**Environmental Stewardship Committee - November 2016 Minutes**

**November 11, 2016**

**Attendees:**

Karl Hahn- Environment Action Committee

Jill Davenport - Purchasing and Central Services

Seth Lienard- Event and Conference Planning

Emily Schilling - Biology and Environment Studies

Christina Erickson - Facilitator and Committee Chair

Allyson Green - Campus Kitchens and Chief Sustainability Officer

Andrea Porter - Environment Steward Fellow

**Student Government Environmental Action Committee (EAC) (Karl Hahn )**

The EAC is divided into several subcommittees, all working towards their individual environmental stewardship goals. They are divided into a compost, transportation, bike share, events, Kickstarter for Dakota Access pipeline, and curriculum.

1. The Compost Subcommittee is working with res-life and facilities to encourage all students to compost in their residence halls. The goal is to have three waste bins in each room; trash, recycling, and compost.
   1. Custodial duties will have to change, and the EAC is planning on discussing what added duties would be, along with how to encourage students to develop good composting/recycling habits.
   2. Current research is being done on other model colleges that have had success in bringing composting to their campuses, along with the logistics of compost. (Bins, bags, sanitation, etc.)
   3. Students are willing to start this project, however, we need to address the bigger picture of the college. Composting requires education on how to do it, where to do it, where the bins are located, etc., before it can become a successful cultural change on campus.
   4. It was proposed to have a contest for the residence hall that composts the most and an added incentive for participation.
   5. Goals are to budget next year for this project by February to place requests for funding for biodegradable bags, containers, etc. It was discussed that there is a possibility to build this into a facilities project. There were suggestions of green fee money which can provide for some compostable bags that students can take from a central resident location.
   6. Overall, we must take into consideration the custodial workers and their already substantial workload. Student survey data will be assessed soon to clarify student interest and willingness to participate in the compost program.

2. Transportation Subcommittee:

1. The transportation subcommittee is working with marketing to organize and put up informative signs with different “Did you know”s. Such as ‘Did you know it's 5 min walk to light rail’; or 10 min to Co-op. This is a way to incorporate where we are, what is in our the community, and accessible different points of interest.
2. We are focused on rebooting the education of public transportation with: to-go passes, getting maps to show where you are, clear bus routes, bike routes, to encourage less driving, to save money, and decrease parking demands.
3. Digital maps of MSP, points of interest, plan your trip applications are all on the table. Design for a carpool Coop for staff and students. Incentives could be an underground parking spot if these people carpool every day.
4. Talk to Amanda Hov as a parking resource
5. Touched base with marketing - the transportation signs are done, we are confirming with Dennis from facilities that the location is appropriately set up for installing the signs, interactive maps etc. Allyson Green, Andrea Porter, will move forward on contacting marketing to figure out the timeline for this project.

3. Bike share program:

1. The final bids have been accepted and passed. This would provide students and surrounding community bicycles for free. (Helmet, lock, lights included) This initiative is to encourage the students and fellow community members to experience MSP easily and affordably.

4. Events subcommittee:

1. Spring celebration is focused on environmental work, community, and students. Currently researching an environmental speaker to engage the student body in an inclusive space. Benjamin Klemey in music dept - might include a concert concept (music festival).

5. Kickstart a Dakota Access Pipeline fundraiser:

1. This Kickstarter is a supplies drive, providing ways for students to be educated on the Dakota Access Pipeline and to possibly allow for students to travel to the site. Dakota LaPlant (Indigenous Student Association) is working with the EAC to build awareness and support. Since it is a new subcommittee there is a desire to make clear goals.

6. Curriculum Changes (student government)

1. The student government is looking to incorporate environmental education into Augsburg seminars. There is a divide between students in athletics and non-athletics. The student government is looking to bridge the gap of how it appears vs how things are.
2. Curricular goals: There are lots of discussions, since some grants are due in April, it is good to get student responses. Core curriculum changes occur every 10 years, and we need to move forward to increase environmental awareness and wellness courses.

7. Overall the EAC is looking for help for the ambitious goals.

1. Communication can be helped with the Slack program.
2. Slack.com - search for the environmental action committee (EAC). A way for groups to talk together in an organized fashion. A good business communicator program which integrates easily into google drive.

**Christina Erickson -**

1. The New Climate Action Plan: the assumption is that there is currently not enough time to finalize a 20-page climate action plan. It is a goal for the future.
2. The draft of the Environmental Stewardship Action Plan 2019 has been placed on google drive.
3. The goal is to submit this to the university council - with several clear goals defined with a bottom-up approach to finding solutions.
   1. Define the three goals and mandate it - in SIMPLE documents. Therefore individuals can see themselves in it, with broad statements, to get out to the community. “This is my role, this what I could do here…”
   2. Branding and giving this a home to the campus - to share with the community that this is what is going on, what we want to do, etc. We want to encourage a pledge or promise to make an improvement in each department, and individually. These promises can be set up digitally or with hard copies (paper and a box for the answers)
   3. Allyson and Andrea can go to the departments to start the conversation and offer time and what is going on with them. (Student groups attend one big meeting monthly) (50 Staff depts.; 50 academic depts.) (Chairs meetings - Emily and Katherine can attend) This should be discussed further at next week’s meeting (11/17)
   4. Please look at sections under the 3 buckets to see what you feel is correct - this will be posted on google docs. Share ESC of the UC google doc folders. - We need to agree on the document first, then we will submit it for an approval.
   5. Environmental Stewardship Action Plan
   6. Time - 2 years
   7. Sections - are they broad enough for the whole community
   8. Please comment for next meeting. (NEXT Thursday) Use comments into the google docs.

**Other:**

1. Mini-grant pilot program: Jim is creating several mini-grants to jump start some projects, help events, to help to aid on these and other subcommittees.
2. Andrea and Allyson can go to EAC meetings every other week, aiding in communication between the ESC and EAC along with helping to maintain commitment, energy, motivation, etc.
3. Discussion of allocating some funds for the EAC members that contribute time, energy, and resources to their project. This money could be funded by mini-grants to invest in stipend positions for students. This “student intern” for sustainability - would be reporting to someone on the Augsburg facility and staff.
4. Meeting time has been **moved to 9 am- 10 am Thursday, November 17, 2016,** Vice Presidential Suite.