- Budget: The budget for the committee this term is \$25,000. Five thousand was allotted to support Fort Worth Bike Share and \$4,000 was allocated to the E-pass subsidy. We have a budget left of \$16,000.00 before the water station which will be purchased (approximately \$2000).
  - No new business was brought up by members.
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## **Housekeeping**

- Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next meetings will be in February and April (TBD).